



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-2023 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS, ARTS, REGIONAL YOUTH, TOURISM

Hearing: Monday 5 September 2022

Answers due by: Friday 30 September 2022

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ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS, ARTS, REGIONAL YOUTH, TOURISM

Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg *(on behalf of the Opposition)*

Cost of living pressures

1. What action is being taken by the Minister to ease the cost of living pressure on young people?

Youth housing and homelessness

2. PropTrack's November 2021 Regional Australia Report found that when it comes to the increase in housing values and growth in buyer demand, the regions have outperformed metropolitan areas. The Real Estate Institute of NSW's data indicates that NSW regional rental vacancies rates varied between 0.5 and 2.2 percent in July 2022. Has the Office for Regional Youth briefed you on the content of the reports?
 - (a) Which stakeholders have you met to discuss government actions to improve housing affordability and to reduce homelessness for regional youth?
 - (b) Which of your ministerial colleagues have you written to or met formally to discuss government actions to improve housing affordability and to reduce homelessness for regional youth?
 - (c) Have you written to the Commonwealth to advocate and discuss government actions to improve housing affordability and to reduce homelessness for regional youth?
 - i. If not, why not?

Closing the gap

3. At the Budget Estimates hearing on 15 March 2022 the Minister said, "there is a ministry for regional youth because of the significant difference in everything from health issues to educational outcomes to employment opportunities between urban and regional youth". (Hansard page 19). How do you propose to close the gap in relation to:
 - (a) Health issues?
 - (b) Educational outcomes?
 - (c) Employment opportunities?
4. What actions are you taking, as Minister administering the Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014 to close the gap in Western Sydney in relation to:

- (a) Health issues?
- (b) Educational outcomes?
- (c) Employment opportunities?

Advisory bodies

- 5. Have you met with the Youth Advisory Council?
 - (a) If yes, what was discussed?
 - (b) If not, why not and when do you intend to meet the Council?
- 6. Have you met with the Regional Youth Taskforce?
 - (a) If yes, what was discussed?
 - (b) If not, why not and when do you intend to meet the Regional Youth Taskforce?
- 7. Have you met with any other youth advisory groups or councils?
 - (a) If yes, what was discussed?
 - (b) If not, why not and when do you intend to meet with other youth advisory groups or Councils?

Youth Parliament

- 8. Have you met with the NSW Youth Parliament?
 - (a) If yes, what was discussed?
 - (b) If not, why not and when do you intend to meet the Members?
- 9. In relation to the following Youth Parliament bills from the 2021 NSW Youth Parliament, what is the Government's response to each:
 - (a) Aboriginal Affairs
 - (b) Education
 - (c) Energy and Environment
 - (d) Inclusion and Diversity
 - (e) Justice
 - (f) Mental Health
 - (g) Rural and Regional Affairs

- (h) Transport, Roads and Infrastructure
- (i) Women's Affairs

Grants

10. What grants have been provided by the Office of Regional Youth over the last year to support young people in the following areas:
- (a) Bushfire-affected areas
 - (b) Flood-affected areas
 - (c) COVID-19 lockdown areas

Youth employment

11. What support is provided by the Office of Regional Youth to ensure young people are aware of their rights at work and know what to do if they are underpaid or mistreated at work?

Youth survey

12. Does the Office of Regional Youth conduct any surveys of young people?
- (a) If yes, what topics were surveyed over the past two years?
 - (b) If yes, are the findings of the surveys publicly available?
 - (c) If yes, what was the cost of the surveys?
 - (d) If not, what resources are available so that the department understands what young people want the government to do?

Grants

13. What was the total amount of funding provided to youth organisations in 2021/22?
14. What is the total amount of funding estimated to be provided to youth organisations in 2022/23?
15. Of the grants provided by your agency over the past year, what proportion, and what amount, were provided to youth organisations in regional LGAs?
- (a) What proportion, and what amount, were provided to Western Sydney LGAs?
 - (b) What proportion, and what amount, were provided to metropolitan LGAs?
 - (c) What proportion, and what amount, were provided to Hunter LGAs?
 - (d) What proportion, and what amount, were provided to Illawarra LGAs?

16. What coordination does your department undertake within the Cluster to ensure maximum value for money from grants paid to support regional youth in NSW?
17. What coordination does your department undertake with other Clusters to ensure maximum value for money from grants paid to support regional youth in NSW?

