

3. ASSET ACQUISITION PROJECTS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on major asset acquisition projects to be undertaken by individual General Government agencies and Public Trading Enterprises as well as their total planned capital expenditure from all funding sources.

For the purpose of this chapter, a major project is any specific project with an estimated total cost of \$250,000 or more. Major works are further subdivided into new works (projects which have been approved to commence in 1998-99) and works-in-progress (projects which were commenced in earlier years but have not yet been completed). In addition an aggregate allocation for minor miscellaneous works (those with an estimated total cost of less than \$250,000) is shown for each agency.

As with any plan, circumstances and priorities may change in the course of its implementation. In relation to Budget-dependent General Government agencies (ie those funded directly from the Budget), Ministers have authority to vary project allocations provided they observe authorisation limits constraints (expenditure limits for the current and future financial years). Hence, the allocations shown against individual projects may alter during the course of the financial year.

Allocations earmarked for minor miscellaneous works are utilised for such purposes as the purchase of minor plant and equipment, annual provisions for repairs and replacements and land acquisitions, and the provision of capital services, including compensation for coal rights.

The program embraces a large number of individual projects ranging from the acquisition of minor plant and equipment, through to provision of electricity, roads, rail, ports, hospitals, education and other facilities. The sheer volume of projects being undertaken precludes a detailed listing of all projects.

Separate indexes are provided for the General Government and Public Trading Enterprise capital projects at the beginning of Sections 3.2 and 3.3, respectively.

In view of the competitive nature of the Freight Rail Corporation, Rail Services Authority and the Electricity Generators, information on individual capital projects for these agencies is regarded as commercial in confidence and is not provided in this paper. Aggregate total expenditure for these agencies is, however, included under the Competitive Government Sector section of the Public Trading Enterprise Sector Asset Acquisition Program.