



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 6 – TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and the Arts

Roads, Regional Transport
(Aitchison)

Hearing: Tuesday 1 April 2025

Answers due by: 5.00 pm Monday 28 April 2025

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)

Regional Transport & Roads

Regional Roads Fund

- (1) What is the status of each of the 28 projects listed on the NSW Government website (<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/programs/regional-roads-fund>) as “having been supported by the Regional Roads Fund”?
 - (a) Which of these 28 projects were projects announced or funded under the previous government?
 - (b) Which of these 28 projects were “called out for years by communities”?
 - (c) Which of the 28 projects are now determined not to have enough funds to complete them due to escalating costs?
- (2) What is the Government’s intention with the \$97 million unallocated as of the 1st April 2025?
- (3) Is it fact that there is no process for allocating the remaining \$97 million, which the Government projects to spend in the next two years?
- (4) On the 1st April 2025 the Minister stated in Budget Estimates that some of these projects were targeted to regions of NSW that had not received projects or investment by the previous Government. Which projects were these?
- (5) When were the 28 projects supported by the RRF received by the Parliamentary Budget Office?
 - (a) Were any of the 28 projects identified as problematic by the Parliamentary Budget Office?
 - i. Did any Regional Roads commitments/projects fail the Parliamentary Budget Office criteria?
- (6) Is the Capital component of the \$334 million Regional Roads Fund still \$46.6 million as outlined in the 2023-2024 Budget Papers?

- (7) Is the \$1.5 million identified for planning the Tuross Head intersection included in the Capital component?
- (8) Is the \$40 million identified for the planning and design of the Gosford Bypass included in the Capital component?
 - (a) When is the majority of the \$39.8 million funding to be allocated?
 - (b) What were the results for the business case for this project?
- (9) Is the \$10 million identified for the M1 Princess Motorway entry and exit ramps included in the Capital component?
 - (a) When is the majority of the \$10 million funding to be allocated?
 - (b) When is the business case expected to be completed?
- (10) Is the \$20 million identified for the Bulli Bypass investigation included in the Capital component?
 - (a) Is this project completed?
 - (b) When is the business case expected to be completed?
- (11) Is the \$6 million (now \$7.8 million?) identified for the Speers Point Roundabout upgrade included in the Capital component?
 - (a) Is this project near completion?
- (12) Is the \$19 million identified for the Yass Road-Bungendore Road-Ellerton Road intersection included in the Capital component?
 - (a) When is the majority of the \$19 million funding to be allocated?
 - (b) What were the results of the business case for this project?
- (13) Is the \$12 million Golden Highway improvements included in the Capital component?
 - (a) When is the majority of the \$12 million funding to be allocated?
 - (b) When is the business case expected to be completed?
- (14) Is the \$7.5 million identified for the Alphadale Crossroads intersection included in the Capital component?
 - (a) When is the majority of the \$7.5 million funding to be allocated?

- (b) Why was the Alphadale Crossroads intersection not identified in the 2023-2024 Budget papers as a Transport for NSW sector project?
- (15) Is the \$14.5 million identified for the Thornton Rail Bridge duplication included in the Capital component?
 - (a) When is the majority of the \$14.5 million funding to be allocated?
 - (b) Why was the Thornton rail bridge duplication not identified in the 2023-2024 Budget papers as a Transport for NSW sector project?
 - (c) When is the business case expected to be completed?
- (16) Why is the Melville Ford Bridge and the upgrade of the Melville Ford Road and Maitland Vale Road listed as one project?
- (17) Of the 19 Council delivered projects of the Regional Roads Fund, what is the individual delivery status for each project?
- (18) Labor's Election Costing Request Form submitted to the Parliamentary Budget Office on the 6th March 2023 estimated forward spending; 2023/24 \$30 million, 2024/25 \$152 million and 2025/26 \$152 million. Please answer the following questions:
 - (a) Is the expected spend for the Financial Year 2024-25 still \$55.4 million?
 - (b) Is the expected spend for the Financial Year 2025-26 still \$70.9 million?
 - (c) Is the expected spend for the Financial Year 2026-27 still \$83.0 million?
 - (d) Is the expected spend for the Financial Year 2027-28 still \$8.8 million?

