

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS
HEARING DATE: 29 February 2024
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Question no: 1

(1) Noting that the Government failed to identify the cost of each stage of the Barton Highway individually in the NSW Budget and has not published these costs elsewhere including on the Transport website.

(a) Following the announcement of the completion of the Barton Highway Stage 1, what was the final cost of that project?

(b) The website currently suggests that the community will be advised of the concept design and the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) during 2024. Recognising that preferred designs for Kaveney's Road intersection and the Southern permanent tie-in have been released, and the Barton Highway corridor has committed funding up to \$200 million, the REF should be released imminently. What month should the community expect to be advised of this update to this important project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(1) (a) that while Stage 1 is open to traffic, Transport for NSW is still finalising contracts and other items. The final project cost is not yet known.

The Australian and NSW Governments have together committed \$200 million towards the upgrade of the Barton Highway, with \$150 million provided by the Australian Government and \$50 million by the NSW Government.

(b) Transport for NSW is expecting to issue the next community update in mid-2024. Transport for NSW expects the Review of Environmental Factors will go on display in late 2024, and a further community update is scheduled to be released after this time.

Question no: 2

(2) What are the current actions regarding this Project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(2) that the Forbes Iron Bridge Upgrade project forms part of the Australian Government's Roads of Strategic Importance program. The concept design on various options is being developed, to be resolved by May 2024.

Question no: 3

(3) When will these actions conclude?

Answer:

I am advised:

(3) that the preliminary studies are being completed to inform the draft Strategic Business Case for first review in April 2024 and Concept Design in May 2024. The Strategic Business Case is target for completion in late 2024.

Question no: 4

Of the \$2.255 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:
(4) that the Total Actuals spent to the end of February 2024 is \$4 million (of which \$1.8 million was spent in Financial Year 2024).

Question no: 5

(5) Can the community expect the Project will award a contract for major works by March 2027?

Answer:

I am advised:
(5) as the project is in the very early phases of development, Transport for NSW is not in a position to indicate when a contract would be awarded at this stage.

Question no: 6

(6) Could the Minister please explain why the State Government did not proceed with the \$8 million planning works for the Bruxner Highway between Goonellabah and Wollongbar described by Transport for NSW as 'fatal and serious injury crash rate that is more than eight times higher than similar roads'?

Answer:

I am advised:
(6) The Federal funding of \$6.8 million for this project was withdrawn as part of the Federal Government's Infrastructure review.

The NSW Government commitment for this project included \$1.7 million, of which \$1.16 million was spent as at 29 February 2024.

As a result of this funding withdrawal, Transport for NSW will concentrate on short term upgrades to address safety along the corridor which will include mass action safety treatments such as road safety barriers, intersection upgrades and wider shoulders.

Transport for NSW will also continue investigations around the longer-term strategy, including consultation with the wider community on the future corridor alignment.

Question no: 7

(7) What are the current actions regarding this project and when will they conclude?

Answer:

I am advised:
(7) The Australian Government is committing \$32 million towards upgrading the intersections of Hargraves Lane and Federation Street to the Newell, Oxley and Castlereagh Highways in Gilgandra.

The strategic phase of the project is expected to be completed by end March 2024. The strategic phase involves the identification and approval of the preferred options for the project.

The Development Project Proposal Report is being finalised for submission to the Australian Government for release of further funding for the concept design phase. It is expected that the concept design phase, including a Final Business Case, will be finalised by end of 2025.

Question no: 8

(8) Of the \$2.791 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(8) The Total Actuals spent to the end of February 2024 is \$0.86 million (of which \$0.232 million was spent in Financial Year 2023/24).

Question no: 9

(9) Can the community expect the Project will award a contract for major works by March 2027?

Answer:

I am advised:

(9) The current program for the project includes contract award for major works by end of March 2027.

Question no: 10

(10) What are the current actions regarding this Project, noting it continues to conduct maintenance works but has not awarded a major works contract?

Answer:

I am advised:

(10) That tenders were sought for the rehabilitation of a section of the Marulan bypass in December 2022. Unfortunately, the tenders submitted did not represent a value for money option and the project did not proceed to contract award.

