

Portfolio:	Treasurer
Witness:	Mr PALLAS
Committee member:	Ms VALLENCE
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Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: Moving on, Treasurer, the 2019–20 federal budget included \$360 million to complete the duplication of the Western Highway to Stawell. This has not been incorporated into the state budget. Will the government accept this funding and complete the duplication of the Western Highway, and if so, when will it be completed?

Mr PALLAS: Can I just ask: what section of the Western Highway are we talking about?

Ms VALLENCE: The duplication at Stawell.

Mr RIORDAN: To Stawell.

Mr PALLAS: As you would appreciate there, the budget paper incorporates—budget paper 4 at page 82—a section from Ballarat to Stawell, and that is contained on page 82. Now, I assume that we are talking a second and subsequent section.

Ms VALLENCE: I will just clarify: it is Ararat to Stawell.

Mr PALLAS: We will take it on notice and give you advice back on it.

Answer:

Funding was provided to develop a business case for and undertake pre-procurement investigations for extending the Western Highway Duplication from Ararat to Stawell (Western Highway Stage 3). For the 2019-20 Budget, the business case for Stage 3 was not proposed for budget consideration.

The State and Federal Governments have partnered to deliver the Western Highway Duplication Stage 2B – Beaufort to Ararat and the planning and pre-construction activities for bypasses at Beaufort and Ararat.

Early works relating to Stage 3 have commenced that include a comprehensive tree survey, environmental field surveys and investigations into potential environmental and community opportunities. Major Road Projects Victoria will continue to update the business case for Stage 3 and will need to incorporate information from these projects as well as the latest cost and risk information.

Only then will the business case be ready for Government consideration.

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