EnergyCo OSOM

- (19) Has EnergyCo-TfNSW developed strategy for OSOM movements yet?
 - (a) Can you please provide this strategy?
- (20) Have EnergyCo-TfNSW identified an estimated month by month projection for freight movements between Newcastle Port and the Renewable Energy Projects yet?
- (21) In June 2024, Transport for NSW installed machine learning cameras along Bengalla Road. What are the volume and type of vehicle movements results?
- (22) Given the Denman bridge was identified as a pinch point. Did TfNSW consider upgrading the bridge?
 - (a) What Denman bridge upgrade options were canvassed?

(23) When will EnergyCo-TfNSW commence implementation of their 19 Pinch Point plans?

(a) Are they still expected to be complete by late 2025?

(24) Has EnergyCo-TfNSW identified the corridor for the New England Renewable Energy Zone yet?

M1 Motorway ext

(25) Is the M1 Motorway Extension project still projected to be open to traffic in 2028?

Coffs Harbour Bypass

(26) Is the Coffs Harbour Bypass project still expected to be open to traffic in late 2026?

(a) What is the progress on the tunnelling?

Singleton Bypass

(27) Have all seven landowners settled for the Singleton Bypass project now?

(a) Is the project still expected to be open to traffic in late 2026?

Muswellbrook Bypass

(28) Has the Muswellbrook Bypass project been tendered yet?

(a) When is the proposed start of construction/main works?

(b) Has the deed been signed?

Mount Ousley

(29) Did major works commence on the Mount Ousley project in late 2024 as expected?

Newcastle Inner City Bypass

(30) Is the Newcastle Inner City Bypass project still expected to be open to traffic in late 2025?

Barton Hwy Stage 2

(31) Is major works for Stage 2 of the Barton Highway upgrades – Kaveney's intersection still expected to commence in 2025?

(a) When is it expected to commence?

Great Western Highway

(32) Is the Medlow Bath Upgrade still expected to be completed and open to the public in 2025?

Picton Road upgrade

(33) Has a business case for the Picton Road upgrade project been conducted yet?

(a) If not, why not?

Pacific Hwy (Wyang) upgrade

(34) Has a delivery partner been engaged for the Pacific Highway - Wyong project?

(a) If not, why not?

(b) If yes, has a construction schedule been developed?

Bells Line Rd Slope Repair

(35) Can we get a progress report on Slopes 33488, 33467, 33449, and 37944 of the Bells Line Road Slope Repair?

(a) Do you have a commencement of works date for Slopes 33461 and 96379?

Jervis Bay Rd intersection

(36) Has tendering been completed for the Jervis Bay Road intersection project?

(37) When are major works expected to commence?

Milton-Ulladulla Bypass

(38) Is project approval for the Milton-Ulladulla Bypass still expected by 2027?

(a) Why the delay?

Mandalong Rd upgrade

(39) Can we please have a progress report on the Mandalong Road upgrade?

(a) Has tendering been completed?

(b) When are major works expected to start?

Central Coast-Tumbi Rds intersection

(40) Has tendering been completed on the Central Coast Highway and Tumbi Road intersection upgrade?

(a) When are major works expected to start?

Regional Rail Fleet

- (41) Has the testing and commissioning been completed on the 3 trains received for the regional rail fleet so far?
- (a) What is the estimated time for the remainder of testing and commissioning on these 3 trains?
 - (b) Who is tasked with the static and dynamic testing of these trains?
 - i. Is the testing conducted in-house (TfNSW)?
 - ii. Are there any external providers utilised in the testing process, who?
 - iii. Is there union involvement in this testing process?
 - (c) Who is tasked with commissioning these trains?
 - i. Is the commissioning conducted in-house?
 - ii. Are there any external providers utilised in the commissioning process, who?
 - iii. Is there union involvement in this commissioning process?
 - (d) When is it expected these will enter service?
- (42) During Budget Estimates on the 1st April 2025 it was indicated 6 further trains were expected in 2025.
- (a) What are the expected dates for each of these trains?
 - (b) When are these 6 expected to enter service?
- (43) What is the expected timeline for the remainder of the Fleet?
- (a) This is a further 20 expected trains?
 - (b) Is there any variance in the expected timeline and the contracted delivery date?
- (44) During Budget Estimates on the 1st April 2025 it was stated this was a complicated project.
- (a) What are the principal complications that are being referred to?
- (45) Who is the responsible Minister for the procurement of the Regional Rail Fleet?
- (a) What are the different stages of procurement?
 - (b) At what point does Minister Aitchison become responsible for the Fleet?

