



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage

Hearing: Tuesday 2 November 2023

Answers due by: Thursday 30 November 2023

Budget Estimates secretariat

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Questions from Dr Amanda Cohn MLC

Energy from waste facilities

1. What analysis has been performed of the carbon dioxide output of waste-to-energy incinerators compared to that of other energy generation methods?
 - (a) Can any modelling for how those calculations are made be released publicly?
2. How will the NSW Government ensure the prevention of the emission of nanoparticles from waste-to-energy incinerators?
3. How will the NSW Government ensure the residual bottom and fly ash produced during incineration of waste and the activated carbon and other solid reagents used to clean stack gases be treated to guarantee their containment?
 - (a) What is done with the residuals after treatment?
4. What kind of independent testing and monitoring (including during startups and shut-downs) will be conducted at energy from waste incinerators of stack emissions for heavy metals, nitrogen oxides, persistent organic pollutants, furans and brominated compounds?

Plastics recycling

5. What requirements are in place to prevent microplastics entering waterways from plastics recycling facilities?
 - (a) How is any existing regulation monitored and enforced?

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)
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ENVIRONMENT

Great Koala National Park – Advisory Panels

6. How many individuals, in total, will sit on the three advisory panels?
 - (a) Can you provide the names of those individuals sitting on the panels and the organisations they represent?
 - (b) Can you set out the process by which these individuals were chosen?
 - (c) Will panel members be remunerated for their work on the advisory panels?
 - (d) If yes, what is the amount, in total, that everyone will be paid?
 - (e) How often will the panels meet?
 - (f) How long will be the panels been in exist for?

Great Koala National Park – Independent economic and social assessment

7. When is the independent economic and social assessment of the Great Koala National Park due to be completed?
8. Who will be undertaking this assessment?
9. What will be the cost of the assessment?

TO THE MINISTER

Brumbies in the Kosciuszko National Park

10. Now that you have approved the aerial shooting of brumbies in the Kosciuszko National Park, what advice did you receive from the department in relation to this matter, prior to making this decision?
11. On 7 August 2023, you issued a media release stating that the NSW Government was seeking feedback on a proposed amendment to the Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Management Plan:
 - (a) Is it true that this public exhibition period occurred between 8 August and 11 September 2023?
 - (b) Is it true that this public exhibition period received 11,002 submissions?
 - (c) Is it true that 82% of those submissions, or approximately 9021 submissions, were supportive of aerial shooting?
 - (d) How was this feedback considered and reviewed?
 - (e) If the feedback was so strongly in support of this proposed amendment to allow aerial shooting, will you make this feedback publicly available?

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12. Considering this exhibition period closed on 11 September 2023, and prior to your announcement on 27 October 2023 that aerial culling will commence, a mere six weeks had passed in which both you and your department had reviewed the 11,002 submissions. This would have been a review process of 1,833 submissions reviewed per week or 261 submissions per day:
 - (a) Was this enough time to make an informed decision?
 - (b) How many staff from the department were responsible for reviewing these submissions?
 - (c) What was the approximate cost to the department in conducting this public exhibition, including the review of the submissions?
13. A commonwealth Senate Inquiry was recently published last month in October, titled “Impacts and Management of feral horses in the Australian Alps”:
 - (a) Are you aware of this inquiry including its findings?
 - (b) There were fourteen recommendations from the Committee; the first recommendation on page 7 of the Inquiry recommends, quote, “... that the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCEEW), in collaboration with its state and territory counterparts, undertake an impact and population assessment of feral horses at the national level...” What conversations have you or your department had with the Hon, Tanya Plibersek or DCEEW?
14. Acknowledging the legislated target under the plan to further reduce the population to 3,000 by June 2027, do you agree that the suggested numbers and estimates of the brumby population are highly contentious?
15. Given there is only a ‘95% confidence level in the Brumby population, and the numbers at either end of the spectrum are greatly varied, do you agree that you’ve had a gross lapse in judgement given your premature approval of aerial shooting in the park, without knowing what the actual numbers are for the brumby population?
16. A survey conducted in 2020 using the Stuart Cairns Methodology for counting the population stated that the population was estimated at 14,380; a 2022 survey found that the numbers had increased to an estimated 18,814:
 - (a) On 2 November 2023 you stated that a recount is underway - is this recount currently being conducted utilising the Stuart Cairns Methodology for counting the population?
17. On 14 April, 2023 you had an introductory meeting with the Invasive Species Council as per your Ministerial Diary Disclosures.
 - (a) Were the Brumbies in the Kosciuszko National park discussed at this meeting, if so, what was the nature of these meetings?