To inform value for money options, Transport for NSW undertook a Market Interactive Process with external stakeholders in late 2023. This Market Interaction provided information to support Transport for NSW managing the risks, constraints, design improvements and opportunities to innovate on proposed rehabilitation methods. Transport for NSW is using this information to determine the best rehabilitation methodology for the Marulan bypass.

Question no: 11

(11) When are the slab replacement works expected to conclude during 2024?

Answer:

I am advised:

(11) Work commenced on 23 February 2024 and is expected to be completed by 22 March 2024 (weather permitting). Further slab replacement work may also be undertaken during Financial Year 2024/25.

Question no: 12

(12) Has Transport for NSW begun planning works to identify an end-state solution that restores the Marulan stretch of the Hume Highway corridor?

Answer:

I am advised:

(12) Planning activities have begun to rehabilitate the Marulan stretch of the Hume Highway.

Question no: 13

(13) Of the \$9.955 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(13) As of 29 February 2024, \$1.33 million of the \$9.955 million state funding allocation has been spent this financial year.

Question no: 14

(14) What are the current actions regarding this Project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(14) That the current actions include:

- Finalising the strategic design including cost estimates, traffic modelling and a utility strategy
- Preparing a community update to display the recommended option
- Undertaking a procurement strategy to determine delivery packaging options
- Preparing to commence the concept design and environmental assessment
- Preparing to commence the Strategic Business Case and Development Project Proposal Report.

Question no: 15

(15) When will these actions conclude?

Answer:

I am advised:

(15) The timeline for actions includes:

- Display of the recommended option is scheduled for Q2 2024
- Review of Environmental Factors determination is scheduled for Q3 2025 for the Freemans Drive/Wyee Road intersection.

Question no: 16

(16) Of the \$4.8 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(16) The spend to date is \$1.98 million, of which \$1.8 million was spent in 2023-24 FY.

Question no: 17

(17) Recognising that the Project has \$58.8 million allocated over the four years to 2026/27, when can the community expect the Project will award a contract for major works?

Answer:

I am advised:

(17) The award of the major contract to commence works at the Mandalong Road/Wyee Road/Freemans Drive intersection is targeted for mid-2026, subject to planning and funding approvals.

Question no: 18

(18) What are the current actions regarding this Project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(18) The detailed design and environmental assessment for this project is complete. Transport for NSW is currently working to review and refine the design and prepare tender documentation. Property acquisition has commenced, and utility service relocation work is expected to start in mid-2024, contractor procurement is underway with respective utility service operators.

Question no: 19

(19) When are these actions expected to conclude?

Answer:

I am advised:

(19) The procurement of a delivery contractor will commence in late 2024 and award of a construction contract is anticipated in the first half of 2025.

Question no: 20

(20) Of the \$5.569 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(20) As of February 2024, the project has spent \$0.5 million for the year 2023-24.

Question no: 21

(21) Recognising that the Project has \$23 million allocated over the four years to 2026/27, when can the community expect the Project will award a contract for major works?

Answer:

I am advised:

(21) The contract for major works will be awarded in the first half of 2025.

Question no: 22

(22) As the Federal Funding Review has now been completed for several months and this funding information is not available within the NSW 2023/24 Budget or updated during the NSW 2023/24 Half-Yearly Review, could the Minister please advise all projects with Australian Government funding (funded over \$1 million or more) within Regional NSW, with Regional NSW defined as anywhere a Council was eligible for the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund?

(a) Project Title

i. Committed Federal Funding

ii. Committed State Funding

Answer:

I am advised:

(22) A complete list of projects with Australian Government funding, over \$1 million, within Regional NSW is currently unavailable, as Federal and State funding allocation details for projects are subject to change through 2024-25 Budget processes and ongoing negotiation with the Commonwealth.

Outcomes of the Federal Infrastructure Review are publicly available on the Australian Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts website:

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/independent-strategic-review-iip-project-changes-summary.pdf>

Question no: 23

(23) Could the Minister please advise all bridges funded under this budget item?

Answer:

I am advised:

(23) The projects with funding allocations within the Budget Paper 3 item "Regional NSW Bridge Upgrades" include:

- Rawsonville Bridge
- Sheahan Bridge (planning)
- Gee Gee Bridge
- McKanes Bridge
- Warroo Bridge
- Timber Truss Bridge over Williams River at Clarence Town (Brig O'Johnston)
- Colemans Bridge.

Question no: 24

(24) What are the current actions regarding this project and when will they conclude?

Answer:

I am advised:

(24) The project has been carrying out additional traffic studies, updating the 2015 concept design and undertaking additional geotechnical and other investigations.

In the coming months a project update will be released, giving the community an opportunity to provide feedback on the revised design, prior to completing an Addendum Review of Environmental Factors.

During this year and next, the project will finalise the design, environmental assessment and updated Final Business Case.

Question no: 25

(25) What is the financial spend to date on this project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(25) A total of \$39.5 million has been spent to February 2024.

Question no: 26

(26) During which Financial Year are these works expected to proceed to procurement?

Answer:

I am advised:

(26) That subject to planning and funding approval, commencement of procurement is expected in 2024/25 financial year with an ROI process prior to major works tendering throughout 2025/26.

Question no: 27

(27) What are the current actions regarding this project and when will they conclude?

Answer:

I am advised:

(27) The project is subject to approval and release of Federal funding via the Federal project and funding approval process. The project has finished early work on site and is preparing to go to tender for the main work.

Question no: 28

(28) Of the \$7.9 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(28) A total of \$1.6 million has been spent in the financial year 2023/24, to the end of February 2024.

Question no: 29

(29) Can the community expect the Project will award a contract for major works by March 2027?

Answer:

I am advised:
(29) Yes, provided the Federal funding is approved and released.

Question no: 30

(30) What are the results of the recent field investigations during January 2024?

Answer:

I am advised:
(30) Field investigations undertaken during January were commissioned to better understand public utility constraints within the study area. These investigation results will assist in the further development of the concept design.

Question no: 31

(31) Noting the TfNSW project website provides no relevant details, what are the next steps of works on this project?

Answer:

I am advised:
(31) Transport for NSW is targeting display of options to seek community feedback by mid-2024. This will assist in identifying the preferred option for the project, prior to commencing concept design and environmental assessment to ultimately gain project approval.

Question no: 32

(32) Of the \$2 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:
(32) A total of \$0.9 million has been spent to February 2024 against this budget item.

Question no: 33

(33) Can the community expect the Project will award a contract for major works by March 2027?

Answer:

I am advised:
(33) The project is currently in its early options identification stage and subject to further approvals from both the Australian and NSW Governments on this jointly funded project. The next key milestones for the project are to identify, develop and gain planning approval for the preferred option, identify any priority staging, and carry out detailed design prior to construction.

Timing for construction is not confirmed and would likely be delivered in priority stages consistent with available funding.

Question no: 34

(34) Noting the update to the Transport for NSW website during December 2023 regarding work relating to the concept design and Review of Environmental Factors (REF), When can the community expect the Project will exhibit the REF to the public?

Answer:

I am advised:
(34) A Review of Environmental Factors for the Newell Highway Flood Mitigation – West Wyalong to Forbes project is expected to be displayed for community feedback in early 2025.

Question no: 35

(35) Of the \$1.967 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:
(35) Total Actuals spent to the end of February 2024 is \$7.3 million (of which \$3.2 million was spent in FY24).

Question no: 36

(36) Noting the February 2024 Community Update for the Project, how can the NSW Government claim to have delivered these works on time and on budget when it has removed several kilometres of the proposed upgrade including the majority of Section 1 and another portion of Section 2?

Answer:

I am advised:
(36) In the recent Community Update (February 2024), Transport for NSW refers to having modified the design in Sections 1 and Section 2 for the project near Narrabri, to ensure that Transport for NSW's delivery timeframe of early 2026 completion is met and within the approved budget.

The project has been significantly impacted with consecutive years of above average rainfall prior to commencing construction, as well as significant flooding in the area.