Mariyung Fleet

- (46) Has the testing and commissioning been completed for the remainder of the Mariyung fleet?
- (a) What is the estimated time for the remainder of testing and commissioning?
 - (b) When can we expect trains to start on the Blue Mountains and Illawarra lines?

Fixing Country Rail

- (47) Where is the Gilgandra to Coonamble 25 TAL upgrade at?
- (a) When can we expect project approval?
 - (b) When are works expected to start?
- (48) Where is construction at with the Wumbulgal Siding?
- (a) When can we expect project approval?
 - (b) When are works expected to start?

Newell Hwy Narrabri-Moree upgrade

- (49) Can we get an update on the Newell Highway (Narrabri-Moree) upgrade project?

Giinigay Way-Valla Beach Rd intersection

- (50) What were the findings of the traffic monitoring cameras installed at the Giinigay Way-Valla Beach Rd intersection in September and October 2024?
- (a) Has the Government revised its response to the continuing community concerns?

Waterfall Way

- (51) Can we get a progress report on the remediation works at Thora?
- (52) Is Transport NSW currently looking at the alternate route from Dorrigo to Coffs Harbour through Megan for resilience purposes?

Kempsey-Armidale Rd reconstruction

- (53) Can you provide an update as to the Kempsey-Armidale Road reconstruction project and when Armidale Council will award a tender for construction?
- (54) When is it expected to be open to the public?

Armidale Rd Reclassification

- (55) Can we get an update on the reclassification (of Armidale Road) negotiations with Council?

N.E. Hwy-Puddledock Rd intersection

- (56) Can you provide an update on improvements for the N.E. Hwy-Puddledock Road intersection?

Goldfields Way-Olympic Hwy intersection

- (57) Will Transport for NSW review the installation of a Stop Sign at the Goldfields Way-Olympic Hwy intersection in response to community concerns?

New Dubbo Bridge

- (58) Is the New Dubbo Bridge project still expected to be completed by late 2026?
- (a) Is bridge deck concrete pour completed?

Wybong Rd – OSOM

- (59) What are the results of the machine learning cameras which were installed at Wybong Road in June 2024?
- (60) Has the Operational Strategy been completed for OSOM movements?

Avoca Rd upgrade at Kincumber

- (61) When is project approval expected for the priority first stage of the Avoca Drive upgrade at Kincumber?
- (a) When will major works commence?

Newcastle Link-Minmi Roads intersection

- (62) When is the Newcastle Link Road and Minmi Road intersection upgrade expected to be open to the public?

Hume Hwy-Marulan pavement rehab

- (63) Has the pavement rehabilitation project for the Hume Highway at Marulan been completed?

Pacific Hwy-Harrington Rd intersection

- (64) When is project approval expected for the Pacific Hwy-Harrington Rd intersection upgrade?
- (a) When will major works commence?

Snowy Mountains Hwy repair

- (65) When are works on Sites 72, 75, 96 and 10340 of the Snowy Mountains Hwy repair expected to be completed?

Kidman Hwy Rest Stop

(66) Has the Kidman Highway Rest Stop project been completed?

Hillsborough Rd upgrade

(67) Have major works commenced on Stage 1 of the Hillsborough Road upgrade?

(a) If not, when are they expected?

Nelson Bay Rd duplication

(68) Is planning approval expected for the Nelson Bay Road duplication still expected in 2026?

Tocal Rd

(69) Has the Tocal Road project been completed?

(a) If not when is it now expected?

Coulsons Creek Rd

(70) How is the Coulsons Creek Rd project progressing?

(a) Is it still expected to be completed by mid-2025?

Ballina – Western Arterial

(71) Has Transport for NSW done any preliminary studies on Ballina's Western Arterial?

Ballina – M1

(72) What is Transport for NSW's response to community concerns for a South Ramp at the M1 Cumberland Overpass?

