

Question on Notice
No. 1826
Asked on 12 November 2009

MR LANGBROEK asked the Premier and Minister for the Arts (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

Will the Premier confirm that, on the government's own figures and using the 'jobs per million dollars of employment generating capital expenditure figure' (that the Premier relied upon during the 2009 budget estimates process), 13,134 Queenslanders have lost their employment and livelihoods because of the \$1.7b black hole in the capital works program?

ANSWER:

I refer the Member to my answer to his remarkably similar question without notice asked in Parliament on 11 November 2009 and take this opportunity to expand on that answer.

There is no '\$1.7 billion black hole' in the capital works program and no Queenslander has lost their employment or livelihood as a result of an actual being less than an original budgeted figure.

As advised by the Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development in his response to Question on Notice No. 1764, purchases of non-financial assets in the Non-financial Public Sector at the time of the 2008-09 Budget were estimated at \$16.637 billion. This is the relevant number for comparing to the \$15.265 billion actual outlined in the 2008-09 Report on State Finances. The variance from Budget to actual is therefore \$1.372 billion.

This variance is due to a number of factors such as major weather events, variations in project timeframes, revisions to project cash flows, changes in timing of construction and land acquisitions, contract negotiations, project costs coming in under budget and differences between the completion of works and the payments for those works.

None of these factors have led to any Queenslander who was employed on these projects losing their job or their livelihood.

My Government's commitment to jobs and our job-creating capital works program is clear.