



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and Customer Service

REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS

Hearing: Monday 2 March 2020

Answers due by: Friday, 27 March 2020

Budget Estimates secretariat

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REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS

Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

On demand transport

1. How many trials are ongoing?
2. How much have they cost to date?
3. How much have you spent per passenger on trials?
4. How many people were using it?
5. Has it been a net reduction in cost compared to fixed service?
6. What was cost recovery ratio of fixed vs on demand?
7. Are there new trials planned?
8. Will companies conduct the trial be able to retain vehicles or other equipment procured for the purpose of the trial?
 - (a) If so, which vehicles?
 - (b) In which trial areas?
 - (c) What was the procurement cost of each vehicle or piece of equipment being retained?

Major Projects

9. What is the forecast final cost for following projects:
 - (a) Muswellbrook Bypass?
 - (b) New England Highway, Belford to Golden Highway Upgrade?
 - (c) New England Highway, Singleton Bypass?
 - (d) New England Highway, Scone Bypass?
 - (e) New England Highway, Bolivia Hill Upgrade?
 - (f) New England Highway, Tenterfield Heavy vehicle Bypass?
 - (g) New England Highway, Heavy Duty Pavement?
 - (h) Newell Highway, Overtaking Lanes Package?
 - (i) Newell Highway, New Dubbo Bridge?

- (j) Newell Highway, Improvements through Coonabarabran?
- (k) Newell Highway, North Moree Heavy Duty Pavement?
- (l) Pacific Highway and Manns Road, Narara Creek Road to Parsons Road?
- (m) Pacific Highway, Woolgoolga to Ballina?
- (n) Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour Bypass?
- (o) Pacific Motorway, John Renshaw Drive and Weakleys Drive Intersection Upgrade?
- (p) Princes Highway, Nowra Bridge Replacement over Shoalhaven River?
- (q) Batemans Bay Bridge Replacement?
- (r) Golden Highway Safety and Productivity Works
- (s) Barton Highway Improvements?
- (t) Ellerton Drive Extension, Queanbeyan Bypass?
- (u) Kings Highway, Nelligen Bridge Replacement?
- (v) Hunter Pinch Points?
- (w) Pacific Highway (City Road) intersection upgrades at Northcott Drive and Kahibah Road
Highfields
- (x) Gunnedah Second Road over Rail Bridge?
- (y) Dignams Creek Realignment?
- (z) Silver City and Cobb Highway Seal Extension?
- (aa) Bruxner Highway, Replacement Bridge over Clarence River?
- (bb) Cobb Highway, New Murray River Bridge?
- (cc) Cobb Highway, approach roadworks for New Echuca – Moama Bridge over the Murray
River?
- (dd) Warnervale Link Road, Albert Warner Drive to Pacific Highway?
- (ee) Work Fleet Augmentation and Replacement Program, and Mobile Maintenance Train?
- (ff) North Moree Heavy Duty Pavement?
- (gg) North Narrabri to Moree Heavy Duty Pavement?
- (hh) Tabulam Bridge?

- (ii) Burley Griffin Way and Irrigation Way intersection upgrade?
10. What is the BCR for the following projects?
- (a) Muswellbrook Bypass?
 - (b) New England Highway, Belford to Golden Highway Upgrade?
 - (c) New England Highway, Singleton Bypass?
 - (d) New England Highway, Scone Bypass?
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- (hh) Tabulam Bridge?
- (ii) Burley Griffin Way and Irrigation Way intersection upgrade?

11. What is the Budget allocation for the following projects?

- (a) Muswellbrook Bypass?
- (b) New England Highway, Belford to Golden Highway Upgrade?
- (c) New England Highway, Singleton Bypass?
- (d) New England Highway, Scone Bypass?
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 - (hh) Tabulam Bridge?
 - (ii) Burley Griffin Way and Irrigation Way intersection upgrade?
12. What is the planned completion date for the following projects?
- (a) Muswellbrook Bypass?
 - (b) New England Highway, Belford to Golden Highway Upgrade?
 - (c) New England Highway, Singleton Bypass?