The Great Koala National Park

(73) With the expected additional 300K visitors expected per year, what improvements are planned for the Dome Rd entrance to The Great Koala National Park?

(74) Has Transport for NSW explored options for capturing some of the additional generated tourist market by establishing a Park & Ride option from Dorrigo to the Rainforest centre?

Urunga – Giinigay Way

(75) Has Transport for NSW reviewed its maintenance schedule for State Roads such as Giinigay Way to reflect high growth periods?

Summervilles Road – Bellingen

- (76) What improvements have been identified for Summervilles Road, Bellingen to enable it to be an alternate/evacuation route when Waterfall Way is blocked?

Lavenders Bridge – Bellingen

- (77) What State funding is considered to facilitate the upgrade of Lavenders Bridge, Bellingen to provide Flood Immunity?

Byron LGA Causeways

- (78) Does Transport for NSW have plans for the improvement of causeways in the Byron LGA?

Byron – M1

- (79) What improvements are planned for the Ewingsdale Road/M1 interchange to improve the dangerous situation of traffic banking up on the M1?
- (80) What is Transport for NSW's response to community concerns for a Southern Off-ramp of the M1 at Bangalow?

Mullumbimby Road/Gulgan Road intersection

- (81) What improvements have Transport for NSW identified to meet community concerns for the Mullumbimby Road/Gulgan Road intersection?

North Creek Bridge – Byron LGA

- (82) Does Transport for NSW have any plans to reopen North Creek Bridge in the Byron LGA?

Yamba Road

- (83) With 15 thousand vehicles a day on the Yamba Road over the Summer holidays, what improvements are planned for this road?

Eight Mile Lane – Grafton

- (84) What improvements have been identified by Transport for NSW to enable B-double's to use the intersection on Big River Way?

Hogbin Drive – Coffs Harbour

- (85) What plans do Transport for NSW have for the duplication of Hogbin Drive, Coffs Harbour?
- (86) What plans do Transport for NSW have for links between Hogbin Drive and the Pacific Hwy?

- (87) With the Hogbin Drive Orlando St roundabout causing traffic delays all the way to the Harbour Drive and Hogbin Drive roundabout multiple times a day, a distance of 1.5km, what improvements are planned for this roundabout/intersection?
- (88) What improvements have Transport for NSW identified for the Hogbin Drive and Stadium Drive roundabout given it is already at maximum levels?

Moonee Beach – M1 interchange

- (89) Does Transport for NSW have plans to improve the M1 interchange at Moonee Beach?

Coramba Road – Coffs Harbour

- (90) The Coffs Harbour Bypass is expected to dramatically increase the already heavy use of Coramba Road, Coffs Harbour what improvements does Transport for NSW have for this road?

Footpaths and Cycleways – Coffs Harbour

- (91) Is there a delivery plan for Coffs Harbour Footpaths and Cycleways already designed?

M1 Roundabouts maintenance – Coffs Harbour

- (92) Does Transport for NSW have a maintenance plan to meet community expectations at the M1 roundabout (Pacific Hwy/Stadium Drive)?

Coffs Harbour Bypass

- (93) When can the Coffs Harbour community expect Bypass tunnels review for Dangerous Goods transit?

Clarence Town Bridge

- (94) Can a progress report be provided for the Clarence Town Bridge?

Branxton-Maitland School Buses

- (95) Does Transport for NSW have a plan to deal with the overcrowding on the Branxton-Maitland school buses?

Maria River Road – Kempsey and PMQ LGAs

- (96) What State funding has been identified to deal with the 3km of unsealed road on the Maria River Road?
- (a) Has Transport for NSW identified a solution for the Koalas crossing at this point?

South West Rocks access

(97) What improvements have been identified for the bridge utilised for the only access to South West Rocks?

(a) This bridge floods, what plans are there for continued access to this town?

Clarence Way

(98) What State funding is available to ensure the completion of the Clarence Way upgrade between Sandilands and Bonalbo?

Heavy Vehicle Bypass – Lismore

(99) What plans are there for a Heavy Vehicle Bypass of Lismore?

Macleay Valley Way – roundabout

(100) What plans have Transport NSW to meet community expectations of the maintenance of the Macleay Valley Way roundabout at Taree?

