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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** And of those thousands of properties, are any of them golf courses?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** — be able to detail each property, one by one. I will take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The focus of the audit is on the identification of government sites no longer needed for service delivery or civic infrastructure that have the attributes that make them suitable for residential use.

There have been no government decisions about individual government owned sites.

The first tranche of suitable sites is expected to be identified before the end of the year.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Okay. When does the Government next plan on meeting with representatives of Moore Park Golf club and Golf NSW?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** I believe that there is a meeting booked to meet with me at some stage in the future. I can't give you that date.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** One day, one week, one month — what? Do you have any idea?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Maybe a month, a week. I will take it on notice. I can clear that up later.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Take it on notice.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

A meeting occurred with Golf NSW during November 2023.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** How many golf courses are on Crown land in New South Wales?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** I will have to take that on notice.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Did you not think to look up this issue before you came here?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Wes, as I think Karen Jones said earlier —

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Is she the Minister? You should be across your brief, Minister.

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** — there's 97 sporting groups, and there's facilities associated with all of them. If you've got that in the back of your pocket or you've got those types of details in your head —

**The Hon. WES FANG:** I don't think you're across your brief, Minister.

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** I'd be very surprised if you're across any brief in relation to sporting.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** About 10 per cent of the Crown land in Sydney is occupied by golf courses, so they're a very significant tenant of Crown land in New South Wales. What engagement have you had with golf courses since you've become the Minister for both sport and Crown land?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Crown land represents 40 to 42 per cent of the land in New South Wales, so there's a number of facilities on Crown land. My responsibility is the management of all of that land across the State. With the greatest respect to the golfing fraternity, that's one aspect of it. In terms of details and numbers of how many golf courses and how many square metres across the State, I think we're starting to get a little bit ridiculous.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** You're taking it on notice. That's fine.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

There are 148 golf clubs on Crown land in NSW.

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**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Which women's groups are telling you that they would be more likely to be involved in sport if there is better lighting?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** It was general information that was also coming from the Office of Sport. I have had a number of meetings. You can check my diary to see when I've met with —

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** If you could take it on notice which organisations are giving this information.

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Yes, I will take it on notice.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

The Office of Sport receives feedback about infrastructure needs through various mechanisms, including facility audits undertaken by national or state sporting organisations, local Councils' sport plans, and grant applications.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Minister, since the March 2023 election, have there been any grants provided by the New South Wales Government to sports organisations that do not provide equal prize money between genders? If you need to take that on notice. That's my time up.

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Yes. I'll take that on notice.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

Prior to 2023/24 the Office of Sport did not require equal prize money as a condition of eligibility for grant programs. In 2023/24, the Office of Sport introduced a new condition of funding for State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) under the Organisation Support Program which opened on 16 October 2023. Under this program, in 2023/24 SSOs are required to provide a plan to move to equal prizemoney for events where this is controlled by the organisation.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Does UFC provide equal prize money?

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

Remuneration of athletes competing in UFC is a commercial matter between the individual athletes and Zuffa LLC trading as the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).

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**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** Just confirming, the cemeteries and land that are currently under the control of the CMCT are Rookwood, Varroville, Wallacia and Liverpool. Is that correct? And, just confirming, that is Crown land?

**KAREN JONES:** Yes, the CMCT manages Crown land assets on behalf of the State, so it's everything within its remit. And on the flipside of that model, we are making a lot of progress in moving forward with the amalgamation of Metropolitan Memorial Parks and are at the sort of closing end of completing a recruitment of a skills-based board to run the MMP into the future. So quite a significant amount of progress has been made over the past six months.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** Just confirming, Minister, it's your understanding that Rookwood, Varroville, Wallacia and Liverpool are all Crown land?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** That's correct.

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** Has the CMCT transferred ownership of the land at Varroville to the Crown? Has that happened?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** We've gazetted the Varroville reserve for the purpose of the development of that cemetery. Is that your question?

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** The question is — I understand that the Minister's direction at the time of approval of the purchase of the land was that ownership of the land would go to the Crown, specifically. I'm just wanting to check. Has that happened yet?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** Yes, we have gazetted it. I think it happened in December last year, from memory, but I can take that on notice, Ms Faehrmann, if you want some specifics. But it is a Crown cemetery, gazetted as such.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

The transitional provisions in the Crown Land Management Act 2016 made the site Crown land from 30 June 2018. As noted on page 24 of the transcript, the land was reserved for cemetery and crematoria use on 24 February 2023.

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**The Hon. WES FANG:** You are the Minister for Multiculturalism. But that's okay. We'll move on from there. Minister, how many expressions of interest were received? How many people were on the shortlist?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** If I could ask Karen, who was involved in the process — if I could ask Karen Jones to answer that, because she's got all the detail in relation to how many people.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Just a brief answer, please, Ms Jones.

**KAREN JONES:** What I can say around the process is that it was done independently of the Minister. The process itself included expressions of interest, in which case I'd have to take the exact number on notice, but I think it was in the 90-odd applications that were received. There was a panel that was established around going through those expressions of interest to then determine who we would short-list for an interview. That panel met. We short-listed. We then went through two days' worth of interviews, in which case we then formed a view around people who were suitable for all the roles on the Venues NSW board, including the chair, the deputy chair and other board members, whose roles will be coming up shortly. Then that was tabled for the Minister's consideration. Then it was sent through to Cabinet.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

The appointment was made in accordance with the Sporting Venues Authorities Act 2008 and Premier's Memorandum M2021-07 – Appointments to NSW Government boards and committees.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Minister, if you can identify where this program is in the budget papers?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** It's allocated in the budget papers. You find it yourself.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Have you read the budget papers, Minister?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Absolutely.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Have you? Well then why can't you identify it?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** It's in the budget papers.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Where?

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** You thought it was \$15 million to begin with.

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** If that's not good enough for you, I'll take it on notice and you can-

**The Hon. WES FANG:** You're kidding? This is why I say he's not across his brief because, I mean—

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** This is ridiculous

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

\$15 million over four years has been allocated to support the safety and security of religious institutions, including places of worship, schools, community centres and buildings.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Minister, on 10 June 2023 your office released a statement responding to inquiries on the Khalistan separatist movement tensions in Sydney that stated, "The Minister for Multiculturalism and Multicultural NSW are continually engaging in ongoing dialogue with community leaders to mitigate risks to community harmony and to de-escalate tensions." Can you explain what your office meant by "continually engaging in ongoing dialogue"?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** The tensions within the Indian community of New South Wales have recently escalated, especially around the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May and the unofficial Khalistan referendum in Sydney on 4 June 2023. The NSW Police Force, Multicultural NSW and other agencies have been working with Hindu and Sikh communities and religious leaders to de-escalate tensions. My agency, Multicultural NSW, continues to implement arrangements under the New South Wales Community Resilience and Response Plan to mitigate risks to community harmony.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Minister, it took you over three weeks from that statement to actually sit down with Sikh and Hindu organisations. Do you think that was an acceptable time frame, considering the tensions?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Look, I might pass over to Joe.

**JOSEPH LA POSTA:** Thank you, through you, Minister, to the Chair. Mr Farlow, thank you for your question. It's been an incredibly challenging and difficult time for our Hindu and Sikh communities, particularly over the past few months. Well, to be frank, over the past 18 months since the farming legislation reform back in India, which I know that you are well aware of. With respect to the Indian and Sikh communities in New South Wales, we saw the violence that broke out in Melbourne around Federation Square with the proposed referendum and the violent attacks on those two different religious organisations. We then saw the largely successful execution of the referendum up in Queensland and we worked incredibly closely with colleagues across Home Affairs, New South Wales Police, Queensland Police Service, Victoria Police and others to make sure that because of the size of our Indian diaspora here in New South Wales, which is one of our fastest growing communities now with Hindi in the top five languages – we realised that the magnitude of the size of the community could be quite destabilising if we didn't manage the referendum in the most appropriate manner possible. Using that interjurisdictional support from the other States, and then working very closely with Home Affairs, ASIO, AFP and others, we tried to set up the best framework that we possibly could. To the specifics around the community members that we worked with, we worked incredibly closely with the Hindu Council of Australia, the Hindu clergy, the Australian Sikh Association and any of the different groups that were out there – the gurdwaras and the temples –

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Understand, Mr La Posta, this is no disrespect to Multicultural NSW or the work that you do. But I note our time has expired on this one.

**The CHAIR:** Perhaps you can provide the further details on notice, if the member's happy with that.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

The question has been answered above.



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**MELANIE HAWYES:** Thanks, Minister. The reg change basically enables the board to move to a potential maximum of 7 cents per hectare. It's at the board's discretion whether they do that. But those funds are used to maintain and keep the fence at a wild-dog-proof standard. That is the purpose of the reg: the board can make that choice. We consulted with the Farmers Association Western Division Council, the Pastoralists' Association of West Darling and the western board of the Local Land Services, who all provided support to increase the potential maximum, knowing that it will be used to sustain the fence into the future.

**The CHAIR:** Am I right to assume that the other States are making similar contributions?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I can't comment on what the other States are doing. This is about our contribution in New South Wales to that part of the fence. I would imagine they have similar arrangements.

**The CHAIR:** I'm just curious as to how our rates compare to what they're charging.

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I can take that on notice and get you some more information, possibly this afternoon.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

Landholders in the Western Division of NSW who have a property greater than 1,000 hectares in size are currently charged 5.5 cents per hectare by the Border Fence Maintenance Board to maintain the fence to a wild dog proof standard.

The adjoining jurisdictions of Queensland and South Australia maintain their fences under significantly different legislative, governance and operational regimes and to different design specifications and standards.

In Queensland, nine specified local government areas charge a levy on landholders based on their livestock carrying capacity. These funds are remitted to the Queensland State Government, which matches the funding dollar for dollar and uses it to maintain its fence.

In South Australia landholders with a property with an area of in excess of 10 square kilometres are liable for rates. The rate is \$2.00 per square kilometre, which equates to 2 cents per hectare, with a minimum charge of \$475 applying annually to each rateable landholding. This rate generates approximately \$650,000 annually and the South Australian Government matches this dollar for dollar to the SA Dog Board.

The South Australian Government also has a Sheep Industry Fund which applies a levy on the sale of all sheep in South Australia. This generates approximately \$250,000 which is also remitted to the SA Dog Board.

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**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** How does it work in the States that currently do remove personal data, like names? Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the ACT all remove personal data entirely. How do they get around it and why haven't we picked up the model that they're using?

**STEWART McLACHLAN:** I'm not sure if that's entirely correct. I'd need to take it on notice, as to how that works. I imagine there would be some confidentiality things we'd need to grapple with other States, but I can take it on notice.

#### ANSWER

Refer to the answer provided on page 55 of the transcript.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Thank you. Minister, there was a news release on the Small Business Commissioner's website about the agritourism business guide. I'm just wondering how this guide came about and what was the impetus for the guide?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** I might pass on to the Small Business Commissioner to provide us detail in relation to that.

**CHRIS LAMONT:** Thank you for the question. The guide was developed many years ago in response to concerns particularly from small businesses in the agricultural sector that were facing not only drought but peaks and troughs in terms of seasonal issues in response to their businesses. It was a way of actually promoting, particularly, cellar doors and other agritourism activities for, essentially, businesses who to that point in time had been agricultural in their focus only. It was, essentially, an assistance tool to provide, potentially, an augmented source of income and revenue for those businesses, particularly those businesses that were particularly vulnerable, as mentioned, to seasonal and related issues.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Do you know how much was spent on the development of the guide?

**CHRIS LAMONT:** No, I couldn't. It was actually developed prior to my time as commissioner. But we could certainly try to take that on notice for you.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

The Small Business Commissioner provided clarification on this issue in correcting the Hansard record (page 48 of the transcript) from earlier in the day noting that the Small Business Commission assisted in showcasing agritourism activities with the intention of providing a broader industry guidance.

The guide referred to is not a Small Business Commission guide.

This question would be more appropriately directed to Planning NSW as the responsible agency for the policy.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Yes, and if you could also take on notice, if the personal information is still going to be available, how is that information going to be protected beyond those contracts? Obviously, this is a situation where that personal data is actually being included and is outside that contract and is still available. I'm just wondering how we stop situations like this, where people can run courses and provide students with data of whole lists of people's personal identifying information to be targeted through different processes?

**STEWART McLACHLAN:** Yes, I'm happy to take that on notice. I would say, though, the other part is that it's not just the property sales information that is part of that overall problem. There is also personal information on court lists and registers, and that's obviously another step in the process. But I'll take it on notice.

**ANSWER**

Refer to the answer provided on page 56 of the transcript.

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**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Yes, if you could take that one on notice. This is also something to take on notice — how many staff worked on the guide and how long did it take to develop the guide?

**CHRIS LAMONT:** Sure.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

The Small Business Commissioner provided clarification on this issue in correcting the Hansard record (page 48 of the transcript) from earlier in the day noting that the Small Business Commission assisted in showcasing agritourism activities with the intention of providing a broader industry guidance.

The guide referred to is not a Small Business Commission guide.

This question would be more appropriately directed to Planning NSW as the responsible agency for the policy.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** I note that animal welfare is not referenced in the guide, and there is no guidance about the need to take animal welfare into account when opening agritourism businesses. Can you explain why there appears to have been that oversight when putting this guide together?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Well, there are other regimes that provide for animal welfare and animal cruelty, so I will take that on notice, if that's okay?

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister responsible for the Planning and Public Spaces portfolio.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Sure. Are you aware if any animal welfare stakeholders or experts were consulted in the making of this guide?

**CHRIS LAMONT:** Not to my knowledge. As mentioned, it was a guide that was developed prior to my time as commissioner.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Could you take that one on notice to confirm?

**CHRIS LAMONT:** Yes.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** And, also, if no stakeholders were consulted, could I ask — and perhaps this is on notice, if you weren't in the position at the time — why somebody wasn't included or consulted in regards to animal welfare?

**CHRIS LAMONT:** Sure.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The Small Business Commissioner provided clarification on this issue in correcting the Hansard record (page 48 of the transcript) from earlier in the day noting that the Small Business Commission assisted in showcasing agritourism activities with the intention of providing a broader industry guidance.

The guide referred to is not a Small Business Commission guide.

This question would be more appropriately directed to Planning NSW as the responsible agency for the policy.

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**Dr AMANDA COHN:** The demographics of Ku-ring-gai include that it has an higher rate of over-60s than the average for Greater Sydney, including a dozen aged-care facilities within a kilometre of the North Turramurra Recreation Area site. What recreation will be available to them at that site after these upgrades have taken place?

**KAREN JONES:** The details of that I would have to take on notice for you, in terms of the actual details around that specific grant.

**ANSWER**

Recreation opportunities in the local government area are a matter for Council.

**QUESTION**

**Dr AMANDA COHN:** What is the expected time line for the review that's currently taking place?

**KAREN JONES:** I'll have to take that on notice. It's done independently, so I'll have to take that on notice.

**Dr AMANDA COHN:** Okay. Will any works progress at the NTRA site while that grant is being reviewed?

**KAREN JONES:** Again, I'll take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The review report is being considered. The Office of Sport will continue to manage the funding agreement according to the terms and conditions of the agreement whilst the report is being considered.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Minister, have you been briefed about how many vehicle movements there are at that proposed crossing point?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** I haven't.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** You haven't? Okay. You'll take that on notice?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Yes

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

The information on operational traffic movements at Hungry Point is held by Marine Rescue NSW. This question should be directed to the Minister for Emergency Services and Marine Rescue NSW.

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**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** But as the Minister for Small Business, I am advocating on every business that challenges the debt that's been raised. There are certain circumstances there where we have been able to get results, and the Small Business Commissioner has been quite vocal about those debts. We're proactive in managing each and every one of those debts. But I think what you'll find is that what you've got now is the tail end of the debts – the ones that haven't been cleared up, where it's probably not a real challenge as to whether they should have repaid the grant funds.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Minister, are you aware how many businesses are being forced to repay funds through JobSaver or the Micro-business Grant?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** I might pass, in terms of the total number, to Greg.

**GREG WELLS:** Thanks, Minister. We'll come back on notice if that's okay, Mr Farlow, even this afternoon with the exact number.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Yes, if you could this afternoon, that would be good.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

The responsibility for the JobSaver and Micro-Business Grants Audit is held by the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government.



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**The Hon. WES FANG:** Minister, in February of this year, the first sod was turned in the sports hub indoor stadium at the Charles Sturt University in Dubbo. Where is the project up to?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** I'll take that on notice.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

The Project Steering Committee meets regularly and tender documents are planned for release in November for the early works and indoor court construction.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. WES FANG:** While you're taking things on notice, the project was on track for the turning of the first sod. What do you say to the PCYC user groups, including local gymnasts and the Dubbo Basketball Association, which say that there has been no progress in eight months?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** As I said, I'll take that on notice in relation to —

**The Hon. WES FANG:** How much are you investing in the project?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** As I said, I'll take that on the notice.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

Refer to page 90 of the transcript

The Project Steering Committee meets regularly to progress the project.

Consultation with Dubbo Sports Council has been ongoing and the PCG met directly with Dubbo Basketball and Dubbo Netball Associations on the 31st May 2023 to present design, and to discuss feedback of design and a preliminary discussion around BAU operation upon completion of the project.

Total funds for the project \$48.6 million

Financial contribution:

- \$10 million through the Drought Stimulus Package (DRNSW)
- \$9.3 million through the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund (OOS)
- \$23.3 million additional funding from the Department of Regional NSW
- \$4 million from NSW Police (PCYC)
- \$2 million cash contribution (PCYC)

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**KAREN JONES:** That Dubbo project is a project that was approved under the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund. The initial investment from the New South Wales Government was \$9.3 million. Because of complexities around the negotiations – particularly the involvement of Dubbo Regional Council, Charles Sturt University and PCYC – the project now has progressed to a point where there have been additional funds from Regional NSW contributed to the project, and the project is currently underway.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** What is the sum of those funds?

**KAREN JONES:** I'll take that on notice.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

Total funds for the project \$48.6 million.

Financial contribution:

- \$10 million through the Drought Stimulus Package (DRNSW)
- \$9.3 million through the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund (OOS)
- \$23.3 million additional funding from the Department of Regional NSW
- \$4 million from NSW Police (PCYC)
- \$2 million cash contribution (PCYC)

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**The CHAIR:** Have you approved any synthetic turf grant applications that don't provide an offset in terms of shading and cooling in most recent times?

**KAREN JONES:** I'd have to take that on notice for you.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

There is no requirement for synthetic turf grant applications to provide an offset in terms of shading and cooling in the grant program guidelines and therefore is not evaluated.

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**Dr AMANDA COHN:** To the Minister, in regards to his comments about capacity in use — I quote from the chief scientist's report. It says: The adoption of best practice guidelines and benchmarks for natural turf in open spaces will support the capacity of natural turf sporting fields to meet demands for use. Do you have a comment on that?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** The bell has rung. There you are.

**Dr AMANDA COHN:** I will send it to you as a supplementary question.

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Yes, just — it's too fast.

**The CHAIR:** Would you like to take that on notice and come back with a thought?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** Yes.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

Questions about the report and its recommendations should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

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**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Will the program then complete soon or are you expecting more funding?

**CASSANDRA GIBBENS:** I'll take that on notice in terms of the intent for future.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** I might throw that to the Minister as well. Minister, do you know if there's any further funding that is being proposed to expand this particular program?

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** At this stage, the current funding is in place —

**CASSANDRA GIBBENS:** For this year. And then we'll take it on notice.

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER:** — for this year. We'll take it on notice in terms of —

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

Funding for the Aboriginal Business Advisory Initiative (ABAI), similarly to all other Service NSW programs, will be determined as part of the 2024/25 budget process.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Where does that \$7 million funding sit at the moment?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** Some of that was — bear with me. I think some of it sits with council. Sorry, just bear with me. I might have to take that on notice, but I know there was an allocation of funding for the purpose of that walkway. Some of it was administered through Crown Lands, about \$2 million, but I will take it on notice so I get you the precise figures.

**ANSWER**

Refer to the answer provided on page 58 of the transcript.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Has Mr Simon Spicer now been appointed as the administrator of the reserve?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** Yes.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** What work is he doing?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** Administering the reserve — I can probably take on notice the exact nature of his daily duties, but he is administering the reserve in that role.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** How much is he being paid in that role?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I will need to take that on notice. I don't have that to hand.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

Mr Simon Spicer has been appointed by the Department under delegation for a period of up to six months.

The role of the Administrator is to manage the operations and finances of the Hungry Point Reserve Land Manager. The Administrator's appointment is an interim arrangement whilst future and ongoing management arrangements are determined.

The Administrator is paid up to \$1,750 per month.

PAGE 53 (PART 1)

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Ms Jones, I'm going to go back to the topic that I was discussing with you when the Minister was here, which is the sports hub in Dubbo. I believe you indicated that, after the sod was turned on the CSU site, work is continuing. Is that a good precis of the information?

**KAREN JONES:** My understanding is — just during the lunch break I've been briefed — that there is a tender process underway at the moment.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** So when you, I think, provided the answer prior that "work is continuing" —

**KAREN JONES:** Work is continuing in terms of the project steering committee. They are meeting quite regularly, talking about the project and the progress of the project and making sure that all the contractual arrangements are met.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Were you able to get some clarity around the budget that the project has?

**KAREN JONES:** I'll get that for you before the end of this afternoon's session.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Have there been any changes to the scope of the project?

**KAREN JONES:** Several times, over the duration of the project. Exactly what those changes of scope are and when they were actually made, I'd have to take that on notice for you.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** What about since the sod turning in February 2023?

**KAREN JONES:** Again, I'd have to take that on notice for you. I can provide some context in relation to that. The Office of Sport administers over 700 grant applications. So when you talk specific projects and specific grants — I'm not across the full detail of each individual one.

**KAREN JONES:** But I am happy to take that on notice so I can then provide that information for you.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** No worries. Has there been any consultation with stakeholders since the election and now? Do you have any details on that?

**KAREN JONES:** Again, I'd have to take that on notice. I would imagine that that would be the realm of the steering committee that's in place.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Do you have a time line for the delivery of the project?

**KAREN JONES:** I can take that on notice. There'll be a contract in place via a funding agreement that will have milestones and dates associated with those milestones.

## ANSWER

Refer page 90 of the transcript.

I am advised:

Total funds for the project \$48.6 million

Financial contribution:

- \$10 million through the Drought Stimulus Package (DRNSW)
- \$9.3 million through the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund (OOS)
- \$23.3 million additional funding from the Department of Regional NSW
- \$4 million from NSW Police (PCYC)
- \$2 million cash contribution (PCYC)

No material changes to the scope of the project have occurred.

The Project Steering Committee meets regularly to progress the project.

Consultation with Dubbo Sports Council has been ongoing and the PCG met directly with Dubbo Basketball and Dubbo Netball Associations on the 31st May 2023 to present

design, and to discuss feedback of design and a preliminary discussion around BAU operation upon completion of the project.

The most recent project plan identifies late 2025 as the completion date.

## QUESTION

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** I've just got one other one, Ms Hawyes, with respect to the maintenance at Hungry Point. We've got some information that lists observations about various buildings at the site and what is called required action with respect to the maintenance on the site. Do you know if that required action has been undertaken?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I know that a range of works have been undertaken at that site, including some heritage restoration works. But I can take that on notice to get you an account of the current works that are underway.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** While you're taking that on notice, in the 10 seconds remaining can you also advise if there's any advice as to whether Marine Rescue is in breach of its contractual obligations in relation to its directions for required action? If so, what action will you take to ensure that the required action is undertaken by Marine Rescue?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I might take that on notice

## ANSWER

I am advised:

Licences issued for the occupation of buildings at the Hungry Point Reserve contain requirements for repair and maintenance.

Licences issued for site investigation require minor maintenance, such as the removal of leaves and vegetation from roofs and gutters across several buildings, as well as grounds maintenance.

In April 2023, Crown Lands sent a list of required maintenance actions to Marine Rescue NSW pertaining to the external areas of a number of buildings at the reserve. Many of these actions have been attended to by Marine Rescue NSW. Crown Lands and Marine Rescue NSW are in ongoing discussion about more significant maintenance works required on the un-occupied buildings on the site that are subject to a site investigation licence. The works relate to painting, replacement of gutters and replacement of building elements such as weatherboard cladding, eaves linings and roof repairs.



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**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** You mentioned just now as well, and I think you mentioned it before, the updating of those licensing agreements. Didn't the existing contracts prior to this already have prohibitions on the use of data for direct marketing purposes

**STEWART McLACHLAN:** I would need to take that on notice but my understanding is those were probably not as enhanced as they are in the current licence agreement and they've been further enhanced, as I said.

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** When you take that on notice, could you also indicate how that has been enhanced — if there was already prohibitions on the use of it, how specifically that would be enhanced. That would be useful.

**ANSWER**

Refer to the answer provided on page 56 of the transcript.

PAGE 57

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Before I ask some questions around cemeteries and crematoria, Ms Jones, I wanted to come back to you on the issue about the Dubbo sports hub. When you said that the tenders are being evaluated or called for now, was that just for civil work or civil and construction work?

**KAREN JONES:** I'm getting all that information for you. As I mentioned before, I've taken it on notice and I've instructed the team. Hopefully I can get it for you by the close of session today but, if not, I will have to take it on notice.

#### **ANSWER**

Refer page 90 of the transcript

I am advised:

Tenders are planned for a November release and will include the civil work and construction.

PAGE 58

**The Hon. WES FANG:** No worries. I would appreciate that. Regarding cemeteries and crematoria, how much money was paid to the executive recruitment firm that saw Mr Ken Morrison appointed to the administrator role?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I'm not sure I have it to hand, and I can take that on notice. There was a competitive market-based process run, which culminated in the appointment of Mr Morrison as the administrator. It was Meritos who were commissioned to do that. I don't think I have those figures with me. Can I get them to you during the course of the session?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

A standard executive recruitment process was undertaken with a recruitment firm engaged to conduct an open market search at a cost of \$60,500 including GST.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Up to seven board members are expected to be appointed, including a chair of Metropolitan Memorial Parks, for an initial period of three years. Have any board members been appointed to date?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** No, we're in the middle of the recruitment process. I'm the chair of that panel.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** What's the anticipated cost of those seven board members over the three years?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I may need to get that for you on notice. The remuneration of boards is conducted by the Public Service Commission, so that is on the public record, but I can get you the breakdown. It's consistent with the Public Service Commission guidelines.

**ANSWER**

Refer to response provided on page 70 of the transcript.

PAGE 60

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Approximately how much money will it cost the Government to deliver the new 136,000-plot Crown land cemetery near Bowraville?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** That is the first major new Crown cemetery development in decades. As you know, construction is underway. I don't think I've got the full amount of the cost of construction, but I can get that for you, hopefully this session.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust advises that Macarthur Memorial Park's total anticipated construction cost is \$80,193,724.

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**The Hon. WES FANG:** Have you established a plan in order to be able to tackle the 38,000-odd number of unresolved claims?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** We have done a lot of work and are seeing the results of that work now. We've cleared more land claims in the last two years — as in resolved and determined and granted land back. We've done more land hand-backs in the last couple of years than have been done in the preceding decades. In the last year, 726 claims were successfully granted to land councils. That's a record for an annual year.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Sorry, 726 is the period from —

**MELANIE HAWYES:** In the last year.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Is that from today?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** The last financial year.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** In the 2022-23 financial year?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** Yes. I will get you the breakdown of the last two years. We have also made a number of business improvements to the process. We have built far more positive relationships with land councils. We've introduced what we call the LALC20 project, which is, as I talked about before, an opportunity to work with land councils to understand the claims that are most important to them and prioritise those. And we've doubled the size of the team that does assessments. We have made progress in the last couple of years to speed up the pace of claims processing itself.

## ANSWER

I am advised:

In the 2022/23 financial year:

- 782 ALCs were lodged
- 766 ALCs were resolved (545 granted including part granted, 231 refused or withdrawn)
- 9,265 hectares of land were granted to 67 different Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

In 2021/22 financial year:

- 1009 ALCs were lodged
- 720 ALCs were resolved (509 granted including part granted, 211 refused or withdrawn)
- 1,619.77ha of land granted to 62 different Local Aboriginal Land Councils

## QUESTION

**The Hon. WES FANG:** And in the current financial year, 2023-24, do you have anything?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** The current financial year — I might have to get you that one on notice because I can't readily see it. In 2022-23, 776 claims resolved and 545 lands granted. And the figure for total on the books is 38,518

**ANSWER**

Refer to the response provided on page 70 of the transcript.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. WES FANG:** What's the average length of time taken to resolve a claim?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** It depends on the complexity of use and occupation on the land. For some, particularly where there are also native title interests, it can take a lot of time to resolve the different interests at play on that piece of land. Some are more straightforward. For example, if there is absolutely no use and occupation of land, it is a bit easier to make that assessment.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** But on the figures that you have available, I imagine that you've got an average time.

**MELANIE HAWYES:** An average? I will have to get you that on notice.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The average time taken varies depending on the complexity of the individual circumstances of each claim. A general timeframe of between 6 to 9 months from the date an assessment commences is an average. This takes into account the mandatory 4-month appeal period for any part of a claim which is refused that is required by Land and Environment Court rules.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. WES FANG:** How many do you have working for Crown Lands in total, between —

**MELANIE HAWYES:** Total staff?

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Yes.

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I think it's 479. Hang on a sec. I think it is 479 FTE.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** And that's currently — that's as of today?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** Yes. Just let me confirm that, if you will, because I don't want to get it wrong on the record. It was 489 as at 30 June.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Has that increased or decreased since 2021-22?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I will need to check. I don't know. I think it's relatively stable, but I can get you the figure for last year.

**ANSWER**

Refer to response provided on page 69-70 of the transcript.

PAGE 62

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Were prospective rent increases issued to tenants that would come in to early effect as of January 2024?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** For Crown lands?

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** For Crown lands, yes.

**MELANIE HAWYES:** Sorry, what was your question?

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Has there been advice given to tenants of prospective rent increases to come into effect as early as January 2024?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** Yes. That is a part of our regular rent determination. Our statute obliges us to charge market rate and to redetermine those rents on a three-year to a five-year basis. It is part of our statutory obligation. Yes, we have signalled to some tenure-holders that their rent has been redetermined.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** How many prospective rent increases are forecast to occur?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I think we had about 11,000 tenures total, but out of those, I think it was around 1,800 that had their rent redetermined. In that group there are different categories of tenure-holders, and some of those tenure-holders have had a rent increase.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** What is the total value of these rent increases?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I don't have that to hand.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Would you be able to provide that on notice?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** Yes, I can. The total figure of tenure holders who had rent increases above 10 per cent is 1,851 out of a total of 11,000.

## ANSWER

I am advised:

The Crown Land Management Act 2016 (Division 6) prescribes rent and rent redetermination requirements for Crown lands tenures.

As at June 2023, 7,044 rent redeterminations were due to be completed in the 2023 financial year. As of 31 October 2023, 4,613 of these rent redeterminations have been completed, resulting in a potential \$8.0 million gross increase in rents. However, the application of concessions to these tenure holders reduces this amount significantly. As of 31 October 2023, \$2.9 million in concessions have been applied to the redetermined rents and this has reduced the increase in rent to \$5.1 million.

Revenue generated from the use of public lands and assets under tenure, is reinvested back into the Crown Land portfolio.



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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** What is the average rent increase? Do you want to take that on notice as well?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** It depends on the type of tenure holder. Some are commercial — you know, the bowling clubs we referred to before. There's a mix. Some are farmers. Some are individuals. An average is a little bit of a distortion.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

In calendar year 2023, as of 31 October 2023, the average gross rent increase (without concessions applied) is \$1,733. With concessions applied and a phase in period, the average rent increase reduces to \$1,114 in year 1.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** In dollar amounts, would you be able to supply us with the single largest rent increase? What was this for?

**MELANIE HAWYES:** I will need to take that on notice. What I would say to that is that we have a provision for a minimum statutory rent, which is the absolute minimum, which is \$579 a year. There are provisions there. Because the land is used for so many different purposes, there are many occasions where a not-for-profit might use the land, for example, and we don't seek to charge them market rent. There's provision for a minimum rent. We also have a concessions policy that provides for a 20 per cent concession where your revenue is between \$500,000 and \$1 million, and a 50 per cent concession if your revenue is below \$500,000 a year. There are also hardship provisions. With every tenure holder that is going through a rent increase at the moment, we've offered them a two-year phase in if it's a significant increase. There are hardship provisions we can work them through if they need a payment plan or they want to make a case for hardship.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

The single largest market rent increase for an account redetermined during this calendar year was \$394,098, for a retirement village facility. The rent for the facility was last reviewed in 2010.

The account holder is a not-for-profit single interest group and therefore is eligible for concessions which reduce the rent increase to \$73,666 in the first year and \$211,600 thereafter.

Crown Lands offers tenure holders who are experiencing financial hardship payment extensions, interest waivers, payment plans and other waivers on a case-by-case basis.

The Crown Lands concession policy includes rebates and waivers available to individuals and organisations who meet the eligibility criteria under the policy. This includes pensioners, charitable or non-for-profit community services, single interest and sporting groups and registered NSW clubs.

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**The CHAIR:** Do you have a time line on when you're going to have the terms of reference finalised? **JOSEPH LA POSTA:** Yes. The current conflict is quite a focus. I'm happy to take that on notice, but I would be saying certainly before the end of this year. My assumption would be within the next month.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

This is expected to occur by 1 December.

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**The Hon. WES FANG:** That is exactly what I am saying. He indicated at different parts of the answer his connection to that church. Did the Minister at all provide you with a disclosure as to his connection with that organisation and was he aware of the grant, or the shortlist of that grant process, before the grants were issued?

**JOSEPH LA POSTA:** I, honestly, was listening intently to that discussion and I couldn't ascertain, because of the sort of by-product that was going on, which of the two sites he was talking about. One of the sites he hasn't been briefed on and he hasn't signed off or offered concurrence with me in terms of the agreement.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Which one was that?

**JOSEPH LA POSTA:** I can take the specifics of this on notice. The other side I will need to take on notice as to whether he has approved that proposal or whether I approved that proposal under the Cabinet guidelines around which sites were to be authorised. I'm happy to take the specifics of that on notice, but I was trying to pick up which one of the sites you were referencing.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Given that you are taking some of those details on notice, are you able to provide — and I don't know if it's possible — by the end of the session today, some of the details around what disclosures were made and whether he was made aware of those projects, just so that we can follow up some things with questions?

**JOSEPH LA POSTA:** Yes, I'll do my best. I can't commit to that time frame —

**The Hon. WES FANG:** No, you've only got 105 staff. It's not like you're Crown Lands or —

**ANSWER:**

I am advised: A commitment to fund these projects was made by the then opposition prior to forming government.

Multicultural NSW has a funding agreement in place with the Greek Orthodox Parish and Community of Kogarah.

Multicultural is yet to finalise a funding agreement with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Thank you. I'm going back to those rules and guidelines at the beginning.

If the small business wasn't eligible at the time for JobSaver, was it then retrospectively assessed and deemed to be eligible for a microbusiness grant?

**GREG WELLS:** I'd have to take that on notice in terms of the detail, but each of those grants were assessed on merit and as we went.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The responsibility for JobSaver and Micro-Business Grants is held by the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government.

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**The Hon. WES FANG:** Mr Gellibrand, this morning you said that Penrith Paceway was priced at \$150 million. Can you give us some insight as to why there's such a difference between what's proposed at Newcastle and what's proposed at Penrith?

**TOM GELLIBRAND:** Thank you for the question. When I gave the answer this morning it was in relation to relocating the Penrith Paceway in Penrith on a like-for-like basis. We sat down with the Penrith Paceway club and spent time with them to understand what they currently had on site — that is, a registered club, a commercial kitchen, a bar, boardrooms, a racetrack, lights, car parks, other space, member facilities, stabling, lighting —

**The Hon. WES FANG:** But those things were all included in the Newcastle one, that's why I was quite specific as to ask if it's an all-in price.

**TOM GELLIBRAND:** I'm not sure if they are but effectively we asked the paceway for a return brief on what they would require and then, once we understood what a like-for-like basis would look like, we then got a cost planner to say how much would it cost to build the registered club, to build the racetrack and to meet current

standards for lighting and all of those facilities. We generated an order of cost of \$150 million to do that. That's just for the facilities, the like-for-like facilities.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** And that \$150 million included all of the things that you've identified in that previous answer — the commercial kitchen, the stables, car parks and the facilities itself?

**TOM GELLIBRAND:** Yes, we invited the paceway to actually tell us what they had and we used that as the basis for undertaking the cost plan, which came out as an order of cost of \$150 million.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Okay. How much was allocated to land and how much was allocated to the building of facilities?

**TOM GELLIBRAND:** The \$150 million that I just referred to was only in relation to replacing the facilities on a like-for-like basis.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** So then the land?

**TOM GELLIBRAND:** The land component, I would have to take that on notice —

## ANSWER

I am advised:

Infrastructure NSW was asked to prepare a draft valuation to estimate the cost of acquiring the Paceway land and assets, which was \$50 million.

The order of costs estimated to relocate and rebuild a like-for-like facility was \$150 million. This did not include a cost estimate for land, as a suitable site was not investigated by INSW.

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**The Hon. WES FANG:** Well, let's see what Transgrid does in relation to some other things but, anyway, I will move on. Did Infrastructure NSW speak with the Commonwealth Government or the Department of Defence about their intent to dispose of the former air force transmission site at Londonderry?

**TOM GELLIBRAND:** I've certainly not been privy to any discussions in relation to that.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Do you think you could take that on notice and provide an answer if it has?

**TOM GELLIBRAND:** Certainly.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

Infrastructure NSW did not speak with the Commonwealth Government or the Department of Defence about their intent to dispose of the former air force transmission site at Londonderry.

#### QUESTION

**KAREN JONES:** Thank you, Mr Gellibrand. As part of the process we went through a business case for Penrith Stadium that canvassed a number of options. Those options obviously were individually costed for consideration by the former Government. The business case is actually Cabinet in confidence, so I can't go into any more detail.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Okay. Given that the Minister publicly stated a project cost, which he says precludes the completion of that commitment by the former Government, instead of the details of the Cabinet in confidence, can you provide what the Minister indicated by that \$900 million figure?

**KAREN JONES:** Absolutely. We can take on notice what the scope was that informed that figure.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

The details of the Penrith Stadium Redevelopment Final Business Case and Final Business Case Addendum are cabinet in confidence.

However, it can be stated that the Final Business Case and Final Business Case addendum considered the redevelopment of the existing Penrith Stadium and the development of a new Penrith Stadium on the adjacent Penrith Paceway site. The estimated cost of each redevelopment option included a range of construction (e.g., development) and non-construction (e.g., compensation payable to affected parties and project management fees) costs.

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**The Hon. WES FANG:** Okay. Wasn't an addendum to the original business case presented to government before the decision to stop pursuing a new stadium on the Penrith Paceway site?

**KAREN JONES:** In terms of time line, I'd have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The details of the Penrith Stadium Redevelopment Final Business Case and Final Business Case Addendum are cabinet in confidence.

These documents were presented to the former NSW Government for consideration. This Government was not presented nor considered the findings of the Final Business Case or Final Business Case Addendum.

The NSW Government, via INSW, formally concluded the proposed acquisition of the Penrith Paceway site as an alternate stadium redevelopment site in July 2023.



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**The Hon. WES FANG:** The Minister confirmed that the cost of the new Penrith Stadium and relocating the Penrith Paceway was over \$900 million. Even if we account in full for the \$150 million, which may be somewhat inflated if we're to look at the relevant Newcastle evidence that we've heard, that leaves about \$750 million to build a stadium. That's \$30,000 per seat for a 25,000-seat stadium. Is that what the business case costed the new stadium at?

**The Hon. CAMERON MURPHY:** Point of order: Ms Jones has already taken on notice that she would provide the basis on which that figure was informed and a breakdown, as I understand it. The question has already been asked and taken on notice.

**KAREN JONES:** I agree with that.

**The CHAIR:** And you have no further current information?

**KAREN JONES:** No, I do believe that me taking that question on notice previously, in terms of the scope that would inform that cost, would help satisfy the answer to that question.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** I think we need to push the point because there's—

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Will you take the specifics of Mr Fang's question on notice as part of that answer?

**KAREN JONES:** Yes, absolutely.

## ANSWER

I am advised:

The details of the Penrith Stadium Redevelopment Final Business Case and Final Business Case Addendum are cabinet in confidence.

However, it can be stated that the Final Business Case and Final Business Case addendum considered the redevelopment of the existing Penrith Stadium and the development of a new Penrith Stadium on the adjacent Penrith Paceway site. The estimated cost of each redevelopment option included a range of construction (e.g., development) and non-construction (e.g., compensation payable to affected parties and project management fees) costs.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Ms Hogan, in terms of the Department of Customer Service and with a Small Business hat on, how many days each week do DCS employees attend the office on average?

**EMMA HOGAN:** I'd have to take it on notice as an average. We've got 13,000 people and many of them work in frontline services, including Service NSW and our inspectors, so I would have to take it on notice.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Do you have any ballpark figures? Is it something you track at all?

**EMMA HOGAN:** It is difficult to track because of the different types of work that we do. If I was to give any kind of breakdown, I would have to take it on notice.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** So you will take it on notice?

**EMMA HOGAN:** Yes.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

Of the DCS workforce of 13,000 staff approximately 5000 are frontline staff members who work in customer facing on-site premises.

Under the Flexible Working Policy and 'Healthy Hybrid Habits' program, the remaining DCS staff members are required to attend their assigned office some of the time on a regular working pattern. Days in the office are determined through a formal team agreement and consider individual and business units' requirements.

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### QUESTION

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Who work from home to return to office. Have you got any targets for that, in terms of return to office?

**EMMA HOGAN:** No, we have a flexible work policy and we work to that. The flexible work policy applies, depending on the area you're in and the kind of work that you do. We haven't specified. It depends on the team, it depends on the work, it depends on the type of division that you are in. I am happy to take it on notice and see if I can find anything —

### ANSWER

I am advised:

There is no DCS wide target for returning to the office. Days in the office are determined through a formal team agreement and consider individual and business units' requirements.

### QUESTION

**EMMA HOGAN:** I see. Look, we do have a healthy hybrid flexible working policy. It is the same policy today as it was during the last term of government. We haven't made any changes to it.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Have there been changes that have been made since the pandemic to that policy at all?

**EMMA HOGAN:** The policy — yes. We have certainly said that people have to be at work some of the time. They have to be in the office at least some of the time, but the amount of time depends on the type of work that they do.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** You will take that on notice in terms of what the average is?

**EMMA HOGAN:** If I can find an average that would be sensible, yes, I will take that on notice.

### ANSWER

This question has been asked on page 77 of the transcript, please refer to the previous answer above.

### QUESTION

**The Hon. WES FANG:** How many staff do support small business in your department?

**EMMA HOGAN:** If we include the Small Business Commissioner as an overall part of the department, I think there is 42.5 there. We have a small business policy team, which I think is around seven or eight. And then we have a number of staff who form part of the Service NSW workforce who service business as well. I couldn't give you a specific number.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** If we exclude the commissioner's staff, because they're a statutory officer, how many do you have?

**EMMA HOGAN:** I would have to take it on notice because a lot of them work in Service NSW, so they might perform multiple functions.

**GREG WELLS:** Again, Mr Fang, it is hard to specify that as dedicated to small business. Service NSW at the moment provides a lot of support to businesses generally, not just small. The support that we provide for businesses are not just for businesses; they are individuals, in some instances – for example, our digital teams that support vouchers. There's a lot of business –

**The Hon. WES FANG:** They'd be quite freed up now, wouldn't they, given that the Government has cut a lot of the vouchers?

**GREG WELLS:** There are a number of new vouchers and refreshing of vouchers on foot. But, yes, also –

**The Hon. WES FANG:** That is interesting. Do tell, Mr Wells.

**GREG WELLS:** These have been announced, and we are working on Toll Relief and Active Kids and Creative Kids and those other things. To my point before, some of those teams are supporting a lot more than small business, but they are working in conjunction in Service NSW. As Ms Gibbens said before, we're the delivery arm for that.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Well, I'm sure you can use a ouija board or something and come up with a sort of a vibe of a figure, and maybe provide that on notice.

**GREG WELLS:** We'll take that on notice.

## ANSWER

I am advised:

As of 26 October 2023 41.5 FTE are part of the Small Business Commission.

As of 26 October 2023 278 employees work in the Service NSW Business Bureau. Noting Service NSW Business Bureau staff support business customers of all sizes not only small business.

In addition to staff that provide specific support to small business, the Department of Customer Service and Service NSW have a number of business units that coordinate support and delivery of services to small businesses as part of their regular responsibilities. Examples include but are not limited to the Service Delivery teams in the Service NSW Contact and Service Centres, disaster preparation and recovery, ID Support, regulatory Inspectors and whole of government digital and communications services.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Before Ms Hogan leaves — sorry, just one last question. How many representations were received from businesses or business groups asking for assistance or reviews from the Department of Customer Service when asked to repay the money from the micro-business grants?

**EMMA HOGAN:** That would be a question for Mr Wells.

**GREG WELLS:** We will try to come back on notice.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

The responsibility for JobSaver and Micro-Business Grants is held by the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** The former Government committed \$28 million over two years to Multicultural NSW. Were any unallocated funds from the \$14 million in 2022-23 rolled over into this year's budget?

**JOSEPH LA POSTA:** That is an excellent question. I would need to double-check the specifics on that because there were a couple of things that happened in the change. Yes, there was a carry-forward from 2022-23 into 2023-24. I am just not sure of the specifics on that, because that also included a couple of the election commitments of the former Government, Mr Farlow. What we didn't want was the former Liberal-Nationals Government making commitments to the community that we —

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** That's a shame.

**JOSEPH LA POSTA:** — might have been 80 per cent through their proposal or project. We wanted them to have the opportunity to be able to finish that, so we've given them 12 months to sort of land some of those things.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** You will take that on notice in terms of the substance of that?

**JOSEPH LA POSTA:** In terms of the specifics on the \$28 million commitment — the \$14 million a year and what was carried forward — I am happy to take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

\$1.8 million was carried forward.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** I might come back to a round of questions for Ms Jones. What was the total allocated under the New South Wales Government's Outdoor Active Recreation Marketing Support Grant Program?

**KAREN JONES:** That was some time ago now. I'll have to take that on notice unless my team can find out for me. I want to say it was \$1.2 million, but I'll correct that figure if it's incorrect.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Were all of those funds expended?

**KAREN JONES:** I'd have to take that on notice. That program was actually run post-COVID, so a couple of years ago now.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Yes, if you could take on in terms of whether it was all expended and, if not, what was the total amount that was left undeployed. What was the total funding allocated to the Cross Border Sport Fund?

**KAREN JONES:** Again, that was done a number of years ago under the former Government. Again I'd have to take that on notice. It was also on the back of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** I might ask you similarly to take on notice, if there were any funds that weren't fully expended, what the amount of those were.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

The total allocation under the Outdoor Active Recreation Marketing Support Grant Program was \$1m, and projects awarded totalled \$1,020,408.

The total allocation under the 2021-22 Cross Border Sport Fund was \$50,000 and projects awarded totalled \$27,000.

Unallocated funds from the Community Sport Recovery program as a whole (including the two programs) were used for various other sport projects.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Ms Jones, what was the total funding allocated to the Centre of Excellence Round 1 funding round?

**KAREN JONES:** Round 1?

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Yes.

**KAREN JONES:** Again, I'll take that on notice, but I will have that figure to me shortly, I'm sure.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

Total funding allocated for Centre of Excellence Round 1 was \$75m. \$60,388,750 was awarded to projects.

#### **QUESTION**

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** With respect to the Centre of Excellence program, as you indicated, there was an amount that was underspent. I believe it might have been around \$9.85 million. Were those funds redirected at all?

**KAREN JONES:** I think you will find it under the Centre of Excellence Fund Round 1 underspend; it was then rolled into Round 2, carried forward into Round 2.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** In terms of that, were they reallocated at all?

**KAREN JONES:** I will have to take that on notice in terms of the actual expenditure in Round 2.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

Due to the carry-forward from the underspend from the previous round, \$90m was allocated for the Centres of Excellence Round 2. Projects totalling \$80,150,000 were approved. Underspends from this program were used for various other sport projects.

#### **QUESTION**

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Could you provide us, on notice, which organisations had applied for those grants or those funds under the Centre of Excellence program that weren't successful?

**KAREN JONES:** Yes, absolutely. I'll take it on notice.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

Due to privacy reasons a list of unsuccessful applicants are not made public.



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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** But in terms of the 1.3 million vouchers created so far in 2023, do you have information on how many of these vouchers were created before 30 June 2023, when they were still \$100?

**KAREN JONES:** I would have to get back to you on that one.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Okay, if you could take that on notice, that would be great.

**KAREN JONES:** Yes.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** And if you could also take on notice how many have been created at the reduced \$50 value?

**KAREN JONES:** Yes, I can provide that figure for you.

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised:

871,349 \$100 Active Kids vouchers were created between 1 January 2023 and 30 June 2023.

523,964 \$50 Active Kids vouchers were created between 1 July 2023 and 3 November 2023.

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**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** In the 2023-24 budget, employee-related operating expenses account for \$61.097 million. What is the reason for the increase of nearly \$9.67 million on last year's budget when it comes to employee-related operating expenses?

**KAREN JONES:** Sorry, can you run those figures past me again?

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Yes. In the 2023-24 budget, employee-related operating expenses account for \$61.097 million. What is the reason for the increase of nearly \$9.67 million from the last year's budget?

**KAREN JONES:** There definitely hasn't been an increase in our workforce over that time, so I can say that. I think everybody else has given their workforce figures today, so I'll give you mine. At the Office of Sport we have around 400 FTE and 150 casuals, and —

**KAREN JONES:** — those numbers have remained steady over the course of the last few years. That discrepancy, I would have to get back to you in terms of what the difference is there.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

This is mainly due to original budget in 2022-23 was understated as \$51.4 million, however this was later revised and updated to \$58.6 million in the latest approved Budget in the Treasury Prime system in order to rectify the anomaly between internal and Treasury budgets in respect of employee related expenses, operating expenses and revenue. In addition, 2023-24 salary has also increased by 4% in alignment with the latest public sector salary increase.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Ms Jones, the operating statement for the Office of Sport contained in Budget Paper No. 02 shows \$64,502,000 budgeted for "Other operating expenses" but only \$58,304,000 expended. What are considered other operating expenses, and was there a reason for an underspend in the last financial year?

**KAREN JONES:** I can't give a reason for the underspend. Again, I'd have to come back to you on that. But other operating expenses, of course, with the Office of Sport we have not just our office-based staff but we also have our 10 sport and recreation centres and our Olympic venues, and those frontline service offerings that we have also incur operating expenses around those, so I'd imagine that that would be the difference. But again, I'm happy to provide more detail.

#### ANSWER

I am advised:

Other operating expenses are expenses that the Office of Sport incur to perform its operating activities including utilities, repairs & maintenance of centres and venues and sport and recreational related program delivery costs. Other operating expenses were originally budgeted as \$64.5 million, which were later revised to \$61.2 million in the Treasury Prime system. The actual spend was \$58.3 million and the reduction compared to original budget is mainly attributed to carry forward of some underspends to next financial years mainly due to timing of expenses.

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**KAREN JONES:** There were three jobs – more than three jobs, actually, that were advertised. As I mentioned before, there was the chair, the deputy chair and also board positions, so that was the total figure.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** Did you have the shortlist number, by any chance?

**KAREN JONES:** The shortlist number? I'd have to get back to you on that one.

**The Hon. WES FANG:** If you could take that on notice, that'd be great.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised:

The appointment was made in accordance with the Sporting Venues Authorities Act 2008 and Premier's Memorandum M2021-07 – Appointments to NSW Government boards and committees.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Mr La Posta – NSW Settlement Strategy. In the settlement strategy there were, of course, 100 action items that were to be completed, several that were planned to have been completed by 30 June 2023. Were all those that were planned to be completed by 30 June 2023 completed?

**JOSEPH LA POSTA:** Can I take the specifics on that on notice, Mr Farlow? I only say that because one of the challenges with the change in government has been different departments, different remits, different names, all of those things. So we've had to go through a whole sort of refresh exercise around identifying who these previous targets under the former Government now sit with in the new Government. I think we're just about at the bottom of that now. I note there are a couple of other minor modifications in terms of machinery-of government changes being rolled out in the months ahead. So, if you're okay, Mr Farlow, I'll take the specifics of that on notice. But I know the team – a shout-out to our incredibly diligent settlement team for the work they've done influencing right across government. I know that they will have either been on track, or they would've flagged it with me, otherwise. But I can take the specifics on notice.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Will there be any readjustments to the time frames in terms of the delivery items because of the changes in the machinery of government and the like?

**JOSEPH LA POSTA:** I'll get back to you on the specifics on that, only because we got a lot of work to do, Mr Farlow, on the strategy, and sometimes these strategies – they're super-important, but the priorities of the team, for example, for the last two or three weeks have been very much focused on other parts of the community, particularly new and emerging communities that might've experienced trauma or grief from home countries, that have recently settled here. What's happening overseas is really triggering for them. Let me just reconnect with the team and get an update on that and take the specifics on notice for you.

#### ANSWERS

I am advised:

Q. Were all NSW Settlement Strategy actions that were planned to be completed by 30 June 2023 completed?

A. Yes, with the exception of some actions which have been reframed and timelines extended due to Machinery of Government Changes.

Q. Will there be any readjustments to the time frames in terms of the delivery items because of the changes in the machinery of government and the like?

A. Yes, there have been some actions which have been reframed and timelines extended due to Machinery of Government Changes.