- (d) New England Highway, Scone Bypass?
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Station access

- 13. Have you commenced or completed a plan for upgrading every station on the network to be wheelchair accessible?
- 14. When will the following railway stations comply with the Disability Standards for *Accessible Public Transport 2002*:
 - (a) Blayney?
 - (b) Byron Bay Interchange?
 - (c) Casino?
 - (d) Dubbo?
 - (e) Goulburn?
 - (f) Grafton?
 - (g) Griffith?
 - (h) Gunnedah?
 - (i) Moree?
 - (j) Narrabri?
 - (k) Parkes?
 - (l) Queanbeyan?
 - (m) Taree?
 - (n) Wauchope?

Legal Expenditure

15. What is the total budget allocation for legal advice for Standing Order 52 'Order for the Production of Papers?
 - (a) How much has been spent in each month since January 2019?
 - (b) Which law firms were engaged to provide advice?
 - (c) Was the legal advice accepted and applied in each case?
 - i. If not, which return for Standing Order 52 did not accept or apply the legal advice provided?

Efficiency dividends

16. What was the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio in 2018-19?
17. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio in
 - (a) 2019-20?
 - (b) 2020-21?
 - (c) 2021-22?
18. What was the total efficiency dividend that was achieved for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio between 2011-12 and 2018-19 inclusively?

Unmanned Aerial Services

19. How much has been spent on Unmanned Aerial Services for the following financial years:
 - (a) 2015-16
 - (b) 2016-17
 - (c) 2017-18
 - (d) 2018-2019
 - (e) 2019-present?

Regional Roads reclassification

20. What are the reporting timelines for the expert panel announced for regional roads reclassification announced on 23 January 2020?

21. What are the Terms of Reference for the expert panel announced for regional roads reclassification?
22. How many times has the Minister met with the expert panel for regional roads reclassification?
23. How frequently will the expert panel for regional roads reclassification meet?
24. How frequently will the Minister meet with the expert panel for regional roads reclassification?
25. When will the discussion paper and consultation strategy be drafted?
26. When will the discussion paper and consultation strategy be available to the public?
27. When will the guidelines for the selection of up to 15,000 kilometres of road be complete?
28. Which councils will the expert panel consult with?
29. Which key stakeholders will the expert panel consult with?
30. When will the capital maintenance costs be known to government?
31. When will the maintenance costs be known to government?
32. Why was the selection of the panel delayed until 2020?

New Intercity Fleet

33. How many of the New Intercity Fleet carriages are actually in Australia right now?
 - (a) When will the remainder arrive?
34. What is the estimated delay to the program from the original planned dates?
35. When will the New Intercity Fleet enter revenue service?
36. Which lines will the New Intercity Fleet service first?
37. Which lines will be the last to receive the New Intercity Fleet?
38. What is the current projected cost of delivering the intercity fleet maintenance facility at Kangy Angy?
39. What is the total outturn cost of the access bridge to the Kangy Angy maintenance facility?
40. In December 2019 Transport for NSW engaged Metcalfe Rail Safety Ltd to carry out an independent desktop review of the NIF operating model.
 - (a) Did the author of the report physically view the NIF carriages?
 - (b) Will the Guard have a manual override on the traction interlocking system on the rear door?
 - (c) Have station by station audit of CCTV blackspots been undertaken to ensure passenger safety?

- (d) What was the total cost of the Metcalfe Report?
- (e) Was the report completed before the actual delivery of NIF trains to NSW?
- (f) What is the total cost of infrastructure changes to support the NIF operations?
 - i. Platforms
 - ii. Signals
 - iii. Yards and sidings
 - iv. Tunnels

41. In the recent rain event that occurred on February 7-10 2020 did water retention ponds at the Kangy Angy site overflow?

