

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

Transport and the Hunter

Questions Taken on Notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing

Responses:

1. **Ms Hale asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—**

How many staff you have? (Hansard, page 3)

1. I am advised:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Director General of the Premier's Department in accordance with the provisions of the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002.

2. **Ms Hale asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—**

- (a) What is the revenue generated by trips to and from Hamilton to Newcastle stations each year?
- (b) Has the Government commissioned any studies on the value of the land on which the Newcastle rail link now runs?
- (c) Has the Government given any private undertakings to any development companies building in the vicinity, such as the Becton Corporation, that the rail line will be removed?
- (d) (i) Are you committed to retaining the land occupied by the rail line as a bus transport corridor?
- (ii) If so, what safeguards will you put in place to achieve this? (Hansard page 3)

2. I am advised:

(a) Revenue from CityRail Services on this line in 2002/03 was in the order of \$5.6M.

(b) No studies of the land value have been commissioned.

(c) No.

(d)(i- ii) I have publicly announced the Newcastle CityRail Line would be preserved as a transport corridor without ground level or airspace development, if the removal of the heavy rail service is recommended by the Lower Hunter Transport Working Group, currently considering transport options in the Lower Hunter. Appropriate safeguards would be developed to protect the corridor.

3. Mr Gallacher asked the Executive Director, Finance, Ministry of Transport, Mr P Scarlett—

- (a) How much did the ministerial office spend on media monitoring from Rehome Australian Monitoring Services in 2002-03?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure for 2003-04? (Hansard page 3)

3. I am advised:

All costs incurred are appropriate to the needs identified.

4. Mr Gallacher asked the Executive Director, Finance, Ministry of Transport, Mr P Scarlett—

How many media and public relations advisers were employed by the ministerial office in 2002-2003? (Hansard, page 4)

4. I am advised:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Director General of the Premier's Department in accordance with the provisions of the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002.

Remuneration for Ministerial staff is determined by the Director General of the Premier's Department.

5. Mr Gallacher asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—

- (a) How many media and public relations officers or advisers are employed in each of your portfolio?
- (b) How many media and public relations officers or advisers were employed in each of your portfolio agencies:
 - (i) For 2002 and 2003?
 - (ii) What is the forecast for 2003 and 2004? (Hansard, page 5)

5. I am advised:

Staff numbers are determined by agencies or departments in accordance with their needs.

6. Mr Gallacher asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—

Why was the Department of Transport's expenditure on external consultancies and advertising excluded from your 23 July 2003 statement indicating expenditure of \$43 million by State Rail and RUC? (Hansard, page 5)

6. I am advised:

Expenditure on consultancies is reported in Annual Reports. All expenditure is in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.

I have publicly announced a review of expenditure on consultants, public relations firms and external legal firms across the transport portfolio. All spending is now subject to review.

7. Mr Gallacher asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—

How much was spent by State Rail from January to March this year on the Keep on Training Sydney advertising campaign? (Hansard, page 5)

7. I am advised:

The “Keep on Training Sydney” advertising campaigns took place during 2001 and 2002. “Keep on Training Sydney” continues to be used as a tagline on all CityRail promotional material including the website.

StateRail undertakes ongoing information campaigns to encourage patronage, promote improvements in CityRail services and awareness of various safety issues such as standing behind the yellow safety line and standing clear of doors.

StateRail spent \$96,361 between January and March 2003 for these purposes.

8. Mr Gallacher asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—

Can you explain the reason behind the decision, as indicated in Budget Paper No. 3, Volume 3, to capitalise the \$4.7 million spent last year and other costs related to the integrated ticketing project? (Hansard, page 9)

8. This project is currently being reviewed.

9. Mr Gallacher asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—

What is the department's total expenditure on the ongoing litigation with Cubic Transportation Systems? (Hansard, page 10)

9. I am advised:

Total gross costs to 30 July 2003, amount to \$4,926,647.99 of which \$446,389.70 is GST which can be claimed by the Government as an input tax credit, leaving net costs of \$4,480,258.29.

