

Accountability measures for decision making for the delivery of major infrastructure, contracting public services and/or the privatisation of public assets in NSW

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question

Dr DAVID SALIBA: Which budget was the initial \$400 million spend?

LIZ LIVINGSTONE: From recollection it was 2016-17, I think, that the \$400 million first appeared, but we can confirm that on notice.

Response

In line with NSW Telco Authority's business cases, the approved estimated total costs (ETC) of the Critical Communications Enhancement Program were staged and published in each budget from 2015-16 as set out in the table below.

Note: The project was initially known as the Infrastructure Rationalisation Program Planning and Pilot.

Specific questions about the business cases are more appropriately referred to the NSW Telco Authority.

	2015-16 \$m	2016-17 \$m	2017-18 \$m	2018-19 \$m	2019-20 \$m	2020-21 \$m	2021-22 \$m	2022-23 \$m	2023-24 \$m
New South Wales Government Telecommunications Authority									
Infrastructure Rationalisation Program Planning and Pilot	18.3								
Critical Communications Enhancement Program Planning and Pilot		18.3							
Critical Communications Enhancement Program		45.0	190.8	426.8	426.9	664.8	1,325.0	1,292.8	1,292.8
Including:									
Greater Metropolitan Area				236.0					
North Coast and State Wide detail design			190.8	190.8					
Stage 4							660.2	660.2	
Stage 3						216.9	198.0	216.9	
Total	18.3	63.3	190.8	426.8	426.9	664.8	1,325.0	1,292.8	1,292.8

Question

Dr DAVID SALIBA: Would you know the average? Our infrastructure spend is usually 30 per cent over our estimate costs. Surely they'd be a figure, year by year.

CASSANDRA WILKINSON: Specifically, we will take that on notice, but I will say in general most of our projects come in reasonably close.

Dr DAVID SALIBA: What does "reasonably close" mean?

CASSANDRA WILKINSON: If you get a road, generally speaking, a road will cost you what you think it's going to cost you.

Dr DAVID SALIBA: Is it 5 per cent, 10 per cent?

CASSANDRA WILKINSON: I'd rather take that on notice and get you a good answer specifically.

Response

Budget Paper No. 3, the Infrastructure Statement, provides information on the Government's infrastructure investment program including key projects delivered. The Estimated Total Costs of projects delivered are published by agency and can be seen to generally align with the budget amounts published in the previous year's allocations.