Fast Rail Network Strategy

42. Has the advisory panel on High Speed Rail been formed yet?

43. Who is on the panel and when have they met?

44. The strategy was promised last year. What is the status of the strategy and when will it be released?

45. According to Professor McNaughton's Liked In profile, he is the Chairperson of 'Fastrail Government of NSW'. Is there now separate organisation called Fastrail responsible for the delivery of this strategy?

46. According to his Linked-In page Professor McNaughton is also the Strategic Technical Advisor for High Speed Two in the UK, a Strategic Advisor to the Government of Czech Republic, as well as a Professorial Fellow at the University of Southampton. Given his four jobs, are you sure he has enough time to help you with your strategy?

47. Has anyone from the Fast Rail panel met with any local government representatives in any of the potential routes that high speed rail is proposed to go through?

48. The Fast Rail project was announced with funding of \$4.6 million. Why has less than \$300,000 been allocated for the next four years? What work is expected to take place between now and 2023?

49. What is the Commonwealth Government funding commitment for the project is coming from the Commonwealth Government?

ARTC Lease

50. In the 2018/19 ARTC NSW Lease Annual Condition Report July 18 to June 19:
- (a) The limits for the five year rolling average of Total Transit Time Delay were met in eight of the 15 categories after adjustments due to Force Majeure or increased maintenance in the KPI limits.
 - (b) Are there performance penalties for not meeting KPIs?
 - (c) The three year rolling average of 63.7 during 2018/19 exceeded the large rail defect limit of 48.86. What penalties apply for impacts on NSW passenger train services.
 - (d) Are the infrastructure improvement spending agreed to under the lease conditions being met? (The agreement included \$872 million investment programme)
 - (e) What is the current accumulative investment under the lease contract?

Tweed Light Rail

51. What is the current status of planning for the Tweed Heads Light Rail Project?

Regional Seniors Travel Card

52. How many applications have been made for the Regional Seniors Travel Card?
53. What is the average wait-time for applicants between lodging an application and being issued a card?
54. How many cards have actually been issued to date?
55. What is the total amount of money that has already been spent by cardholders since cards were first issued?
56. How many people on the (a) Disability Support Pension or (b) carers payment have applied for a Regional Seniors Travel Card and been rejected?
57. What modelling has the Government done to cost an expansion of eligibility to include people on the DSP and carers?
58. Which veterans groups did you consult with before reversing your decision to allow veterans and war widows to apply for the Regional Seniors Travel Card?
59. What will be the cost of expanding the eligibility of the scheme to include veterans and war widows?
60. How many veterans or war widows have attempted to apply for the scheme since you announced your backflip on February 15?
61. What is stopping you from processing their applications for another three months?
62. Why can't a manual system be set up to enable these vulnerable seniors to apply?

63. How many people did your modelling show would be excluded from the scheme if you excluded LGA's in Newcastle and Wollongong?
64. What is the role of Westpac in the implementation and running of the scheme?
65. What public money is being given to Westpac to provide schemes for the card?
66. What other financial benefit does Westpac receive from their involvement in the scheme?
67. Why was Westpac chosen to participate in this scheme?
68. What protections have been put in place to protect public money given that there are outstanding allegations of money laundering against the bank?
69. When in the application process is the personal information of an applicant given to Westpac?
70. What information is given to Westpac?
71. What protections are in place to ensure that personal data is not sold on to private entities or used to sell other Westpac products?
72. It has been reported that Service NSW staff are maintaining logs of the number of people applying and being turned away because of eligibility exclusions: is that correct?
73. Has this log been sent to the Department of Transport?
74. What action is being taken in response to the information in this log?
75. What feedback from Service NSW is getting back to your Department about the eligibility criteria?
76. What was the purpose of the trial of the Regional Seniors Travel Card in Coffs Harbour?
77. Why was Coffs Harbour chosen for the trial?
78. How many people applied for the trial in Coffs Harbour as part of the trial?
79. How did the program change as a result of what you learned from the Coffs Harbour trial?
80. What was improved about the implementation of the scheme as result of the findings from the trial in Coffs Harbour?
81. How many vendors are currently able to accept the card as payment?
82. How many vendors are able to accept the card as payment in each NSW electorate?
83. How are cardholders informed of where they can find participating vendors?