(b) Leading up to your decision to approve aerial shooting, have you met you met with the Invasive Species Council again?

(c) Have you or your department paid any funding to the Invasive Species Council for their “expert advice to government on a few for service basis

i. If so, how much?

TO THE DEPARTMENT

Brumbies in the Kosciuszko National Park

18. What advice has the department given to the Minister in relation to the approval of aerial shooting, following the conclusion of the public exhibition period on 11 September 2023 and prior to the decision being made?
19. Is it true that the public exhibition period from 8 August to 11 September 2023 received 11,002 submissions and that 82% of these of were in support of aerial shooting?
20. Has the department advised the Minister to not make these submissions publicly available?
21. How many staff were responsible for considering and reviewing these submissions?
22. If 11,002 total submissions would mean that across the roughly six weeks between the closure of the exhibition period and the Ministers announcement to commence aerial shooting, an average of 1,833 submissions were reviewed each week, or 261 a day:
 - (a) Including weekends, the 261 submissions reviewed a day equates to 32 submissions reviewed every hour (assuming an 8-hour day was worked every day of the week) or a submission being reviewed every two minutes. In the departments view, was this a sufficient amount of time to conduct a thorough review?
 - (b) If you do consider it a sufficient amount of time to conduct a review of submissions do you also consider it a sufficient amount of time to make an informed decision about the proposed amendment to the Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Management Plan?
23. Has there any been any early costings into aerial shooting?
 - (a) If so, what are they?
24. On 14 April 2023 the Minister met with the Invasive Species Council, who from the department accompanied the Minister to this meeting?
 - (a) Were the brumbies in the Kosciuszko National Park discussed at this meeting?
 - i. If they were, what advice was provided by the Invasive Species Council?
25. Since that meeting on 14 April 2023 has another meeting occurred between the Minister and the Invasive Species Council, prior to the Minister making her decision to approve aerial shooting?

26. Has the department paid any funding to the Invasive Species Council for their “expert advice to government” on a fee for services basis?
 - (a) If so, how much?

HERITAGE

TO THE MINISTER

Manilla Railway Viaduct Underbridge

27. As the Minister for Heritage, have you had any discussions with your department in relation to rail heritage in NSW?
28. Recently, you agreed to list the Manilla Viaduct on the NSW heritage register. Given that the viaduct is in relatively poor condition, what is the plan to preserve that infrastructure?
29. Do you have any oversight on the future of the viaduct now that you’ve signed off on a heritage listing?
30. If Transport for NSW are responsible for preserving and repairing the viaduct, how can you be assured, as the Minister for Heritage, that they’re following proper processes?
31. Are you obfuscating your responsibilities to our rail history?
32. What incentives does the government provide to encourage caretakers of heritage assets to look after them and ensure our heritage is preserved?

Revocation of Interim Heritage Order on three properties, 115-117 Holt St, Cremorne

33. Is the intention of an Interim Heritage Order to safeguard a property for a temporary period to allow time to understand its heritage significance and complete a listing process, if appropriate?
34. Did you seek the advice of the Heritage Council of NSW before you revoked the Interim Heritage Order on 115-117 Holt Street Cremorne?
 - (a) If you sought advice of the Heritage Council, what was the advice?
35. The State Heritage Register Committee Meeting issued a new Interim Heritage Order on 31 January 2023 to allow North Sydney Council to finalise the planning proposal to list the properties of local heritage significance in North Sydney LEP:
 - (a) If you did not seek the advice of the Heritage Council of NSW what was the justification considering that they are experts in this field?
36. Is it your job to protect heritage in NSW?
37. Can you explain what argument led to the revocation of the IHO which was lawfully issues by former heritage Minister James Griffin?