The portions of Section 1 and 2 have been rescoped to ensure the delivery includes five overtaking lanes (as originally planned), the realignment of Knight's Hill, heavy vehicle rest area, pavement upgrades and intersection improvements. These upgrades will improve safety for motorists and reduce future maintenance requirements and costs, within the original planned timeframes.

Question no: 37

(37) How much would it have cost to actually complete the original works, including all of Section 1 and Section 2?

Answer:

I am advised:
(37) Transport for NSW is reviewing the remaining works to determine future funding requirements.

Question no: 38

(38) When does Transport for NSW intend to proceed with Section 4?

Answer:

I am advised:
(38) Currently, there is no committed construction funding for Section 4 for the Newell Highway Upgrade - Narrabri to Moree project.

Question no: 39

(39) If a further stage of works is under consideration, does Transport for NSW intend to proceed with the removed portions of Section 1 and Section 2?

Answer:

I am advised:
(39) Transport for NSW is reviewing the remaining works to determine future funding requirements.

Question no: 40

(40) Of the \$81.310 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:
(40) Total actuals spent to the end of February 2024 is \$109.6 million (of which \$48.9 million of the \$81.310 million allocated for 2023/24 has been spent).

Question no: 41

(41) Given the estimated total cost of the Parkes Bypass listed in the 2023/24 NSW Budget (\$192 million) is less than the cumulative sum of the estimated expenditure to the current Financial Year (\$122.434 million) and the 2023/2024 Budget Allocation (\$70 million) with two further years of construction remaining, what is the actual estimated total cost of the Parkes Bypass?

Answer:

I am advised:
(41) Transport for NSW advises that the NSW Government, together with the Australian Government, remains committed to delivering the full scope of the Parkes Bypass project. Impacts to the construction program, including wet weather and naturally occurring asbestos are well known to the community. Transport for NSW continues to review the impact of these factors to the total cost and a final estimate has not been determined.

Question no: 42

(42) Of the \$70 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(42) The total actuals spent to the end of February 2024 are \$160 million (of which \$37.5 million spent in FY24).

Question no: 43

(43) Please list all road safety initiatives which have been undertaken within Regional NSW, with Regional NSW defined as anywhere a Council was eligible for the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund?

Answer:

I am advised:

(43) Transport for NSW collaborates with the NSW Police Force for enhanced enforcement targeting road safety behaviours contributing to accidents. This includes regional and statewide operations, fixed and mobile speed cameras, and campaigns to address issues like level crossing safety and mobile phone use.

Infrastructure upgrades involve programs like the Towards Zero Safer Roads Program, focusing on road network upgrades in regional areas, and the Safer Country Roads Program, which addresses road safety engineering treatments. Risk assessment and funding partnerships with state and federal governments prioritize high-risk roads for safety treatments.

Engagement efforts include the Safer Drivers Course for learner drivers, road safety education programs for schools, and behavioural-focused initiatives targeting at-risk road user groups.

Transport for NSW conducts advertising campaigns addressing key road safety issues and offers community grants to support local road safety projects. Partnerships with local councils provide funding for road safety officers and projects, while the Towards Zero Collaboration Hub facilitates collaboration among stakeholders to address road safety issues at the community level.

Question no: 44

(44) Do these initiatives include the 'number of really important safety upgrades' referred to by Mr Hayes on Page 65 of the transcript?

Answer:

I am advised:

(44) No. Transport for NSW advises that as part of the Princes Highway Upgrade Program, Transport is investigating a number of potential infrastructure upgrades to improve safety between Burrill Lake and the Victorian border.

Question no: 45

(45) Please provide an update regarding this project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(45) The Rural and Regional Ticketing Solution program includes two specific initiatives. The Contactless Bus Ticketing project is the first initiative which is the rollout of the contactless ticketing payment solution in Regional NSW. The pilot, in Bathurst and Dubbo, that was implemented September of 2023 is in an evaluation phase before considering the broader rollout.

The second initiative is called Customer Reservation System replacement project which is the replacement of the current end of life NSW Trainlink booking platform. The new system will enhance the way passengers plan and book regional rail travel online, via agent consultants or through the travel call centre. The project is on track to go live with the replacement by August 2024.