The judgement handed down on 26 July 2002, in favour of the Government included an order for costs.

10. Ms Hale asked Acting Chief Executive Officer, State Rail Authority, Mr V Graham—

What are the current operating and capital losses for the Government on the airport rail line?
(Hansard, page 13)

10. I am advised:

Proceeds of the StateRail Millennium Train Stamp auction were \$6,798.04. This money was donated to “The First Step” charity, which provides long-term rehabilitation support to homeless people.

11. Mr Gallacher asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—

Can you indicate to the Committee how much of the \$3.3 million promised for an investigation into the Newcastle high-speed rail link project was actually spent and how it was spent?
(Hansard, page 15)

11. This issue falls under the administration of the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources and has been referred to him for direct response.

12. Mr Gallacher asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—

- (a) How much of the \$1 million provided for in the 2002-03 budget papers, for the department to conduct an investigation into the Government's Action for Transport 2010 promise to build a high-speed rail link between Sutherland and Wollongong was spent?
- (b) How was it spent? (Hansard, page 15)

12. This issue falls under the administration of the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources and has been referred to him for direct response.

13. Mr Gallacher asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—

- (a) How much money has already been expended on the Epping to Parramatta section of the Parramatta link, including feasibility studies, planning, and purchase of properties?
- (b) What was the breakdown of that expenditure? (Hansard, page 18)

13. I am advised:

As consent was supplied for the total project, the costs for planning and feasibility studies for the Epping to Parramatta section alone are not able to be provided.

The following items, specifically relate to Epping to Parramatta:

Property Acquisition:	\$0.3M
PRL West Options Studies (2002-2003):	\$1.0M

14. Mr Gallacher asked Project Director, Rolling Stock Delivery and Capital Works, State Rail, Mr B Lovat—

- (a) Is it correct that the State Rail Authority [SRA] fire crib testing for the transform composite floor material, which is intended for the Millennium trains, revealed that excessive smoke was given out when it was burned and that, as a result, it was recommended not to use this material for the floor in the passenger compartment?
- (b) What was the outcome of that?
- (c) Is that composite floor material now installed in the driver and guard compartments? (Hansard, page 24)

14. I am advised:

The floor materials used are fire retardant to the Australian Standard, AS1530.

Smoke is produced by the Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) material if it is unprotected by other materials. In crew cabs, the GRP is overlaid by vinyl bonded to the GRP and this significantly improves the fire and smoke characteristics of the total floor.

It should be noted Transform Composites is not a type of floor material but the company that supplies the GRP flooring.

In passenger compartments, from Millennium train set 2 onwards, aluminium is used, again with vinyl bonded to the aluminium.

The vinyl bonded to the GRP is used in the crew cab due to its excellent noise reduction qualities and its ability to be constructed to the design requirements of the floor in the crew cab. The reduction of noise levels in the crew cab to an acceptable level is also an OH&S requirement.

15. Mr Gallacher asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Michael Costa MLC—

How much was made from the sale of the series of stamps issued to commemorate the launch of the Millennium train in 2002? (Hansard, page 25)

15. I am advised:

Proceeds of the StateRail Millennium Train Stamp auction were \$6,798.04. This money was donated to "The First Step" charity, which provides long-term rehabilitation support to homeless people.

16. Ms Hale asked the Director General of the Ministry of Transport, Mr J Lee—

- (a) What was the total expenditure under the taxi subsidy scheme for people with disability in 2002-03 and what it will be in 2003-04? (Hansard, page p 26)
- (b) How much funding was allocated for disability awareness and skills-based training for transport staff in 2002-03
- (c) How much will be allocated for this purpose in 2003-04? (Hansard, page 27)

16. I am advised:

The total expenditure for 2002-03 on the transportation of residents of NSW who are unable to use public transport due to a qualifying severe and permanent disability was \$14.434M. The estimated expenditure for 2003-04 is \$15.590M, however, the scheme is demand based and this estimate could vary in accordance with the demand.