38. Were you aware that GML's findings were supported by a Land and Environment Court decision on 17 August 2022?
39. Your decision appears to benefit the developer at the expense of the community and our local heritage?
40. When did the developer apply for a demolition permit (CDC)?
41. What are the reasons for the decision to revoke the IHO?
42. Who advised you and what advice was given?
43. If your decision was related to the Class 4 Land and Environment Court Appeal by the developer, why did you not defend the Appeal?
44. Were there discussion between the developer and yourself?
45. You decision seems to benefit the developer at the expense of local heritage and your job as a Minister is to protect heritage:
 - (b) Do you have any association with the developer?
 - (c) When was the developer notified of the revocation of the IHO on these three properties?
46. Is it a failure of yours to recognise items of local heritage significance and protect them from demolition?
47. Will you be over-riding recommendations in the future of the continue to demolish locally recognised heritage buildings?
48. Can you be trusted as the Heritage Minister?

The Heritage Act

49. The NSW Government made an election commitment to implement reforms to the Heritage Acts:
 - (a) What changes have been made to the Act?
 - (b) Which reforms have been made?
50. Will the NSW Government be implementing all recommendations from the 2023 performance Audit of State heritage assets?
 - (a) Why have they not commenced?
51. How many items are listed on the State Heritage Register?
52. Why is it that almost 90% of heritage listed items on the register do not include a physical condition rating?
53. Why do 12% of heritage listed items lack a statement outlining why the property is significant?
54. How many State Heritage Register listings contain complete information?
55. What is your government doing to assist owners with the conservation of items of State Heritage significance?

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(a) Are there any funding rounds open?

56. What compliance arrangements are in place to ensure heritage listed buildings are maintained?

57. What funding programs are available to assist owners to maintain the heritage listed building?

OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS

Merchant Fees

58. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities.

59. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions payments in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities.

60. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments made by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

Website Usage

61. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023)?

62. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023)?

Ministerial disclosures

63. Did you make any updates to your Ministerial disclosure on or after 2 August 2023?

(a) If yes, what prompted this update to your disclosure?

Labour Hire Firms

64. Have any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilised the services of Labour Hire Firms since 28 March 2023? If yes, please advise in table form:

(a) The names of the firms utilised.

(b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged.

(c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company.

(d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company.

(e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company.

(f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company.

(g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company.

Hospitality

65. How much has your ministerial office spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?
66. How much have Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?
67. Have you been the recipient of any free hospitality?
 - (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
68. Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?
 - (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
 - (b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared publicly?
 - (c) Do staff declare their gifts publicly?

Departmental Credit Cards

69. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
 - (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff?
 - i. Please provide a break-down of this information by grade.
 - (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?
 - (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?
 - (d) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period and what was the card holder's employment grade?
 - (e) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
 - i. What was the cost to replace them?
 - ii. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
 - iii. What was the total value of those purchases?
 - iv. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
 - v. Were all those amounts repaid?
 - vi. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?
 - (f) What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid, and what was the cardholder's employment grade?
 - i. What amount was repaid, in full?
- (d) What amount was left unpaid?

- (g) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
 - i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
- (h) Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

Agency Invoices

- 70. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were not paid on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
- 71. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 30 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
- 72. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 60 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
 - (a) What was the penalty for paying suppliers or contactors late, broken down by agency?

Car/Driver

- 73. Has your Ministerial car been subject to any traffic or parking fines?
 - (a) If so, please provide details of each fine?
 - (b) Who was driving the car at the time of each incident?
 - (c) Who paid any of the fines?
- 74. Has your Ministerial Car been pulled over by the police?
 - (uuuu)If so, who was driving the car?

Complaints

- 75. Has the Minister been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment?

Consultants

- 76. How much did the Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend in legal costs since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?
- 77. Have any Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice since 28 March 2023:
 - (a) Social media?
 - i. What were the cost of these services?
 - (b) Photography?

- i. What were the cost of these services?
 - (c) Videography?
 - i. What were the cost of these services?
 - (d) Acting training?
 - i. What were the cost of these services?
 - (e) Ergonomics?
 - i. What were the cost of these services?
- 78. Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
 - (a) What was the individual amount of each contract?
 - i. What is the purpose of each contract?
 - (c) Who was the contract with?
 - (d) Did the contract go to a competitive tender?