84. How many of these are mixed businesses, such as service stations that sell other products in addition to fuel?
85. What protections are in place to protect against misuse of the card such as buying products other than fuel, including lottery products, groceries and cigarettes?
86. How is this monitored?
87. How many reports of misuse have been made since the operation of the scheme commenced?
88. How are such claims investigated?
89. Why are Newcastle taxis excluded from the scheme?
90. What impetus is there for private bus companies to join the scheme? Is it mandatory?
91. What efforts are being made to increase the number of participating vendors?
92. How has the Department worked to reduce the barriers to accessing the scheme for seniors on the basis of digital literacy?
93. Why are seniors living in the Tweed and Northern Rivers with a landline phone number with a 07 area code being rejected for the scheme?
94. What is being done to fix this error?
95. How many people have been rejected because they have a landline with a 07 area code?

Rail trails in bushfire affected communities

96. In which communities is the Government considering building rail trails as part of the bushfire recovery?
97. Will the Government include the development of a new, long distance rail trail in the Eastern Riverina as part of the Government response to help affected communities to recover from the recent devastating bushfires?
98. Specifically, will the Government commit to extending the pilot Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail through the bushfire affected communities of Rosewood, Humula and Tarcutta to Wagga Wagga, to join with the trail currently being constructed there under the Government funded Active Travel Plan?
99. When will a decision be made in regards to whether or not rail trails will form part of the bushfire recovery effort?
100. What conversations has the Minister had with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism?

101. What has the Minister done to advance rail trails since the Deputy Premier committed to considering rail trails?
102. How much money will the Government contribute to building rail trails?
103. What consultation is being undertaken in bushfire affected communities in relation to the building of rail trails?

Maintenance of disused rail lines

104. What is the yearly value of the ten year contract with John Holland Rail that is designated to the maintenance, repairs and cleaning of non-operational lines?
105. Is the yearly cost of the ten year contract with John Holland Rail that is designated to the maintenance, repairs and cleaning of non-operational lines available per line or branch of the network?
106. What are the responsibilities for John Holland Rail to maintain disused rail corridors under the terms of this contract?
107. How is this work monitored for quality assurance?
108. How many complaints have been made about the quality of maintenance, repair and cleaning have been made over the past eight years of the contract?
109. What preparations are being made to renew or re-tender the contract?
110. What is the timeline for renewing or re-tendering this contract?

Pilot rail trails

111. What is the likely timetable for the completion of the 3 nominated pilot rail trails (Tumbarumba to Rosewood, Northern Rivers Rail Trail and New England Rail Trail)?
112. Given the capacity of rail trails to relatively quickly stimulate a local economy and diversify a region's ongoing income through additional tourism offers, is there a recognition of the opportunity to help those communities swiftly by expediting feasibility studies and if found feasible, then finance quality developments in parallel with the 2 remaining pilot rail trails?
113. Is the section of the Riverina Highlands Rail Trail from Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail on time?
114. Is the section of the Riverina Highlands Rail Trail from Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail on budget?

