



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-2023 **Supplementary Questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Customer Service and Natural Resources

AGRICULTURE, WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

Hearing: 5 September 2022

Answers due by: 30 September 2022

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Agriculture, Western New South Wales

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

New Plantations

1. Can an update be provided on the State's consideration of this matter (Commonwealth Government's funding announcement to support the establishment of new plantations)?

Registration of Interest Process

2. According to Forest Corporation, 47 providers have registered their interest: "Overwhelmingly, wind power has emerged as the most feasible and the pine plantations near Oberon, Sunny Corner, Bondo, and Laurel Hill have been identified as prime locations for wind turbines, pumped hydro storage and battery storage."
 - (a) Is Forestry Corporation analysing productive land to replace the plantation (as required by the legislation) in a parallel process of "identifying opportunities" for renewable energy development?
 - (b) Has any land owned by Forestry Corporation yet been identified for renewable energy infrastructure under the *Energy Legislation Amendment Act 2021 No 34*.

Redirection Program

3. What is the total current cost of the NSW Government's program to redirect 270,000 tonnes of timber exports to the domestic market?
 - (a) How many tonnes have been delivered to local mills under the program to date?
 - (b) Has an extension of the program still not been considered?

NSW Forest Industries Innovation Fund

4. Please provide an update on FIIF including number of projects approved, value of funds expended to date, what the projects are (which do not remain in commercial in confidence).

Hume Forest

5. Did Forestry Corporation consult or advise DPI of its intention to acquire Hume Forests, and if so what was DPI's response?
 - (a) Will the NSW Government provide a submission to the ACCC?

- (b) Will there be any increase to NSW's timber supply as a result of this acquisition?
- (c) Can the NSW Government guarantee timber mills that they will not face reduced log supply as a result of the acquisition?

NSW Government's \$28 million Private Native Forestry program

- 6. The 2022-23 NSW Budget allocated \$28 million for a Private Native Forestry. Could you provide a breakdown of this \$28 million program?
 - (a) How much additional timber supply is this expected to unlock, and when by?
 - (b) Is plantation forestry included in this program?
 - (c) If not, what is the Government doing to support plantation farm forestry?

Plantation Estate

- 7. What is the NSW Government doing to grow the state's plantation estate?
 - (a) Is the current softwood plantation state in NSW sufficient to meet our future timber needs?
 - (b) Has the NSW Government done any analysis to determine the supply-demand gap, and is there any plan around how to close it?
 - (c) Does the NSW Government have a goal to grow the softwood plantation estate, and if so, by how much and by when?
 - (d) Is the NSW Government aware of any work done by industry to model the supply/demand gap, and how are you working with industry to address these issues?

NSW General Regulations

- 8. The General Regulations to Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991 contains a regulation concerning native forest biomaterials. What section of the Act authorises this regulation?

Financial Assistance

- 9. How much financial assistance has been awarded to flood affected forest industry businesses not including the \$60 million awarded to FCNSW?
 - (a) Why is the FCNSW still operating with very onerous site-specific operating conditions three years after the 2019 fires?

Forest Monitoring and Improvement Program

10. Why has the NSW Government terminated the NSW forest monitoring and improvement program?

Third-party contractors or consultancies

11. 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

Disability Employment

- 12. How many employees who identify with having a disability are employed by Agriculture NSW?
- 13. How many senior managers who identify with having a disability are employed by Agriculture NSW?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Mulesing

14. Does the Government support the Australian Wool Innovations (AWI) Wool 2030 Strategy?
15. If yes, how will the Government support Pillar 1 of the Wool 2030 Strategy that states ‘growers have the confidence and tools to manage flystrike without mulesing’?
16. Would the Government support a review of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep to look at specific areas such as the use of pain relief and mulesing?
17. Would the Government support an update to the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep which made pain relief for mulesing and other painful husbandry procedures mandatory?
18. Does the Government consider mulesing without pain relief to meet the objectives of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act?

Surgical Artificial Insemination

19. Which specific people were consulted on the decision to walk back commitments to ban surgical artificial insemination of dogs? Please provide qualifications and affiliations.

Companion animals and pounds

20. In light of comments made by senior Office of Local Government staff during the Local Government hearing, and questioning with the Minister during the Agriculture hearing, please provide detailed information about what role the Minister and Department of Primary Industries has in relation to companion animals and council pounds, other than the setting of the Codes of Practice under POCTAA, and how responsibilities regard and oversight is divided up between the Department and the Office of Local Government.