Department/Agency Staffing

- 79. How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
 - (a) 28 March 2023?
 - (b) 23 October 2023?
- 80. What is the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
- 81. How many individuals were employed as internal legal counsel by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
 - (a) 28 March 2023?
 - (b) 23 October 2023?
- 82. What is the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities 28 March 2023?
- 83. How many redundancies were processed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary
 - ii. Forced
- 84. What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

85. Is any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
86. How many staff were dismissed from each Department/agency under your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) Without identifying individuals, what were the reason(s) for each dismissal?
87. What was the total amount each of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?
88. How many employees in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities are working in an 'acting' capacity?
89. What is the average number of days worked from home by employees in each Department/Agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
90. What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
 - (a) Taxi hire?
 - (b) Ridesharing services?
 - (c) Limousine/private car hire?
 - (d) Hire car rental?
91. Do any senior executive service employees in any of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities have a driver that is paid for by the Department/agency?
 - (a) If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver, and which senior executive service employees have a driver?
 - (b) How much was spent on these drivers since 28 March 2023?
92. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
93. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
 - (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
 - (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?
 - (c) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on overseas flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
 - (d) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
 - (e) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

Efficiency Dividends

94. Was an efficiency dividend applied to any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities in the 2023-24 NSW Budget?
- (a) If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each Department/agency?
 - (b) What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

GIPA Applications

95. How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- (a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?
 - (b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?
 - (c) If so, what were the reasons provided?
 - (d). How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
 - (e). How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
 - (f). Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
 - i. Date received.
 - ii. Date acknowledged.
 - iii. Date responded.
 - iv. The description provided for the information sought.
96. How many GIPA Applications have been received by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
- (a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?
 - (b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?
 - i. If so, what were the reasons provided?
 - (c) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
 - (d) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
 - (e) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
 - i. Date received.
 - ii. Date acknowledged.
 - iii. Date responded.
 - iv. The description provided for the information sought.

Media and Public Relations

97. How much has your ministerial office spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:

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- (a) Facebook
- (b) Instagram
- (c) LinkedIn
- (d) TikTok
- (e) YouTube
- (f) WhatsApp
- (g) X (formerly known as Twitter)

98. How much has each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:

- (a) Facebook
- (b) Instagram
- (c) LinkedIn
- (d) TikTok
- (e) YouTube
- (f) WhatsApp
- (g) X (formerly known as Twitter)

99. Have you had media training or public speaking training?

- (a) If yes, who paid for it?
- (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid since 28 March 2023?

100. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies and what is the total cost to employ these advisers?

101. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities and their total cost?

102. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Office Administration

103. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS6 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July

- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

104. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS5 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

105. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS4 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

106.. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS3 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

107. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS2 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May

- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

108. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS1 grade for the following months:

- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

109. What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

110. How many DLOs were seconded to your ministerial office for the following months:

- a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October

111. How many people are employed in your ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?

112. How many women are employed in your Ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?

113. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) as at 1 October 2023?

114. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as at 1 October 2023?

115. How many staff in your office are employed as media advisers or have responsibility for media/social media/communications?

116. How many staff in your office are employed as policy advisers or have responsibility for policy work?

117. How many staff in your office are employed as 'caucus liaison officers'?

- (a) What are the responsibilities allocated to 'caucus liaison officers'?
 - (b) Have 'caucus liaison officers' been directed to only work with Government MPs?
 - (c) Do 'caucus liaison officers' contact members of the Australian Labor Party as part of their regular work duties?
118. How many staff members employed in your office under the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 have been seconded from a NSW Government Department/agency?
- (a) Please list each Department/agency staff members have been seconded from.
119. What is your ministerial office budget for 2023-24?
- (b) How much of this budget is allocated to staff?
120. How many iPhones/Smart Phones are assigned to staff in your ministerial office?
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2022-23?
 - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
121. How many iPads or tablets are assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- a. What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your ministerial office in 2022-23?
 - b. How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
122. How many laptops has the Premier's Department or The Cabinet Office assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- a. What was the cost of providing laptops to your ministerial office in 2022-23?
 - b. How many laptops have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
123. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- c. What is the cost of this?
124. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- d. If so, what was the cost of these items?
125. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?
126. What brand of paper is used in your office?
- e. Is it recycled paper?
 - f. Is it Australian made paper?

127. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals, and periodicals since 28 March 2023?
- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
128. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office since 28 March 2023?
- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
- i. Who were they gifted to?
129. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
130. What is the total spend for your office since 28 March 2023 for:
- (a) Taxi hire?
- (b) Ridesharing services?
- (c) Hire car rental?
- (d) Limousine/private car hire?
131. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, please provide details of the trip including the date of the trip, purpose of the trip, the method of transport and the cost?

Overseas Trips

132. Have you had any overseas trips paid for using public funds since 28 March 2023?
133. If yes, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
134. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, what was the nature of these trips?
- (b) Who paid for these trips?

Parliamentary Secretary

135. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?
136. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?
137. Has your Parliamentary Secretary spoken on any pieces of legislation on your behalf? If so which legislation?
138. What event/meetings has your Parliamentary Secretary attended on your behalf?
139. Please provide in table form the date and the purpose of the event/meeting.

140. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
141. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so, when, and where?
 - (b) If so, what was the cost of:
 - ii. Airfares?
 - iii. Accommodation?
 - iv. Food and beverage?
 - v. Transportation?
 - vi. Entertainment?
142. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled domestically since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so, when, and where?
 - (b) If so, what was the cost of:
 - i. Airfares?
 - ii. Accommodation?
 - iii. Food and beverage?
 - iv. Transportation?
 - v. Entertainment?
143. Has your Parliamentary Secretary received training?
- (a) If so, was it speech, voice, or media training?
 - i. If yes, who provided this training, on what date and at what cost?

Probity Auditor

144. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format

Qantas

145. Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairmans Club?
- (a) Have you ever previously been a member? When did you cease to be a member
 - (b) When did you initially become a member?
 - (c) When was this declared on the Ministerial gifts register?

Training

146. Have you received any training since becoming a Minister?

(a) If yes, please provide the details of what the training was.

147. Have you received any speech, vocal or performance training?

(a) If so, what was the cost?

(b) Was this cost covered by the taxpayer?

Questions from Hon. Tania Mihailuk MLC

Energy- Offshore Wind Farms

148. In relation to the proposed Hunter Offshore Wind Zone, which local stakeholders or community representatives have you as the Minister met with?
- (a) Please list their names.
149. In relation to the proposed Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone, which local stakeholders or community representatives have you as the Minister met with?
- (a) Please list their names.
150. Department of Planning and Environment official Kiersten Fishburn confirmed that the Department are preparing a submission for the Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone proposal:
- (a) Is the Department conducting their own separate studies into the Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone?
- i. If not, then why not?
151. Since the South Australian Government declared on the 29th of August, its opposition to the Southern Ocean Offshore Wind Zone. What correspondence /phone calls / emails or meetings has the Minister, her ministerial office or the Department of Planning & Environment had with Susan Close, the South Australian Minister of Environment, her Office and her Department, or Tom Koutsantonis, the South Australia Minister of Energy, his Office and his Department?
- (a) Please provide a list of dates of correspondence/phone calls
152. Has the Minister approached any members of the South Australian Cabinet to seek a better understanding of why SA is opposing Southern Ocean Offshore Wind Farm?
153. Will the Minister make public the NSW Government's submission in relation to the Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone, independent of the federal process?
- (a) If not, then why not?
154. Will the NSW Environment Protection Authority conduct an assessment on the impact of the Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone which is situated on the pristine coastline of the Illawarra and South Coast?
- (a) If no assessment will be undertaken as part of the NSW Government's submission, then why not?
155. Have there been any meetings, correspondence including emails, or phone calls exchanged between yourself, your ministerial office, the Department of Planning Industry & Environment or EnergyCo and the Hon. Chris Bowen Minister for Climate Change and Energy or his office, regarding the proposed Hunter Offshore Wind Zone?
- (a) If yes, please provide the date(s)?