In 2002-03, in excess of \$10.820M was spent on disability awareness and skills based training for transport staff and spending in 2003-04 is estimated at over \$11.905M.

17. Ms Hale asked the Director General of the Ministry of Transport, Mr J Lee—

- (a) What was How much was spent by the Department of Transport as part of the country public transport infrastructure grants in 2002-03
- (b) How many of these projects related to improvements to physical access? (Hansard, page 27)

17. I am advised:

(a) \$1,562,788.

(b) Country Public Transport Infrastructure Grants Guidelines require all projects to comply with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport. These standards include display of information, which improve physical access in one or more ways and security lighting which assists people with poor vision.

The Country Public Transport Infrastructure Grants are now under the administration of the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources. Accordingly, any future questions on this matter should be directed to the Hon. Craig Knowles MP.

18. I am advised:

Agencies are required to prepare a disability action plan under section 9 of the Disability Services Act 1993, and to make provision for periodic furnishing of reports.

It is not possible at this early stage of the financial year to predict the likely expenditure in 2003/04.

19. I am advised:

(a) Fire tests were conducted at the time of the design and build of the train. Additional tests are carried out when any new materials are introduced to the train including accreditation of new suppliers and the periodic re-accreditation of existing suppliers.

(b) Actual test results from initial testing are set out in the table below:

TANGARA MATERIAL FIRE INDICES

LOCATION	MATERIAL(S)	AS1530/3* RESULT(uos)	TEST DATE/CERTIFICATE
Ceiling panels	10mm ply with plastic laminate	6,0,1,4	May 88 / E5398
Floor panel	16mm ply	0,0,0,4	May 88 / E5396
Flooring	Vinyl (Walkeasy) Armalon Polysafe	3,0,60 (AS1441.13**) 12,0,1,6 12,0,1,6	29/4/87 25/7/86 5/4/88 / E5379
Interior Walls	GRP	10,3,3,5 best 15,7,6,6, worst	
Blinds	Coated Fabric	0,0,25 (AS1441.13)	7/12/88 Plastyne Products
Seats Complete:	Ply 6mm Specimen 1 Specimen 2	0,0,0,6 nil, 40deg, 0.1m ⁻¹ nil, 36deg, 0.05m ⁻¹ (R859-84 M.B.***)	25/8/88 / E5460 20/11/87 / SI2087
Window/ Door Rubber (Neoprene)	Neoprene Rubber	13,0,1,7	23/6/87 / 2938
Inter-car Door Nose Rubber	Silicone Rubber	11,7,6,7	27/8/91 7-433383 CV
Gangway	40% Chloroprene rubber	13,3,4,7	7/10/88 / Illegible
Interior (3 test locations)	Multiple; Seat, GRP wall panel, Armalon adhered to plywood floor	Duration of flaming after crib extinguished 1. "Test 1" crib on floor under seat: seat: nil, floor: 2min 56 sec. 2. "Test 1" crib on seat against wall:	5/4/89 / SI2440

LOCATION	MATERIAL(S)	AS1530/3* RESULT(uos)	TEST DATE/CERTIFICATE
		seat 50sec. 3. "Test 2" crib on floor between back- to-back seats: seat: nil, floor: 3min 5sec (R859-84 M.B.***)	

uos = unless otherwise specified

* AS1530.3: the 4 test results are, in order, indices for:

Index	Range
(1) Ignitability	0-20
(2) Spread of flame	0-10
(3) Heat developed	0-10
(4) Smoke developed	0-10

** AS1441.13: the 3 test results are, in order:

- (1) Duration of flame in seconds;
- (2) After glow in seconds;
- (3) Char length in millimetres.

***R859-84 MB: SRA Specification Test 1, using newspaper crib fuel source.
 The 3 test results are based on duration of flame after crib extinguished.

MICHAEL COSTA