Youth spending

18. Lockdown was particularly hard for young people, who are normally establishing their independence and developing important skills and lifelong friendships in education settings. What is the Government doing to support young people in the longer term?
19. The impacts of COVID-19 were very real and immediate during the lockdowns but the longer term effects are still unknown. What monitoring will the Government do to ensure that those kids who suffered so much during their HSC preparations in 2020 and 2021 are not forgotten in years to come?

Newsletter

20. What is the cost to produce the Office of Regional Youth e-newsletter?
21. How many young people receive the newsletter?
22. What was the cost of promoting the newsletter to encourage young people to subscribe?

Grants

23. At the Budget Estimates hearing on 5 September the Director, Department of Regional Youth advised “There's no formal process for the Minister's involvement in this current round of Stronger Country Communities Fund...There was, in the youth round—there was a role for the Minister.” (Hansard, p66) Please explain the role of the Minister?
24. While noting the advice that “All announced grants are listed online” (Hansard, p69) all rounds 1-4 are shown on a map. Please provide a spreadsheet of the 293 youth-related projects in round 3?
 - (a) How many youth-related projects in round 3 were not successful?
 - (b) What proportion, and what amount, were provided to organisations in metropolitan LGAs?
 - (c) What proportion, and what amount, were provided to organisations in Hunter LGAs?
 - (d) What proportion, and what amount, were provided to organisations in Illawarra LGAs?
 - (e) What proportion, and what amount, were provided to organisations in Central Coast LGA?

- (f) What proportion, and what amount, were provided to organisations in regional NSW LGAs?
- (g) What proportion, and what amount, were provided to each electorate?

Regional Youth Radio

25. At the Budget Estimates hearing on 5 September the Director, Department of Regional Youth advised “The grants have been assessed and the projects are all listed on our website now.” (Hansard, p64). Please advise what amount was allocated to each successful project?
- (a) How many applications were not successful?
 - (b) Were any decisions made by the Minister, which departed from the advice of the agency?

Regional Youth Community Coordinators

26. Since their appointment:
- (a) How many community networks to improve wellbeing and resilience have been built?
 - (b) How many community and whole-of-government responses to improve social and economic outcomes have been facilitated?
 - (c) How many schools, local councils, NSW Government agencies, services, and community organisations have they worked alongside to develop capability to support young people?
 - (d) What has been the outcomes to date of working alongside schools, local councils, NSW Government agencies, services, and community organisations?
 - (e) Which existing programs and services have been improved?
 - (f) What is the status of the development of community-led Community and Youth Strategies/Actions and pilots of local youth projects and initiatives?
 - (g) How many Community and Youth Strategies/Actions and pilots of local youth projects and initiatives have been released?
 - (h) What is the status of any new programs identified for flood and COVID affected communities?
 - (i) How many individuals have been provided with application assistance for funding under the Children and Young People Wellbeing Initiative, as referred to at the following:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/regional-youth-community-coordinator-initiative>?
27. How many individuals applied to be employed as a Regional Youth Community Coordinator?

- (a) Which agency or company did the shortlisting of eligible candidates?
 - (b) What is the salary range for each Regional Youth Community Coordinator?
28. Was total expenditure in 2021/22 for the Regional Youth Community Coordinator Initiative within the \$1,385,000 budget for it?
- (a) What proportion of this relates to salaries?
 - (b) What other costs are budgeted within the \$1,385,000 budget?
 - (c) What is the budget in 2022/23 for the Regional Youth Community Coordinator Initiative?
29. What role in the assessment and approval of the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative is played by the Regional Youth Community Coordinators?

Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative

30. Of the \$10.3 million budget for the initiative, how much is earmarked for each of the following regions:
- (a) North Coast
 - (b) New England and North West
 - (c) Hunter
 - (d) Central Coast
 - (e) Orana Far West
 - (f) Central West
 - (g) Riverina Murray
 - (h) South East and Tablelands
 - (i) Illawarra and Shoalhaven?
31. What actions are being taken to ensure equality of access to grants for organisations from all regions?
32. What funding has been paid out for young people in metropolitan storm and flood affected areas?