115. The Government has stated that "learnings from pilot [rail trail] projects will help inform the NSW Government approach to best facilitate future rail trail projects" in correspondence to Dr Joe McGirr in March 2019. How does the Government intend to establish "the learnings" or judge the success of the pilot Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail, due to open on 3rd April?
116. What are the evaluation criteria to be used in determining success?
117. What is the timeframe for this evaluation?
118. Considering that the pilot has seen work on other rail trails cease across the State, how is the Government working to ensure these projects do not stall?
119. How did the forced merger of regional councils impact plans for regional rail trails?
120. Will the Government introduce the *Transport Administration Amendment (Closure of Rail Line Between Murrumbidgee and Crabbes Creek) Bill*?
121. If so, when?
122. Has the State Government made any commitments in regards to clearing vegetation along the closed rail line in preparation for a rail trail?
123. What was the total amount awarded to John Holland Rail to clear the corridor of vegetation in preparation for works for a rail trail?
124. When is this work due to commence?

Other rail trails

125. How many occasions has the Minister met with proponents of rail trails since the 2019 State election?
126. Does the NSW Government support the following rail trail projects:
 - (a) Lady Smith to Wagga Wagga (Riverina Highlands/Wagga Rail Trail)?
 - (b) Culcairn to Corowa to Wahgunyah?
 - (c) Michelago to Cooma (Monaro Rail Trail)?
 - (d) Bungendore to Hoskinstown to Captains Flat (Molonglo Rail Trail)?
 - (e) Coolac to Gundagai to Tumblong?
 - (f) Goulburn to Crookwell?
 - (g) Mittagong to Picton?

- (h) Tumut to Batlow?
- (i) Blackheath to Mt Victoria?
- (j) Black Mountain to Ben Lomond (New England Rail Trail)?
- (k) Coolah to Dundedoo?
- (l) Lapstone to Glenbrook?
- (m) Merriwa to Denman (Upper Hunter Country Rail Trail)?
- (n) Newnes to Wolgan Valley?
- (o) Shortland to Kurri Kurri?
- (p) Berry Estate Trail?

127. On how many occasions has the Department received applications for funding to develop business cases for rail trails in NSW?

128. Which groups/communities have been successful?

129. Which groups/communities have been unsuccessful?

Rail trails budgeting

130. Of the \$100 million promised to fund regional rail trails and airports in this year's budget, how much has been dedicated to rail trails and airports respectively?

131. How much money in the current State Budget has been allocated to the Rosewood Rail Trail?

132. How much money in the current State Budget has been allocated to the Northern Rivers Rail Trail?

Roll-on and roll-off capacity on regional trains

133. Does the Government recognise that the lack of passenger friendly, easy 'roll on-roll off' capacity on regional NSW train services (common in Europe & the UK) is constraining the opportunities for increased patronage of those train services by cycling, wheelchair and pram pushing holiday makers from within NSW as well as by visitors from interstate and overseas?

Kempsey to Armidale Road

134. Is the State Government providing financial or in-kind support to local government to repair the Armidale to Kempsey Road? If yes, please list the type and amount in dollars of support for each local government area?

135. What is the total cost of repairing this road?
136. What is the economic impact of damage to the road in dollar terms? Please provide a list of damage and cost of repair.
137. In light of the Ministers answer around election commitments for the transfer from local government to state government as part of the 15,000 km of road reclassification process (p.16 and 17 of uncorrected transcript), what is the timeframe for assessing this road against the determined principals?

Racist Dubbo Email

138. Is the Minister aware of the contents of a racist email circulated by Dubbo Regional Councillor and National Party Member Kevin Parker?
- (a) Did the Minister office receive the email?
- (b) If yes, to whom was the email sent and what actions have been taken?

Armidale Business Park Expansion

139. What extra road infrastructure has been planned to service the \$6.5m Armidale Business Park expansion and the \$3.8m Airside Apron expansion?
- (a) What is the timeline for completion on these projects?
- (b) What new road infrastructure is needed to service these expansions?
- (c) What is the projected increase in road traffic as a result of these expansions?