- (b) If the Minister has not spoken with their federal counterpart, then why not?
156. Have there been any meetings or correspondence, such as phone calls or emails exchanged between yourself, your ministerial office, the Department of Planning Industry & Environment or EnergyCo and the Hon. Chris Bowen Minister for Climate Change and Energy or his office, regarding the proposed Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone?
- (a) If yes, please provide the date(s)?
- (b) If the Minister has not spoken with their federal counterpart, then why not?
157. Have there been any meetings, correspondence including emails, or phone calls exchanged between yourself, your ministerial office, the Department of Planning Industry & Environment or EnergyCo and the Hon. Tanya Plibersek Minister for Environment or her office, regarding the proposed Hunter Offshore Wind Zone?
- (a) If yes, please provide the date(s)?
- (b) If the Minister has not spoken with their federal counterpart, then why not?
158. Have there been any meetings or correspondence, such as phone calls or emails exchanged between yourself, your ministerial office, the Department of Planning Industry & Environment or EnergyCo and the Hon. Tanya Plibersek Minister for Environment or her office, regarding the proposed Illawarra Offshore Wind Zone?
- (a) If yes, please provide the date(s)?
- (b) If the Minister has not spoken with their federal counterpart, then why not?

Energy - Renewable Projects

159. At the Australian Clean Energy Summit, you announced that NSW will “speed up the process” of constructing renewable energy projects and connecting them to the electricity network.
- (a) How does the Minister intend to fast-track the construction of renewable energy projects?
- (b) Will the fast-tracking of the approval processes impact upon the public consultation with local communities?
- (c) Please specify how you intend to fast-track the renewable infrastructure approval processes?

City of Sydney Council’s Statues

160. The City of Sydney Council has unanimously agreed to a motion 25 historical statues of figures important to the history of New South Wales will have alternate plaques, signage or other additions to present an alternate indigenous perspective.

- (a) Does the NSW Government share the view of the City of Sydney Council that “many of the associated inscriptions and plaques feature inaccurate, misleading and offensive accounts of the feats of those commemorated”?
- (b) Will the Minister issue an Interim Heritage Order to protect the signage and plaques of the statues from revision?

Kosciuszko National Park’s Brumbies

- 161. Please specify the number of submissions received in relation to the horse management plan for the Kosciuszko National Park?
 - (a) Provide a breakdown from which electorates the submissions came from?
 - (b) How many submissions came from the Monaro electorate?
- 162. How many town hall meetings did you hold prior to making the decision to cull brumbies in the Kosciuszko National Park?
- 163. How many stakeholder meetings did you hold prior to making the decision to cull brumbies in the Kosciuszko National Park?
 - (a) Please provide a list of the stakeholder names.

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Cost of living relief

164. Does the Government have any plans to abolish the requirement on people who rely on life support equipment to reapply for the NSW Life Support Rebate every 2 years if their health condition has not changed?
165. What costings have been undertaken for enabling landlords to access household energy saving upgrades for their investment properties, to the benefit of tenants?
166. What costings have been undertaken in regards to implementing a recycling collection program for all public housing across NSW?
167. What is the extent of the NSW co-investment in the Commonwealth Household Energy Upgrades Fund program?

Environment

Forests

168. Is there any work being undertaken by the NSW Government that is consistent with the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for forests in Australia?
- (a) Has the Government identified specific forest types that are not currently and adequately protected within the public reserve system?
 - i. What forest types are adequately protected in the NSW reserve system?
 - ii. What forest types are not adequately protected in the NSW reserve system?
169. Is the Government currently undertaking work to ensure that 15% of all forest types are protected in the NSW reserve system?
- (a) Is there any funding available for the purchase of forested land that could contribute to protecting 15% of any native forest type?
 - (b) Is the Government open to considering and acting upon submissions from the community that identify priority areas of native forests that could achieve the 15% of forest type included in the NSW reserve system?
 - i. What assessment criteria is applied to community submissions and proposals for additions to the protected area network?
170. What is the area of koala habitat in the NSW public forest estate that is outside of the area that is identified as the future Great Koala National Park?
- (a) What work is currently underway to protect koala habitat in the NSW public forest estate outside of the area that is identified as the future Great Koala National Park?
 - (b) Has there been any discussions about further protections for koala hubs outside of the Great Koala National Park?
 - (c) Has there been any discussions about further protections for areas of regional koala significance outside of the Great Koala National Park?
171. What Departments and agencies are involved in the interdepartmental committee that is tasked with the preparation of the Great Koala National Park?
- (a) What considerations would be made before adding or removing certain departments or agencies from the committee?
172. When will the advisory groups for the Great Koala National Park be finalised?
- (a) Have the Terms of Reference for the advisory panels been prepared?
 - i. Can you provide these terms of reference?