Regional Youth Insights

33. What was the cost to prepare Regional Youth Insights?
- (a) Which market research firm was engaged?

- (b) Which firm was engaged to support the social media campaign?
 - (c) Which firm was engaged to assist with data analysis?
34. In relation to the proposed priority areas for investment:
- (a) What funding will be allocated to boost skill development and information on career pathway options?
 - (b) What funding will be allocated to expand the availability and awareness of mental health services for young people?
 - (c) What funding will be allocated to expand affordable housing options for young people close to their work or study?
 - (d) What funding will be allocated to improve the availability, frequency, and reliability of public transport?
 - (e) What funding will be allocated to ease the cost of living pressure on young people?
 - (f) What funding will be allocated to boost the number and variety of recreational activities and events for young people?

Our Region, Our Voice - Regional Youth Investment Program

35. Of the \$40 million budget for the program, how much is earmarked for each of the following regions:
- (a) North Coast
 - (b) New England and North West
 - (c) Hunter
 - (d) Central Coast
 - (e) Orana Far West
 - (f) Central West
 - (g) Riverina Murray
 - (h) South East and Tablelands
 - (i) Illawarra and Shoalhaven?
36. What actions are being taken to ensure equality of access to grants for organisations from all regions?

Bushfire Local Economic Recovery package

37. Of the \$61 million budget for youth projects through the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery package, how much was expended in each of the following regions:
- (a) North Coast
 - (b) New England and North West
 - (c) Hunter
 - (d) Central Coast
 - (e) Orana Far West
 - (f) Central West
 - (g) Riverina Murray
 - (h) South East and Tablelands
 - (i) Illawarra and Shoalhaven?
38. What actions are being taken to ensure equality of access to grants for organisations from all regions?

Maayuma-Li GEM Lightning Ridge

39. What funding has been allocated to the project to date?
40. What are the objectives of the project?
41. What assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the project?

Physical Activity Program with the Office of Sport in Eurobodalla, Kempsey, and Bathurst

42. What funding has been allocated to the project to date?
43. What are the objectives of the project?
44. How many young people participated in the following LGAs:
- (a) Eurobodalla
 - (b) Kempsey
 - (c) Bathurst?
45. What assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the project?

Office of Regional Youth

46. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the North Coast region?
- 47.
48. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the New England North West region?
49. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Hunter region?
50. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Far West region?
51. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Central West and Orana region?
52. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Central Coast region?
53. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Illawarra Shoalhaven region?
54. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the South East and Tablelands region?
55. What are the achievements of the Office of Regional Youth in the Riverina Murray region?
56. In relation to the Work Ready pillar, how many young people has the Office of Regional youth prepared for regional jobs of the future?
57. In relation to the Wellbeing pillar, how many young people's mental and physical health programs of the Office of Regional Youth have been boosted?
58. In relation to the Connectivity pillar, how many young people's transport connectivity to training, work, services and recreational activities have been boosted by the actions and programs of the Office of Regional Youth?
59. In relation to the Connectivity pillar, how many young people's digital connectivity to training, work, services and recreational activities have been boosted by the actions and programs of the Office of Regional Youth?
60. In relation to the Community pillar, how many young people have explored their creativity, collaborated with others in teams, developed a sense of achievement or feel socially and culturally connected to and included in their communities and environment due to the actions and programs of the Office of Regional Youth?

61. What programs have been developed by the Office of Regional Youth specifically for the Hunter area?
62. What programs have been developed by the Office of Regional Youth specifically for the Central Coast region?
63. What programs have been developed by the Office of Regional Youth specifically for the Illawarra area?
64. What programs have been developed by the Office of Regional Youth specifically for the North Coast region?

Tourism

65. In relation to the Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2017 - 2020
 - (a) Can you provide examples of where Destination NSW leveraged opportunities to showcase Aboriginal culture at regional NSW events (Action 1.5)?
 - (b) Can you provide one example of where an Aboriginal NSW cultural tourism experience was featured in visiting media programs run by Destination NSW (Action 1.6)?
 - (c) Can you provide one example of where Aboriginal cultural tourism experiences have been included in partnership marketing programs with Trade Travel Partners (Action 2.2)?
 - (d) Can you explain the nature of the dedicated resource at Destination NSW to identify, facilitate and communicate development opportunities to the NSW Aboriginal cultural tourism sector (Action 3.1)?
 - (e) Can you provide details of the enhanced program of development and networking workshops to assist with the development and enhancement of Aboriginal experiences (Action 3.4)?
 - (f) Can you outline the nature of the cultural awareness training for Destination NSW Staff and Destination Networks to assist in marketing and development activities being delivered in culturally accepted manner (Action 4.4)?
66. In relation to the NSW Regional Conference Strategy and Action Plan 2017 – 2021
 - (a) Can you indicate funding for the strategy?
 - i. 2017/18
 - ii. 2018/19
 - iii. 2019/20

