

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Vowles to the Minister for Transport:

#### Transport

1. Please list all reviews being undertaken by the Department and the date of expected finalisation.
2. How much is allocated to attract or retain air routes?
  - a) What funding was committed to attract Tigerair to Darwin?
  - b) What funding was committed prior to Tigerair coming to Alice Springs?
  - c) What funding is payable to Qantas for air route development?
3. What is the status of the privatisation of Darwin Bus Service?
4. Please itemise the \$0.4m spend on the remote bus program.
  - a) What plans are there to extend remote buses to other communities?
  - b) What feedback has the department had from current users of the program?
5. What is the timeline for completion, and the proportion of Territory Government/Commonwealth Government funding for the following capital works:
  - a) Canteen creek airstrip upgrade?
  - b) Fog Bay Road – upgrade of Leviathan Creek crossing?
  - c) Outback Way roads?
  - d) Improving local roads traffic management?
  - e) Barge landings – Maningrida?
  - f) Katherine rural roads?
  - g) Lajamanu Road – Kalkarindji to Lajamanu?
  - h) Larapinta/Lovegrove Drive intersection upgrade?
  - i) Litchfield Park Road?
  - j) Flood Immunity – Victoria Highway?
  - k) Safety and Fatigue Management?

- l) Strengthening and Widening?
  - m) Regional roads productivity package?
  - n) Roads to Recovery Program?
  - o) Roystonea Avenue upgrade from Temple Terrace to Gurd Street?
  - p) Rural arterials – pavement strengthening and widening?
  - q) Secondary and local roads pavement strengthening?
  - r) Strategic economic development roads?
  - s) Tiger Brennan Drive duplication – Darwin CBD to Berrimah?
  - t) Urban arterials – strengthen deficient pavement?
  - u) Urban arterials – traffic management improvements?
  - v) Urban beautification – northern Stuart Highway from MVR to Telegraph Station?
6. What is the timeline for completion, and the proportion of Territory Government/Commonwealth Government funding for the following revoted capital works:
- a) Upgrade and seal existing airstrip at Kaltukatjara?
  - b) Upgrade and seal existing airstrip at Utopia?
  - c) Lajamanu airstrip upgrade?
  - d) Upgrade and seal existing airstrip at Yarralin?
  - e) Mandorah Jetty car park upgrade?
  - f) Upgrade the hardstand area at Wurrumiyanga to include raising the level of the site?
  - g) Construct a grade-separated overpass on Stuart Highway over the railway south of Alice Springs?
  - h) Stuart Highway heavy vehicle diversion around Katherine CBD – planning work to determine ultimate corridor for heavy vehicle diversion, consistent with land use objectives in the broader Katherine area?
  - i) Continue flood immunity improvements on selected sections of the Territory national network?
  - j) Tanami Road – continue to upgrade and seal targeted sections to improve accessibility and reduce access disruption to communities?
  - k) Heavy Vehicle Package – upgrade or construct truck parking bays on the Lasseter, Plenty and Tanami highways?

- l) Heavy Vehicle Package – pavement strengthening and widening of various sections of the Carpentaria Highway?
- m) Heavy Vehicle Package – strengthening of four existing bridges on the Buntine Highway?
- n) Central Arnhem Road – stream crossing upgrades at Goyder River and Badalngarmirri (Donydji) River and targeted pavement upgrades<sup>1</sup>
- o) Provide passing opportunities on the Central Arnhem Road?
- p) Community, beef and mining roads, and Port Keats Road?
- q) Strengthen and widen targeted sections and improve safety on the Arnhem Highway including overtaking lanes?
- r) Upgrade Charlotte River crossing on Fog Bay Road including constructing a new bridge and associated approaches and drainage works?
- s) Jenkins Road – upgrade and seal, stage 2?
- t) Tiger Brennan Drive duplication – Darwin CBD to Berrimah Road?

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**Answer**

1.

Review	Estimated date of finalisation
Recreational Vessel Regulatory Review	The Discussion Paper was released on 28 December 2013 and the Regulatory Review is expected to be completed by September 2014.
Medical conditions attached to licensing (process for placing conditions on licences including use of an expert Panel post Wilton Inquest)	October 2014
Commercial Passenger Vehicle Review	December 2014
Maritime Regulatory Review	Early 2015
Darwin Urban Bus Network Review	Unknown

2. There is no specific funding allocation for attracting or retaining air routes. In response to (a)-(c) no funding has been committed by the Department of Transport.

3. On 12 December 2013, public tenders were advertised for the provision of bus services under transfer of business requirements established under the *Fair Work Act* and Regulations.  
Tenders closed on 12 February 2014 and five companies submitted proposals.  
The assessment process has been finalised with Transit Systems Pty Ltd announced as preferred tenderer on 6 July 2014.
4. In 2013-14, the program expenditure of \$395 000, by Remote Bus Program area, was:
  - Alice Springs: \$150 000
  - Katherine: \$120 000
  - Gove: \$125 000
  - a. There are no current plans to extend the Northern Territory Government funded Remote Bus Program to other communities, however bus service operators may make commercial decisions to extend their services to other communities.
  - b. As part of the ongoing six monthly reports from operators to the Department of Transport, as a requirement of the Remote Bus Program Funding Agreements, operators have regularly reported that passenger feedback has been positive in nature.
5. Please refer to the attached table for the breakdown in Capital Works Items.
6. Please refer to the attached table for the breakdown in Capital Works Items.