- (b) How many members will be on each of the advisory panels?
 - i. What are the qualifications that will be considered of the people that will be appointed to each panel?
 - (c) Will there be capacity for information to be shared across the 3 panels?
 - i. Will there be confidentiality imposed on members of the advisory panels?
 - (d) Will the Minister be working directly with the advisory panels?
 - i. Will any other Minister or Department be working directly with the advisory panels?
173. What is the total area to be assessed under the planned Great Koala National Park?
- (a) What is the total area within the Great Koala National Park that is currently subject to harvest plans as approved by the Environment Protection Authority?
174. What is the average number of threatened species recorded during broad area surveys prior to the commencement of logging?
- (a) Provide a breakdown by region.
175. How many complaints have been received by the EPA in relation to forestry operations since the beginning of 2023?
- (a) How many of these complaints have been investigated?
 - i. Per forest region?
 - (b) How many of these complaints have been substantiated?
 - i. Per forest region?
 - (c) Have all complainants been provided with information relating to their complaint once it has been concluded?
 - (d) Does the EPA record retractions if initial investigations are discovered to be inaccurate?
 - i. On how many occasions has this occurred?
 - (e) What is the average time taken by the EPA between receiving a report and conducting an investigation?
 - i. What is the maximum time?
 - ii. What is the minimum time?
 - (f) How many stop work orders have been issued by the EPA and for what reason in the financial years:
 - i. 2017-2018?
 - ii. 2018-2019?
 - iii. 2019-2020?
 - iv. 2020-2021?
 - v. 2021-2022?

vi. 2022-2023?

vii. 2023-Current?

176. Does the EPA track unintentional damage to retained trees?

(a) Is the frequency of incidents considered when approving harvest plans?

Biodiversity

177. What is the area of land in NSW that is currently included in the protected area network?

(a) What is the area of land in the protected area network outside of National Parks?

(b) What is the area of land in the protected area network on private land?

178. Is biodiversity loss in NSW an urgent issue?

(a) What specific Government programs exist to:

i. Restore substantially altered native vegetation in NSW?

(b) When will the Government provide a response to the statutory review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016?

(c) Sub-question two

i. Further multi-level list

Bushfire Emergency Response for Wildlife (BERW)

179. What stage is the BERW up to in the implementation of Recommendation 53 of the Bushfire Inquiry?

(a) What measures are in place for the Rural Fire Service to engage with the BERW when fires occur outside of NPWS jurisdiction?

Wildlife Sub Plan and NPWS Guidelines

180. Is the Sub Plan currently being deployed at bushfire sites?

(a) What sites have had the Sub Plan deployed?

Energy

Eraring

181. Has the Government undertaken any cost benefit analysis in relation to taking over the operation of the Eraring Power Plant?

(a) If yes, has the cost benefit analysis produced a result greater than 1?

(b) If not, what economic analysis has been undertaken by the Government to inform considerations of taking over operations of Eraring?

- (c) Has the Government undertaken any assessment of the Eraring Power Plant and in particular:
- i. a business assessment?
 - ii. a profitability assessment?
 - iii. a safety assessment?
 - iv. a value assessment?
 - v. a health assessment?
 - vi. an environment assessment?
 - vii. a carbon assessment?
 - viii. a climate assessment?
- (d) Has Origin Energy been requested to, or otherwise undertaken to, conduct any assessment of the Eraring Power Plant by the NSW Government and in particular:
- i. a business assessment?
 - ii. a profitability assessment?
 - iii. a safety assessment?
 - iv. a value assessment?
 - v. a health assessment?
 - vi. an environment assessment?
 - vii. a carbon assessment?
 - viii. a climate assessment?
- (e) What is the estimated cost for the acquisition and annual ongoing operating costs for the Eraring Power Station?

