

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023–24

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage Portfolios

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Answers to Supplementary Questions

Hearing: 7 March 2024

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage Portfolio

Questions from the Hon John Ruddick MLC

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage

1	The Renewable Energy Zone (Central-West Orana) Order 2021 was published in the Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales on 5th November 2021. The Energy Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020 states in Part 4, Division 1, Section 19 (4) The Minister may make a declaration only if the Minister (b) has considered the following (iii) the views of the local community in the renewable energy zone.
(a)	Where was the CWO REZ draft declaration document exhibited?
(b)	How many submissions were received during the CWO REZ draft declaration exhibition period?
i.	How many objections were made by members of the public?
ii.	How many objections were made by organisations?
iii.	How many objections were made by public authorities?
iv.	How many objections were made by renewable energy developers?
v.	How many submissions in support were made by members of the public?
vi.	How many submissions in support were made by organisations?
vii.	How many submissions in support were made by public authorities?
viii.	How many submissions in support were made by renewable energy developers?
ix.	How many comments were made by members of the public?
x.	How many comments were made by organisations?
xi.	How many comments were made by public authorities?
xii.	How many comments were made by renewable energy developers?
(c)	Are all submissions received throughout the CWO REZ draft declaration exhibition period available publicly? If they are publicly available, where are they located?
(d)	Were there any meetings held, within the then proposed CWO REZ boundary, to consult with stakeholders and/or community regarding the CWO REZ draft declaration? If yes, please provide all:
i.	Locations?

ii.	Dates?
iii.	Attendees?
iv.	Minutes?
(e)	What process did the Minister use to consider and measure the views of the local communities in the CWO REZ declaration?
2	In December 2023, a declaration amendment was made by the Minister to increase the capacity of the CWO REZ from 3GW to 6GW. EnergyCo invited feedback from the public regarding the proposed declaration amendment.
(a)	How many submissions were received by EnergyCo during the CWO REZ declaration amendment community feedback invitation period?
i.	How many objections were made by members of the public?
ii.	How many objections were made by organisations?
iii.	How many objections were public authorities?
iv.	How many objections were made by renewable energy developers?
v.	How many submissions in support were made by members of the public?
vi.	How many submissions in support were made by organisations?
vii.	How many submissions in support were made by public authorities?
viii.	How many submissions in support were made by renewable energy developers?
ix.	How many comments were made by members of the public?
x.	How many comments were made by organisations?
xi.	How many comments were made by public authorities?
xii.	How many comments were made by renewable energy developers?
(b)	Are all submissions received throughout the CWO REZ declaration amendment community feedback invitation period available publicly? If they are publicly available, where are they located?
(c)	What process did EnergyCo use to consider and measure the feedback received through the draft declaration amendment community feedback invitation period?
(d)	Can EnergyCo please demonstrate how they utilised the feedback received? Please give specific examples.
3	In the procurement documentation provided by EnergyCo to the Inquiry into NSW Government's Use and Management of Consulting Services it is stated that Umwelt

	(Australia) Pty Ltd was engaged to research and report on opportunities in CWO REZ for workforce accommodation to the value of \$135,695.99.
(a)	Is there a report with the findings from Umwelt's research publicly available? If yes, where?
(b)	When will a coordinated whole-of-REZ strategy be publicly documented and utilised as active collaboration between community, local Council's, developers and EnergyCo for a whole of CWO REZ workforce accommodation strategy?
4	The presentation for the Transgrid Advisory Council Meeting #8 on Thursday 21st September 2023 via MS Teams (available on the Transgrid website) includes a chapter on the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone.
(a)	What is Transgrid's current involvement in the CWO REZ?
5	Mid Western Regional Council commissioned PwC to assess the impacts of additional population on services, infrastructure and housing as a result of State Significant Development projects in the Mid Western Regional Local Government Area which was published in November 2023.
(a)	A whole-of-REZ local government capability study should have already been undertaken by the Infrastructure Planner to enable the successful delivery of the CWO REZ. When will EnergyCo fund or conduct this study? And, when will a report be made publicly available, and where?
(b)	How does EnergyCo plan to manage and address the major shortage of skilled tradespeople and professionals (ie. doctors, nurses, paramedics, builders, plumbers, electricians, local Government professionals, project managers etc.) already in the CWO REZ?

Answer

1	
(a)	In accordance with the Minister's statutory obligations under section 20(e) of the <i>Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020</i> , the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) draft declaration was exhibited on the former Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's website for public consultation for 28 days from 17 September 2021 to 15 October 2021.
(b)	Six submissions were received from stakeholders during the draft consultation period. All submissions were in support of the exhibited draft (three from renewable energy developers, two from public authorities, and one from an organisation). No submissions were received from members of the general public, and no objections were received from any stakeholders.
i.	See answer to question 1 (b).
ii.	See answer to question 1 (b).