Old Concrete Bridges – Nambucca Valley LGA

(101) Does Transport for NSW have a plan for the salinity damage to old concrete bridges in the Nambucca Valley LGA?

Hastings River Ferry Services

(102) Is Transport for NSW considering funding for the Hastings River Ferry Services?

Wrights Road – Port Macquarie

(103) Are there any plans to stage works for Wrights Road in Port Macquarie?

(a) Is Transport for NSW aware of the data supporting staged works?

Rawtons Island Bridge

(104) Does Transport for NSW have any plans to assist with the restoration of the collapsed Rawtons Island Bridge?

M1-tunnel Gold Coast Airport

(105) What State assistance is planned for the major congestion point on the M1 at the tunnel under the Gold Coast airport?

M1-flooding Chinderra

(106) Has Transport for NSW identified improvements to prevent the M1 flooding at Chinderra?

Bobeyan Road

(107) In February 2019, the NSW Government committed \$20 million to seal the NSW section of Bobeyan Road.

- (a) Is there a timeframe for the final sections to be completed?
- (b) Has the Minister met with the cross-border commissioner to coordinate work on the ACT sections?
- (c) Has the entire \$20 million been spent?
- (d) Is any additional funding required to complete this project?

General questions

CFMEU meetings

(108) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the CFMEU?

ETU meetings

(109) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the ETU?

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

(110) On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to The Cabinet Office?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

(111) How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary?
 - ii. Forced?
- (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
- (c) On what page are redundancies published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

- (112) On what date were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio published?
- (113) Were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio printed?
- (a) If yes, what was the printing cost(s) for each department / agency?
- (114) Did the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio use in part or full an external production / body / consultant to draft?
- (a) If yes, what was the cost(s) for each department / agency?
- (115) In what month will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?
- (116) Will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?
- (a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25 for each department / agency?

State Records Act

- (117) Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?
- (a) If yes, when?

Advertising

- (118) On what page is advertising published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) annual report(s)?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register

- (119) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?
- (a) If yes, is it available online?
- i. If yes, what is the website URL?

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

- (120) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?

- (a) If yes, what is the website URL?
- (121) Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?
 - (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
 - (b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

Ministerial Code of Conduct

- (122) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?
 - (a) If yes, what was the breach?

Credit Cards

- (123) Have you ever been issued with a credit card by a NSW Government department(s) and/or agency(s) since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) If yes, under what circumstance?
 - (b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?
- (124) Do public servants in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) been issued with department/agency credit cards?
- (125) If yes, what is the website URL of the credit card policy?

Department(s)/agency(s) desk or office

- (126) Do you have a desk or office in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) building(s)?

Senior Executive Drivers

- (127) As at 1 February 2025, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

GIPA Applications – Ministerial Office

- (128) Has your Ministerial Office received a GIPA Application(s) since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) If yes, how many?
 - (b) If yes, what is the website URL of the disclosure log?

GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s)

- (129) Since 28 March 2023, have you and/or your ministerial office given instructions to your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) in relation to Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s)?

GIPA Act – Disclosure Log Website URL

(130) What is the website URL for the GIPA Act disclosure log each of your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

TikTok

(131) Are you on TikTok?

(a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?

Signal

(132) Are you and/or your ministerial staff on Signal?

(a) If yes, do you and/or your ministerial staff access Signal from a NSW Government device?

(b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?

Training

(133) Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?

(a) If yes, what is the description of training?

(b) If yes, how much?

Cabinet documents

(134) Since 28 March 2023, have you shared Cabinet documents with your Parliamentary Secretary?

Parliamentary Secretary

(135) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

(136) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

(137) Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used your Ministerial Vehicle?

Media releases and statements

(138) Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases>?

(a) If no, why?

Overseas Travel

(139) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants from your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)?

Data Breaches

(140) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) keep a register of data breaches in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PPIP) Act?

(141) If yes, what is the website?

Discretionary Fund

(142) As Minister, do you have a discretionary fund?

(a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?

(b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?

Qantas Chairman's Lounge

(143) Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge?

Local Government Councillors

(144) How many of your Ministerial staff is a local government councillor(s)?