

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Legislative Assembly - Inquiry into Inter-regional Public Transport State and Regional Development Committee

Question 1:

Asked by the Chair: So the upcoming consultations will all be connected to not only the [Country Rail Passenger Services] strategy, but also the regional plans, is that how you foresee them?

Answer provided at the committee hearing: That is correct. This work is already underway. We have done a few of them and I can provide you with some detail of that and take it on notice and come back to you.

Additional information: Following the release of the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan, Transport for NSW will develop detailed regional transport plans for each region in NSW. This will address local transport needs and priorities and integrate transport planning and land use planning across regional NSW.

The Master Plan will provide the over-arching strategic framework and principles for the development of each regional transport plan. From 4 September to 2 November 2012, Transport for NSW went to each of the ten regions identified in the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan and met with Regional Organisations of Councils, their constituent councils, and the Regional Development Australia offices in each region.

All feedback gained through these recent meetings and the wider consultation undertaken during the development of the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan will be considered in the development of these regional transport plans.

Question 2:

Asked by Mr Richard Torbay: Transport for NSW allocates approximately \$1.5 million a year under the Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme. Could you inform the Committee on the aim of the scheme and its effectiveness?

Answer provided at the committee hearing: I would need to confirm this, but I think it is associated with facilities that councils provide at railway stations, but I will confirm that and come back to you.

Additional information: The Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme (CPTIGS) provides an avenue for the continuous upgrade and improvement in local public transport infrastructure for rural, regional and remote communities.

The CPTIGS program is designed to improve the amenity of, and access to passenger transport services for communities outside the Greater Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong metropolitan regions. It has been operating since 1990 and provides \$1.476m annually for

upgrades to public passenger transport infrastructure such as bus seats, lighting, signage, j-poles and bus shelters.

Since its inception the CPTIGS has funded varied local projects including upgrade works for thousands of bus stops. It is well used by local government and other applicants to improve accessibility and to achieve compliance with the requirements under the Commonwealth Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport, (known as the Transport Standards). These infrastructure improvements also promote greater visibility and enhanced use of existing public transport services.

Expressions of interest are called for annually and funds allocated to successful groups. Since 2008, the scheme has funded well over 200 projects.

Question 3:

Asked by Mr Chris Spence: When is [the Northern Sydney Freight Corridor project] likely to be completed?

Answer provided at the committee hearing: It is a two or three-year project but I will confirm today for you after this. I do not have it here with me now.

Additional information: The Northern Sydney Freight Corridor Program is a jointly funded initiative, supported by both the Commonwealth (\$840 million) and NSW (\$214 million) Governments, to improve the capacity and reliability for freight trains on the Main North Line between North Strathfield and Broadmeadow, Newcastle.

The program consists of four separate projects:

- 1: North Strathfield Rail Underpass – underway, due for completion in October 2015
- 2: Epping to Thornleigh Third Track –underway, due for completion in June 2016
- 3: Gosford Passing Loops – underway, due for completion in April 2015
- 4: Hexham Passing Loop – completed

Question 4:

Asked by Mr Chris Spence: Are there any projects currently underway that your department works with Destination NSW on the increase in tourism? ...Any in the past?

Answer provided at the committee hearing: I will find out for you and come back to you with the detail. I cannot bring one to mind now other than general interaction spoke about before.

Additional information: The NSW Government established the Visitor Economy Taskforce with the objective to double tourism, measured by overnight visitor expenditure, by 2020. The Final Report of the Taskforce was released in August 2012, and includes a number of recommendations relating to transport services. NSW Trade and Investment is developing a whole-of-Government response to the Taskforce report by the end of the year. A range of agencies, including Transport for NSW and Destination NSW, are contributing to this response.