

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs. Finocchiaro to the Minister for Trade and Major Projects

Tennant Creek to Mount Isa Railway

1. Please provide an update on the current status of this project?
 2. Has the feasibility study been completed? If not, why not?
 3. Will it be made public? If not, why not?
 4. What was the final cost of the feasibility study?
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ANSWERS

1. The Northern Territory, Queensland and Australian Governments have jointly funded preliminary investigations into the Mount Isa to Tennant Creek Railway, through two work streams, being a:
 - Strategic Options Paper that considered options to advance the railway, and
 - Technical Assessment Program to investigate and address engineering and environmental issues with developing the railway, and establish a cost envelope for construction.

Technical work to de-risk the engineering and environmental elements of the project is largely complete and expected to be finalised in 2018.

The development of the project is still a medium-term proposition, with sources of demand along the corridor too uncertain to underpin the project's development at this time.

Activities to de-risk demand are ongoing, with additional work in the corridor being undertaken by NT Geological Survey, in partnership with Geoscience Australia under the Exploring for the Future initiative.

2. The Strategic Options Paper has been provided to the three governments to inform the next steps to progress the Mount Isa to Tennant Creek Railway.

3. The Strategic Options Paper is expected to be publicly released in due course, noting that the form and timing of the release requires the agreement of the three governments.
4. The total cost of the Strategic Options Paper was \$867 976 excluding GST, with a contribution of \$216 994 from the Northern Territory Government with the balance funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.