Bruxner Way

140. Is the Minister aware of a resolution of the Bruxner Way Joint Committee (A committee that includes Gwydir, Inverell, Tenterfield and Moree Shire Councils) that calls on the government to reinstate the Bruxner Way as a state road?
- (a) Is the Bruxner Way part of the promised 15,000 km of roads that will be transferred back to the state?
- (b) Has the Minister met with the committee or with the Councils about this issue? If yes, please provide date and location of meeting.
- (c) Has the Minister or Department conducted any community consultation about this issue?
- (d) Is the Minister aware that the New England Joint Organisation also supports the reclassification of this road?

- (e) Can the Minister provide a timetable of when this road will be reclassified?

Sturt Highway Corridor Study, Wagga Wagga

141. When was the study for the Sturt Highway Corridor through Wagga Wagga conducted?
- (a) Is the study publically available?
- (b) Where can the study be found? Please provide a link.
- (c) What work has been done in determining a bypass through Wagga Wagga? Please provide a timeline.
- (d) How much to date has been spent on the bypass proposal? Please breakdown by financial year

Bush fire recovery on the South Coast

142. How many kilometres of roads on the South Coast were damaged in the recent bush fire crisis?
143. What is the timeline for repair of these roads?
144. How much will it cost to repair these roads?
145. Which roads are still closed as a result of the bush fire crisis? When will they reopen?
146. How many road signs on the South Coast are damaged as a result of the bush fire crisis?
147. How much will it cost to repair and replace these signs?
148. What is the timeline for replacement of these signs?

Delivery of new train carriages to the South Coast and Illawarra

149. What is the timeline for the delivery of new train carriages on the South Coast and Illawarra Lines?
- (a) How much will it cost to deliver these trains?

Questions from the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC

Mining lease machinery – permits

150. Will the Minister consider a permit system similar to the agricultural travel and registration permit system that deems mine vehicles to be plant machinery to allow them to travel between mining leases and from mining lease to processing areas?

School bus route extensions

151. Since 2010, how many extensions to school bus routes have been granted following receipt of a Bus Service Alteration Request (BSAR)?
- (a) What was the primary reason for granting the extension of this service?
 - (b) In which locations and/or routes were these extensions granted?
 - (c) For each of the extensions granted, how many students benefited from the extension?
152. Since 2010, how many extensions to school bus routes have been denied following receipt of a Bus Service Alteration Request (BSAR)?
- (a) What was the primary reason for denying the extension of this service?
 - (b) In which locations and/or routes were these extensions denied?
153. Transport for NSW states that the following factors are considered when a Bus Service Alteration Request (BSAR) is made – effects on current users, suitability of the timetable, practicality of the proposed route, safety, cost, and local government approval for use of the local roads – why doesn't Transport for NSW consider the need for access to Education as a factor?
- (a) Has the Minister for Education ever requested access to Education be considered a factor?

School Drive Subsidy

154. Since 2010, how many parents or guardians have accessed the School Drive Subsidy?
- (a) What is the total dollar amount paid since 2010 on the subsidy?
155. How many parents or guardians are there currently accessing the School Drive Subsidy?
- (a) In which locations are these parents or guardians based?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Community Transport Services

156. What is the government doing to improve access via regional community transport schemes to specialist and allied health services?
157. Is the government aware that in some areas (e.g. South West Rocks) community transport users are charged per user if they share a service, therefore making it more affordable for two or more users to use a taxi instead of the community transport service?
- (a) Why is the scheme structured in this way?
 - (b) Are there plans to change this to make it more equitable for users?

158. How is the government ensuring promotion of community transport services in regional areas to ensure uptake among those who require the service?

Bushfire Recovery – Bridges

159. Will the Minister/Deputy Premier ensure the rebuilding of the Elliot Way bridge is given the highest priority and that funds will be made available to ensure this occurs?

Road Accidents

160. What are the current number of road accidents that have occurred on flooded roads in regional NSW over the last five years (per year)?

- (a) What is the number of fatalities on flooded roads for the last five years, per year?
- (b) What is the number of injuries on flooded roads for the last five years, per year?