Key Points:

Infrastructure

- *East West Link:* You have committed $4 billion to delivering the East West Link. Victoria has refused to support the project, citing a poor Benefit Cost Ratio. However, any future scoping of the East West Link will be a different project to the one committed to in 2014, particularly as aspects of the original project scope are being progressed through other projects (i.e. the West Gate Tunnel project).

  - We recommend continuing to reframe the East West Link project as a “yet to be defined solution to an identified congestion problem” (i.e. cross city road connection) and seeking agreement to an initial strategic assessment of options to address this problem. A strategic assessment during the next three years would provide the evidence for Victoria to support the development of a full business case.
Senator Janet Rice asked:

Has the Department undertaken any work to prepare an updated business case for the East West Link in the last 18 months?

Did the Department draft letters for the Minister to counterparts to propose next steps on a future East West Link project?

What meetings has the Department had with Infrastructure Australia, Victorian Government officials, or other stakeholders in relation to East West Link in the last two years?

Answer:

No further work has been done by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development in the last 18 months on an updated business case for the East West Link.

No letters have been drafted for the Minister relating to next steps on a future East West Link project.

The Department has not had any meetings with Infrastructure Australia, Victorian Government officials or other stakeholders in relation to East West Link in the last two years.
**Key Points:**

- **Infrastructure**

  - *East West Link:* You have committed $4 billion to delivering the East West Link. Victoria has refused to support the project, citing a poor Benefit Cost Ratio. However, any future East West Link will be a different project to the 2014 commitment, particularly as aspects of the original project scope are being progressed through other projects (i.e. the West Gate Tunnel project).

  - We recommend continuing to explore a revised strategy to commence a strategic business case for an east-west road connection in Melbourne. A strategic assessment during the next three years would provide the evidence for Victoria to support the development of a full business case.
BACKGROUND AND KEY MESSAGES
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)