182. Does the Government have any information about the carbon emissions of the Eraring Power Plant?

- (a) Have the emissions from Eraring been factored into any Government assessment of its current or future emissions?
- (b) What is the current volume of emissions associated with the ongoing operations at Eraring?

183. Do the current 2030, 2035 and 2050 emissions reductions objectives and projections factor in the operation of Eraring beyond 2025?

- (a) How long do these projections factor in the ongoing operation of Eraring?
- (b) Has the ongoing operation of Eraring informed your Government's intended 2030 and 2050 emissions reductions targets?

184. What proportion of the daily energy demands of NSW are met by the ongoing operation of Eraring?

Distributed power

185. What programs are currently in place to encourage uptake of rooftop solar?

- (a) How much funding is available for each program?
 - i. How many applicants are there for each program?
 - ii. What is the maximum available funding for each program available to each applicant?
- (b) Has the Government made any estimations, projections or reports that identify the net capacity of private rooftop, or similar, solar?
 - i. How many properties in NSW currently have private rooftop, or similar, solar?
 - ii. How many properties in NSW are estimated to not have private rooftop, or similar, solar?
 - iii. What is the current average potential maximum output for private rooftop, or similar, solar per day?
 - iv. What proportion of the daily energy needs of NSW could be met by private rooftop, or similar, solar?

186. What programs are currently in place to encourage uptake of private household, or similar, batteries?

- (a) How much funding is available for each program?
 - i. How many applicants are there for each program?
 - ii. What is the maximum available funding for each program available to each applicant?
- (b) Has the Government made any estimations, projections or reports that identify the net capacity of private household, or similar, batteries?
 - i. How many properties in NSW currently have private household, or similar, batteries?
 - ii. How many properties in NSW are estimated to not have private household, or similar, batteries?
 - iii. What is the current average potential maximum output for private household, or similar, batteries?
 - iv. What proportion of the daily energy needs of NSW could be met by private household, or similar, batteries?

Climate Change

Emissions reductions

187. What is the latest that the world can achieve net-zero emissions and still keep average global temperature increases below 2 degrees celsius?
188. How does the Government intend to assess and report on progress towards the 70% emissions reduction by 2035 objective?
- (a) Does the Government intend to abolish the Net Zero Emissions Board?
 - (b) If the Net Zero Emissions Board is dissolved or otherwise ceases to exist, what entity will be responsible for assessing and reporting on the 2035 emissions reduction objective?
189. What Government and non-Government entities were consulted with on the 50% emissions reduction by 2030 and net-zero by 2050 targets?
- (a) How many entities that were consulted:
 - i. Did not think that a 50% emissions reduction by 2030 was possible?
 - ii. Thought that a 50% emissions reduction by 2050 was possible?
 - iii. Thought that greater than 50% emissions reduction by 2050 was possible?
 - (b) Did you inform all entities that were consulted about the existing emissions reduction objectives in the regulation?
190. Is the Government currently projecting a 56% emissions reduction by 2030?
- (a) Is this projection higher than it was in 2021?
 - (b) Does the Government expect that this projection will change at the next review?
 - i. If the Government is expecting the new projections to be less than 56%, what are the contributing factors for the reduction?

Carbon accounting

191. Has the Government undertaken any assessments of the carbon market in NSW?
- (a) How much carbon is stored in native vegetation and native forests in NSW?
 - i. How much of this is on private land?
 - ii. How much of this is not currently in the protected area network?
 - (b) What is the carbon storage potential in restoring native vegetation to pre-invasion levels?

Heritage

State Heritage Register

192. What is the average time taken between the State Heritage Council making a recommendation and the Department providing advice to the Minister?
- (a) How many recommendations for the inclusion of a thing on the State Heritage Register have been:
 - i. Approved?

- ii. Denied?
 - iii. Appealed?
- (b) How many recommendations in the last 12 years for the inclusion of a thing on the State Heritage Register have been:
- i. Approved?
 - ii. Denied?
 - iii. Appealed?