Question no: 46

(46) Of the \$29.219 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:
 (46) That as at end of February 2024, \$13.1 million has been spent from the full year allocated budget of \$29.2 million.

Question no: 47

(47) What active transport projects are currently being delivered within Regional NSW, with Regional NSW defined as anywhere a Council was eligible for the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund?

Answer:

I am advised:
 (47) Transport for NSW continues to actively partner with local governments to plan, develop and deliver their active transport networks, largely through the Get NSW Active program.

In the 2022/23 Get NSW Active program, which still has projects in delivery, there were:

- 145 successful projects in Regional NSW
- \$33.9 million awarded for projects in Regional NSW
- 49 Design projects (\$6.1 million)
- 96 Construction projects (\$27.8 million)

In the 2023/24 Get NSW Active program, which still has projects in delivery, there were:

- 39 successful projects in Regional NSW
- \$15.9 million awarded for projects in Regional NSW
- 13 Design projects (\$2.0 million)
- 24 Construction projects (\$13.9 million)

Information about active transport projects being delivered through the Get NSW Active program is available at [Get NSW Active | Transport for NSW](#).

In addition to Get NSW Active, Transport for NSW is co-funding the Wagga Wagga Active Travel Plan, which is delivering a 56km network of safe cycling routes that will provide direct access to schools, shops, workplaces, and recreation.

Delivery is also underway for a 132km active transport trail connecting Casino and Murwillumbah. The first section of the trail opened in March 2023, connecting Murwillumbah Railway Station and the villages of the Tweed Valley. The next section of the trail will connect Casino and Bentley with the 13.5km section due to open in 2024.

Question no: 48

(48) Following the conclusion of the Project's Review of Environmental Factors on 10 March 2023, when can the community expect the Project will award a contract for major works?

Answer:

I am advised:

(48) The timing for construction of the upgrade has not been confirmed. It is subject to funding and further project approvals.

Subject to approvals, a detailed design would need to be completed prior to commencing any construction.

Question no: 49

(49) Of the \$1 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date on this Project in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(49) A total of \$0.8m has been spent in 2023/24 financial year to the end of February 2024 on the Harrington Road Intersection upgrade.

Question no: 50

(50) As this Project does not have a webpage on the Transport for NSW website, please provide an update of the most recent actions regarding this Project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(50) That the work completed to date includes identifying the scope of the investigation and resources within the organisation to complete the planning exercise, understanding existing network constraints and design limitations, and reviewing past studies and designs.

Question no: 51

(51) Of the \$1 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(51) \$413 has been spent from the 2023-24 NSW Budget allocation. Planning work undertaken is yet to be charged to the project, however, it is expected to be in the vicinity of \$100,000 to \$150,000 for the financial year.

Question no: 52

(52) Given Transport for NSW recently issued an EOI to progress planning for the Project, when can the community expect the Project will award a contract for major works?

Answer:

I am advised:

(52) The Princes Highway upgrade between Jervis Bay Road and Hawken Road has been identified as the highest priority for this section of the highway and will be delivered as Stage 1 of the Jervis Bay to Sussex Inlet Road upgrade.

The recently advertised Expression of Interest is to engage a consultant for the concept design and environmental assessment. The process of completing the concept design and environmental assessment will take at least 12 months. After this time, the design will be finalised. The timing to award contract for the major work is not yet known.

Question no: 53

(53) Of the \$4.235 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(53) That as at end February 2024 in the 2023/24 financial year, Transport has spent \$2.2 million for the Jervis Bay Road to Hawken Road upgrade project.

Question no: 54

(54) Please provide an update on what initiatives are being considered within the \$5 million allocated in the 2023/24 Budget?

Answer:

I am advised:

(54) Transport for NSW is planning targeted road safety improvements along the Princes Highway between Nowra and Moruya. These upgrades will provide safer and more efficient journeys for motorists and freight operators. The planned works will include additional overtaking lanes, intersection upgrades, road shoulder widening, bridge maintenance and/or replacements and rest area upgrades.

Question no: 55

(55) Does this budget item include the 'number of really important safety upgrades' referred to by Mr Hayes on Page 65 of the transcript?

Answer:

I am advised:

(55) Yes.

Question no: 56

(56) Is this separate to those initiatives being targeted under the Budget's Road Safety budget item?

Answer:

I am advised:

(56) Yes.

Question no: 57

(57) What was the most recent action taken on this Project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(57) Transport for NSW conducted design work for all three shortlisted corridors to better understand the opportunities and challenges that all three corridors present.

Question no: 58 to 59

(58) What, if any, money is currently allocated to planning works for this Project?

(59) If any money has been allocated towards the Project, how much money has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(58) and (59) The funding for the initial planning works on Moruya bypass has been through available funding in the broader Princes Highway Upgrade Program.

Question no: 60

(60) Noting as at submission, the Transport for NSW website suggests Goonoo Goonoo Road will begin major works in December 2024.

(a) When can the community expect the Project will award a contract for major works?

Answer:

I am advised:

(60)(a) That in November 2023, the Australian Government released its Infrastructure Investment Program Strategic Review. This included \$764 million of funding towards planning and construction for a number of projects along the New England Highway corridor, including the Goonoo Goonoo Road upgrade. Transport for NSW is currently working with the Australian Government to understand the timeframe and related funding for individual projects within the New England Highway corridor as a result of this review, including on the Goonoo Goonoo Road upgrade.

Question no: 61

(61) Has Transport for NSW completed detailed design on this project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(61) The next step in the project is to confirm funding for the project, complete the final business case and detailed design prior to any construction activities.

Question no: 62

(62) What was the most recent action taken on this project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(62) Transport for NSW has completed the concept design and environmental assessment for the project and early works were carried out in January 2023.

Question no: 63

(63) What, if any, money is currently allocated to planning works for this Project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(63) \$3 million has been allocated for the planning and development of the New England Highway Goonoo Goonoo Road Duplication. Transport for NSW is currently working with the Australian Government to understand the timeframe and related funding for individual projects within the New England Highway corridor.

Question no: 64

(64) If any money has been allocated towards the Project, how much money has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:

(64) A total of \$2.86 million has been spent as at the end of February 2024.

Question no: 65

(65) What was the most recent action taken on this Project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(65) That the project is currently under development. A strategic business case has been completed investigating a range of possible solutions. The work has identified a potential solution which is being further refined before seeking feedback from the community. Transport for NSW will release these plans for consultation prior to proceeding to final design.

Question no: 66

(66) What, if any, money is currently allocated to planning works for this Project?

Answer:

I am advised:

(66) \$8 million has been allocated to the concept development and early works activities for the upgrade of the New England Highway at Rocky Cut.

Question no: 67

(67) If any money has been allocated towards the Project, how much money has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:
 (67) \$0.2 million has been spent to February 2024.

Question no: 68

(68) What improvements are being targeted under these this budget item?

Answer:

I am advised:
 (68) That Transport for NSW is currently investigating a traffic modelling solution to better understand the corridor impacts.

Question no: 69

(69) Of the \$1 million allocated in the 2023/24 NSW Budget, how much has been spent to date in the most recent internal Transport for NSW financial reporting?

Answer:

I am advised:
 (69) That planning work undertaken is yet to be charged to the project, however it is expected to be in the vicinity of \$600,000 for the financial year.

Question no: 70

(70) As noted during the most recent hearing by Mr Fuller on page 89 that all projects funded under the Regional Road Fund are public.
 (a) Please list all projects funded through the Regional Roads Fund?
 (b) Please list CAPEX funding for all projects identified above?
 (c) Please list OPEX funding for all projects identified above?

Answer:

I am advised:
 (70) The following table provides a breakdown of the projects currently funded through the \$334 million Regional Roads Fund, including whether the project is funded through CAPEX or OPEX.

There is \$97.6 million under the Regional Roads Fund yet to be allocated. Projects will be considered for funding via a review of current strategic priorities for road transport in regional NSW. Funding for further projects under the Regional Roads Fund will be announced as they are considered and approved in future budget rounds.

