

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

7th Assembly

06/12/1996

140. **Aboriginal Strategic Roads Program**

Ms. HICKEY to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

QUESTION

1. Is the government proposing to reduce the scope of contracts that have already been agreed to under the Aboriginal Strategic Roads program. If so, what are the details of the reduction in contracted works.

ANSWER

Answered on 05/02/97

The Federal Budget of 9 May 1995 allocated \$5.2M per annum for three years (1995/96 to 1997/98) for the construction of strategic roads on Aboriginal lands.

Program Provision for Year 1 (1995/96) was \$6.95M with \$5.2M cash.

In order to provide continuity of work particularly during the dry season in the top end, approval was obtained to commit to the year 1 program level.

At the time of the budget decision on 20 August 1996 not to approve Years 2 and 3 of the program, commitment was \$5.835M.

In order to reduce the total commitment to the \$5.2M cash available for Year 1 it was necessary to negotiate reductions in contract values on projects that had yet to be completed.

Reductions depended on the progress of the work and were applied as equitably as possible as follows:

<u>Road</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
Kintore	AYAC	\$50,000
Port Keats Road	Naiyu Nambiyu	\$12,900
Arnhem Link Road	Kunbarllanjja	\$125,745
Arnhem Link Road	Maningrida	\$147,023
Arnhem Link Road	Bawinanga	\$126,300

Arnhem Link Road	YBE	\$91,002
Ngukurr to Numbulwar	Carige & Chambers	\$146,971

A small amount of work remains outstanding on four of the above contracts.