- iv. 2020/21
- (b) Can you list regional conferences supported under the strategy?
- i. 2017/18
 - ii. 2018/19
 - iii. 2019/20
 - iv. 2020/21
- (c) In relation to Action 22 can you advise where the report on the outcomes of the NSW Regional Conference Strategy and individual destination performance was published?
- (d) What is the current status of an updated NSW Regional Conference Strategy?
67. Does Destination NSW keep data on specific funding to Western Sydney events and marketing?
- (a) If so, can funding be advised for the pre-covid period
- i. 2017/18
 - ii. 2018/19
 - iii. 2019/20
68. In 2020/21 there were 14 trade mission and events according to the Destinations NSW Performance Indicators.
- (a) Can you provide the details of these events?

Roads to Home Program

69. Can you provide a breakdown of funding for each of the 11 communities identified in the 2021 tranche of projects?
70. What percentage of the contractors used were Aboriginal businesses?
71. What percentage of the workforce identified as Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander?
72. What percentage of the constituent communities gained employment through the expenditure of the Roads to Home Program?

Aboriginal Culture Heritage Reform Process

73. What is the current status of the ACH Information System Implementation Plan?

74. How much has been expended on the project to date?
- (a) 2019/20
 - (b) 2020/21
 - (c) 2021/22
75. Which company has been engaged to help build the new ACH Information System?

Closing the Gap

76. What is the current status of the Partnership Stocktake report?
77. How many Aboriginal businesses attended the business round table in:
- (a) October 2021
 - (b) May 2022
78. How many distinct individual businesses in total attended the business round tables?
79. Who funded the business round tables?

Aboriginal Languages Community Investment Program

80. In the 2021 program which groups or projects received funding?

NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act

81. How often does the Minister meet with the Registrar?
82. How many Land Councils are currently suspended?
83. How many Land Councils have improvement orders?
84. What support is given to the Land Councils who are under investigation or suspended?
85. What is the average time Land Councils are suspended for?
86. What is the current budget of the Office of Registrar?
87. How many FTE positions in the office of the Registrar?
- (a) How many staff are devoted to compliance?

Culture and Heritage

88. Where is the development of the Cultural and Heritage Bill currently up to?

89. How many Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIP) have been issued in 2021/22 financial year?

Disability Employment

90. What is the percentage and total number of people who identify as having a disability who currently employed by:
- (a) Aboriginal Affairs NSW
 - (b) Art Gallery of NSW
 - (c) Australian Museum
 - (d) The State Library of NSW
 - (e) Sydney Opera House
 - (f) The State Archives and Records Authority of New South Wales
 - (g) NSW Advocate for Children and Young People
91. What is the percentage and total number of senior managers who currently identify as having a disability employed by:
- (a) Aboriginal Affairs NSW
 - (b) Art Gallery of NSW
 - (c) Australian Museum
 - (d) The State Library of NSW
 - (e) Sydney Opera House
 - (f) The State Archives and Records Authority of New South Wales
 - (g) NSW Advocate for Children and Young People

Creative Capital grants

92. When will successful applications to Round 2 of the Minor Works and Equipment Projects be announced?
93. What percentage of funds awarded in Round 1 of the Minor Works and Equipment Projects went to:
- (a) Projects in regional NSW
 - (b) Theatres

- (c) Museums
- (d) Performance spaces
- (e) Galleries
- (f) Aboriginal Cultural Centres

Third-party contractors or consultancies

1. For every agency, department, or state-owned corporation within your portfolio, please provide the following:
 - (a) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in communications services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
 - (b) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in PR services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
 - (c) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in marketing services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
 - (d) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in Government relations or lobbying services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,

- iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (e) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in industry or peak body membership, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (f) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in policy or strategy development, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (g) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in project management, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (h) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in accounting and audit, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (i) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in legal services, including:

- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (j) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in any other services, including:
- i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid