



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

**Treasurer
(Mookhey)**

Hearing: Friday 1 March 2024

Answers due by: Thursday 28 March 2024

Budget Estimates secretariat

Phone (02) 9230 2809

BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

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

icare/Treasury Managed Fund

- (1) Are transfers into the Treasury Managed Fund a bailout?
- (2) Why does the Half Yearly Review show no plan to get the Treasury Managed Fund's ratio over the 105% level set by the Net Asset Level Holding Policy?

ICAC

- (3) Has the government done any work to deliver on its promise to independently fund ICAC by 2023?
 - (a) When will ICAC be independently funded?

Grants

- (4) Did you authorise the payment of \$50,000 to the Calga Walkabout Sancturary from the NSW Generations Fund Community Services and Facilities Fund?
 - (a) Did you delegate the power to authorise this payment to the Premier or another Minister?
- (5) What role is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer playing in verifying that nominated projects under the Local Small Commitments Allocation (LSCA) program are eligible as election commitments?
 - (a) Have you every discussed this program with your parliamentary secretary?
- (6) Has the Parliamentary Secretary confirmed that any of the nominated projects listed for Castle Hill or Kellyville on the master spreadsheet dated 28 July 2023 and provided to the Legislative Council in response to an order for papers are, in fact, election commitments?
- (7) Are you confident that sufficiently robust processes are in place to verify that funds are only expended on eligible projects under LSCA guidelines?
 - (a) Are projects added to the LSCA funding list that did not exist prior to the election a clear breach of funding guidelines?

Ministerial Staffers

- (8) How are you managing conflicts that arise with your staffer, Canada Bay Councillor and former Labor candidate for Drummoyne, Julia Little?

Services

- (9) Given the Half Yearly Review warns that employee expenses may need to be revised upward from 46.1% of all expenditure in 2026-2027, what further services and supports will be cut over the next four years to pay for this?

Housing and Productivity Contribution

- (10) From the introduction of the HPC on 1 October 2023, how much has been collected by the HPC, in total to date?
- (11) On the introduction and passage of the Housing and Productivity Contribution Bill, Minister Scully outlined that the Housing and Productivity Contribution (HPC) “would secure \$1 billion over the forward estimates, and up to \$700 million per year beyond that.” In the Budget it was then revised by half a billion dollars to \$1.5 billion – to state that \$1.5 billion would be made available by the HPC.
- (a) Why did this revision occur?
- (b) The Planning Minister says that within the \$1.5 billion, whatever the HPC does not raise, will be covered by consolidated revenue. How much do you forecast that consolidated revenue will make of the \$1.5 billion?
- (c) What is the forecasting and funding breakdown of the HPC projected to be in each year over the forward estimates?
- (12) The 10 year, \$1 billion fund for Local Government as part of the HPC is going to be administered by Treasury.
- (a) What is the framework for this to take place?
- (b) When will the first funds be distributed to councils?
- (c) What is the process for councils to apply for funding?
- (d) Will there be an even \$100 million per year over the next 10 years, or will there be varying amounts each year – if so, how will this look?
- (13) The Government has committed \$520 million in funding for the TOD Accelerated sites, how much of this funding will come from the HPC?

(14) How much has been collected by the HPC from the introduction on 1 October 2023 to date, in the following areas?

(a) Greater Sydney, collected from the following land uses:

- i. Houses
- ii. “All other residential accommodation”
- iii. Industrial
- iv. Commercial
- v. Retail

(b) Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Central Coast and Lower Hunter, collected from the following land uses:

- i. Houses
- ii. “All other residential accommodation”
- iii. Industrial
- iv. Commercial
- v. Retail

(15) What is the yearly amount of housing and productivity contributions that the Government is budgeting to receive over the forward estimates?

- (a) 2023/24
- (b) 2024/25
- (c) 2025/26
- (d) 2026/27

(16) What is the projected yearly expenditure from the Housing and Productivity Contribution over the forward estimates?

- (a) 2023/24
- (b) 2024/25
- (c) 2025/26
- (d) 2026/27

Social and Affordable Housing

- (17) Have you canvassed any taxes on new developments to fund the construction of social and affordable housing?
- (18) Will you rule out any new contribution schemes to fund social and affordable housing?
- (19) Can you rule out a tax on private developments to fund the construction of social and affordable housing?
- (20) Can you rule out a tax of any sort to fund the construction of social and affordable housing?

Short-term rental accommodation (STRA)

- (21) Has the Government or Treasury canvassed what rate to set a potential STRA tax at?
- (22) Will the Government rule out a STRA tax impacting the entire state?
- (23) Would the Government consider a STRA tax, but only in certain postcodes or LGAs?
- (24) Has the Government or Treasury considered a Tourist Tax in Sydney and other holiday areas, similar to measures adopted in other cities such as Paris?
- (25) What have the findings been of modelling of STRA taxes by Treasury from other cities and jurisdictions around the world, including Victoria?
 - (a) Please share this modelling with PC1?
 - (b) If NSW were to adopt the exact Victorian policy announced last year in regard to a 7.5% STRA levy:
 - i. Has Treasury conducted this modelling?
 - ii. If so, please share how much money would be raised?
 - (c) Have you discussed specifically STRA levies and taxes with your Labor mate, the Victorian Treasurer?
- (26) Has the government or Treasury conducted any economic analysis regarding the impact of STRA on the NSW economy?
- (27) Has the government or Treasury conducted any comparative analysis of STRA regulations in other jurisdictions, both nationally and internationally? What insights or best practices have been identified from and how are they being incorporated into the development of STRA policy in NSW?

Temporary Nurses

- (28) The 2023-24 Budget includes provision of \$572.3 million for “converting 1,112 full-time equivalent nurses and midwives, positions which were funded temporarily to June 2024, to permanent” positions.
- (29) What is the estimated average annual salary for these 1,112 full time equivalent positions?
- (30) What are the additional employee related costs per full time equivalent position?
- (31) How many years does the \$572.3 million cover the employment of these 1,112 full time equivalent positions?
 - (a) What other costs, if any, are covered by the \$572.3 million?

Penrith Funding

- (32) Will the allocated \$65 million commitment for the transformation of Fernhill Estate into a public park be honoured?
 - (a) If not, why?
- (33) Will the allocated \$15 million commitment to progress the development of the Penrith Lakes precinct as a key tourism, recreation and sporting destination be honoured?
 - (a) If not, why?
- (34) Will Nepean Hospital will be receiving a new purpose-built palliative care facility, as previously announced?
- (35) Given the Federal Labor Government has cancelled their funding allocated to Mulgoa Road Stage 2, will the NSW Government be abandoning the project?
 - (a) If not, from where will funds be located to ensure road widening between Glenmore Parkway and Andrews Rd is completed?
- (36) Why does the NSW budget allocation for Penrith Stadium not account for inflation?
- (37) Has Ms Karen McKeown MP written to you asking you to reinstate funding for any of the following: palliative care at Nepean Hospital, Mulgoa Road Stage 2, Penrith Stadium, the Fernhill Estate or Penrith Lakes?
- (38) Many of the cuts announced over the past year were not supplied to the electorate prior to the election. Were the people of Penrith consulted on the budget cuts which affect their community?

TREASURER

Flood recovery funding

- (39) Will you commit \$1.5 billion dollars in funding to the Resilient Homes Program?
- (40) Has any Minister or representative of the NSW Government requested funding from the Federal Government towards the Resilient Homes Program?
- (a) If so, how much was requested?
- (b) If so, when was the request made?
- (41) Justine Elliot, the federal MP for Richmond, publicly stated that “I’m advised that the federal government hasn’t received a formal request from the NSW state government. We stand ready to assist and work with them”. Is it true that no formal request was made by the NSW Government?
- (a) If so, why has no request been made?
- (42) When can we expect the full \$1.5 billion funding for the Resilient Homes Program to be delivered?
- (a) When will the decision to fully fund this program be made?
- (b) What other support are people to avail themselves of while waiting for this support to be delivered?
- (c) If the Federal Government refuses to commit sufficient additional money, will you commit to fully fund the Resilient Homes Program with State funds?

Domestic violence expenditure

- (43) Will you commit to clearly stated Budget line items in the 2024-25 Budget Papers to ensure spending on domestic and family violence prevention and response in NSW can be tracked?
- (44) Eligibility criteria for the Shared Equity Scheme was broadened to allow victim survivors of domestic and family violence who didn’t meet the existing criteria to apply; this change commenced from January 2024. Given that the pilot will end on 30th June, does this give sufficient time to evaluate the impact and benefits of the scheme for victim survivors?
- (a) Will the Government continue the program beyond the pilot period?

(b) Will the NSW Government provide specific allocation for older women on low incomes in the shared equity housing scheme?

i. If not, why not?

TCorp Investments

(45) Does TCorp, across any of its funds under management, hold any investments in the following companies? If yes, please provide details of the value of the holdings, and details of which investment vehicle it is held by:

- (a) Shell
- (b) Woodside
- (c) BHP
- (d) Rio Tinto
- (e) Santos
- (f) Chevron
- (g) Anglo American
- (h) Glencore
- (i) Inpex
- (j) ConocoPhillips
- (k) South32
- (l) Esso Australia
- (m) Centennial Coal
- (n) Lockheed Martin
- (o) Boeing
- (p) General Dynamics
- (q) Elbit Systems
- (r) RTX Corp
- (s) Northrop Grumman
- (t) Aviation Industry Corporation of China

- (u) China North Industries Group
- (v) L3Harris Technologies
- (w) China South Industries Group
- (x) Airbus
- (y) Thales
- (z) Johnson & Johnson
- (aa) Sinopharm
- (bb) Roche
- (cc) Merck & Co
- (dd) Pfizer
- (ee) AbbVie
- (ff) Bayer
- (gg) Sanofi
- (hh) AstraZeneca
- (ii) GlaxoSmithKline
- (jj) Caesarstone
- (kk) Qantas
- (ll) Wesfarmers
- (mm) Coles Group
- (nn) News Corp
- (oo) Hewlett Packard
- (pp) Air BnB
- (qq) Commonwealth Bank
- (rr) ANZ
- (ss) Macquarie Bank
- (tt) Crown Resorts Ltd
- (uu) Star Entertainment Group

- (vv) TabCorp
 - (ww) Sportsbet
 - (xx) Ladbrokes
 - (yy) Starbucks
 - (zz) Disney
 - (aaa) Puma
 - (bbb) Soda Stream
 - (ccc) AXA
- (46) Across TCorp's funds under management, what is TCorp's exposure to the following industries:
- (a) Defence/Military/Aeronautical
 - (b) Pharmaceutical
 - (c) Coal
 - (d) Oil
 - (e) Gas
 - (f) Automotive
 - (g) Gambling
- (47) Does TCorp have investments or exposure to any of the companies listed in the [United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the report of the independent international factfinding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem?](#)
- (48) What is the value of tax breaks, incentives and loans provided to defence companies in NSW?

Procurement

- (49) How much money has Treasury and its agencies spent on products purchased from Hewlett Packard (inclusive of HP Enterprise businesses, HP end-user businesses, and any other businesses representing the Hewlett Packard brand) (HP):

- (a) Please provide this information for each financial year since 2018/19 including 2023/24 to 31 December 2023, divided by agency, and include a short description of the kinds of products purchased for each agency each year, including whether any money has been spent since 7 October 2023.
- (50) What policies and procedures does the Department and its agencies use to ensure that procurement is ethical and meets community standards?
- (51) If the Department or any of its agencies procure products from Hewlett Packard (meaning any business representing the Hewlett Packard brand), what probity checks have been done to investigate whether HP is involved in the 'plausible genocide' taking place in Gaza?
- (52) How many contractors currently work within the Treasury?
- (53) How many contractors have been on contracts longer than:
- (a) 3 months
 - (b) 6 months
 - (c) 12 month
 - (d) 18 months
 - (e) 24 months
 - (f) 36 months
- (54) What is the longest period of continuous employment for a contractor employed by the Department or its agencies?