The \$236.42 million CAPEX and OPEX allocated under the \$334 million fund was approved in the 2023-24 Budget. It should be noted that at the time of the 2023-24 Budget, \$46.6 million in capital allocation was approved by NSW Treasury under the Regional Road Fund and included in the Budget Paper 3 Infrastructure Statement.

Following review of the accounting treatment on all individual projects, a reclassification adjustment will be submitted in the 2024-25 State Budget to ensure that the correct CAPEX and OPEX split (\$131 million CAPEX, \$105.42 million OPEX) is reflected as shown in the table below.

Regional Roads Fund	Capital Allocation	OPEX Allocation	Estimated Total Cost (TOTEX)
	131,000	105,420	236,420
\$12 million for East Nowra Sub Arterial Road project		12,000	12,000
\$15 million for duplication of Thornton Rail Bridge	15,000		15,000
\$12 million for Golden Highway improvements	12,000		12,000
\$3 million for road co-funding agreement with Dungog Council		3,000	3,000
\$6 million for road upgrades across the Upper Hunter		6,000	6,000
\$2.5 million to replace Melville Ford Bridge		2,500	2,500
\$10million for Port Stephens Road upgrades		10,000	10,000
\$1.5 million for Tuross Head intersection	1,500		1,500
\$15 million for Cuttagee Bridge repair and restoration		15,000	15,000
\$20 million for Bulli bypass investigation	20,000		20,000
Additional \$6 million for Speers Point roundabout	6,000		6,000
\$40 million towards planning and design for Gosford Bypass	40,000		40,000
\$10 million for entry and exit ramps on the M1 Princes Motorway	10,000		10,000
\$200,000 for traffic noise study along Ellerton Drive Extension		200	200
\$3 million to upgrade Currawang Road		3,000	3,000
\$2 million for Monaro Street upgrade		2,000	2,000
\$10 million to upgrade Yass Road/Bungendore Road/Ellerton Road intersection (<i>additional funding required above announced commitment approved</i>)	19,000		19,000
\$3.3 million to upgrade Smiths Road		3,300	3,300
\$10 million to upgrade Nerriga Road		10,000	10,000
\$3 million to rehabilitate Tarago Road		3,000	3,000
\$1.8 million to upgrade Cowbed Bridge		1,800	1,800
\$9 million for Briars Sharrow Bridge		9,000	9,000
\$4.5 million for Reschs Creek Bridge		4,500	4,500
\$12 million to Kyogle Council towards the replacement of council's remaining 30 timber and composite bridges		12,000	12,000
\$7.5 million to construct a roundabout at the Alphasdale crossroads on the Bruxner Highway	7,500		7,500
\$4 million to Kyogle Council towards improving flood immunity of the Clarence Way at Tunglebung and Culmarran creeks between Sandilands and Bonalbo		4,000	4,000
\$3.12 million to Tenterfield Shire Council to ensure completion of a major upgrade of Mount Lindesay Road between Legume and Woodenbong.		3,120	3,120
\$1 million for Carters Road Lake Munmorah Traffic study		1,000	1,000
<p>\$4.2 million Shellharbour City Council for the Tripoli Way extension was announced in December 2023.</p>			

Question no: 71

- (71) What is the status of the Big Tiri Bridge?
(a) When is project set to commence?
(b) What is the expected conclusion date?
(c) How much has been spent on the bridge so far?
(d) When will it be open to traffic?
(e) Who is the contractor?

Answer:

I am advised:
(71) The Big Tiri Bridge project has been withdrawn by the MidCoast Council from the Fixing Country Bridges Program.

Question no: 72

- (72) What is the status of Waterfall Way?
(a) What is the status of the Betterment Project - MR76 Waterfall Way Seg1400 - Improve Slope Stability Slope stabilisation using micropiles, meshing and shotcreting.

Answer:

I am advised:
(72) Waterfall Way is open to traffic as at 12 March 2024 and undergoing repairs under the Regional Roads Transport Repair Program. There is also essential maintenance work being undertaken 1.7km west of Bellingen as at March 2024.

(a) Geotechnical investigative drilling is in progress to inform detailed design. Works funded under the Regional Roads Transport Repair Program are to be completed by the end of May 2025 under the current conditions of the funding program.