iii.	See answer to question 1 (b).
iv.	See answer to question 1 (b).
v.	See answer to question 1 (b).
vi.	See answer to question 1 (b).
vii.	See answer to question 1 (b).
viii.	See answer to question 1 (b).
ix.	See answer to question 1 (b).
x.	See answer to question 1 (b).
xi.	See answer to question 1 (b).
xii.	See answer to question 1 (b).
(c)	Submissions were provided on the grounds that they would be confidential. Submissions will not be published.
(d)	Consistent with the Minister for Energy's statutory obligations under section 19(4)(b)(iii) of the <i>Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020</i> , the declaration was made in consideration of the views of the local community in the REZ. This included through landowner meetings, direct engagement with local councils, mailouts, and establishment of a Central-West Orana REZ Regional Reference Group with local community representatives. The proposed scale and scope of the Central-West Orana REZ identified in the declaration had been publicly available since the NSW Government's submission on AEMO's Integrated System Plan in March 2018.
i.	See answer to question 1 (d).
ii.	See answer to question 1 (d).
iii.	See answer to question 1 (d).
iv.	See answer to question 1 (d).
(e)	The former Department of Planning, Industry and Environment advised the Minister at the time that the declaration could be made consistent with statutory obligations under the <i>Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020</i> , including that views of the local community in the REZ had been considered and that the draft had been published for 28 days on the Department's website.
2	
(a)	While the <i>Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020</i> does not include any statutory obligations for consultation on declaration amendments, EnergyCo applied processes that would otherwise be required for a declaration to be made, including a 28 day

	<p>exhibition period for consultation on the draft declaration.</p> <p>Fifty-seven submissions were received from stakeholders during the draft declaration amendment exhibition period. Forty-nine objections were received, all from members of the public. Six submissions supported the declaration, including from renewable energy developers and community groups. Two submissions from public authorities made comments and did not explicitly support or object to the amendment.</p>
i.	See answer to question 2 (a).
ii.	See answer to question 2 (a).
iii.	See answer to question 2 (a).
iv.	See answer to question 2 (a).
v.	See answer to question 2 (a).
vi.	See answer to question 2 (a).
vii.	See answer to question 2 (a).
viii.	See answer to question 2 (a).
ix.	See answer to question 2 (a).
x.	See answer to question 2 (a).
xi.	See answer to question 2 (a).
xii.	See answer to question 2 (a).
(b)	<p>Submissions were provided on the grounds that they would be confidential. Submissions will not be published.</p>
(c)	<p>While the <i>Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020</i> includes no statutory obligations for consultation on declaration amendments, EnergyCo applied processes that would otherwise be required for a declaration to be made, including to consider the views of the local community in the REZ.</p> <p>EnergyCo sought feedback through the formal submission process and directly through community ‘pop-ups’, the Central-West Orana REZ Regional Reference Group, and other regular landowner and community events as part of EnergyCo’s standing community engagement and landowner consultation program. The draft amendment was informed by an earlier consultation on the scale and impact of the Central-West Orana REZ in early 2023. Outcomes of that consultation are available on the EnergyCo website at www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/cwo-rez#registration-of-interest.</p>
(d)	<p>EnergyCo used feedback to inform a recommendation that the Minister make the amendment. EnergyCo considered the representativeness of submissions and the relevance of issues raised to the amendment. Objections largely related to land-use impacts and were not directly related to the proposed declaration amendment.</p>

	EnergyCo considered feedback provided on the declaration amendment to inform its response to submissions on the Central-West Orana REZ Environmental Impact Statement.
3	
(a)	Yes, Umwelt’s research into housing and accommodation for the Central-West Orana REZ has been compiled into a research summary report which was published on EnergyCo’s website in March 2023. The report, <i>Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone – Coordinating community impacts and benefits in the REZ</i> (March 2023) can be viewed at www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/cwo-rez-report-research-impacts-benefits.pdf .
(b)	<p>In April 2023, EnergyCo established a Central-West Orana REZ Steering Committee to identify community benefit opportunities and strategies to coordinate REZ-wide impacts. The steering committee includes Dubbo Regional Council, Mid-Western Regional Council and Warrumbungle Shire Council, and relevant government agencies including the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and the Department of Regional NSW. The committee includes project working groups across five priority areas including training and skills, roads and transport, economic development and participation, environmental delivery and housing and accommodation. The housing and accommodation working group prepared a draft action plan to support outcomes for housing in the REZ including for workforce accommodation. The draft plan is now with the steering committee for consideration.</p> <p>On 5 September 2023, the NSW Electricity Supply and Reliability Check Up was released, which included Recommendation 2 that the NSW Government establish a Whole-of-Government Steering Committee to coordinate priority areas across the REZs. The NSW Government has since established the Whole-of-Government Steering Committee, which is responsible for coordinating a whole-of-REZ strategy across priority areas. The Central-West Orana REZ Steering Committee has provided the draft actions plans to the Whole-of-Government Steering Committee to help inform outcomes for the REZ, including for housing and workforce accommodation.</p> <p>EnergyCo has continued to work with agencies such as NSW Health via an memorandum of understanding and the Department of Regional NSW to identify housing initiatives in the Central-West Orana REZ and has been supporting local councils to develop priority housing projects for their communities. EnergyCo will continue to work closely with Infrastructure NSW and the Premier’s Department to support the Whole-of-Government Steering Committee including refining the strategic work of the Central-West Orana REZ Steering Committee to help inform Whole-of-Government-led REZ-wide coordination.</p>
4	
(a)	<p>Transgrid is responsible for the delivery of the non-contestable works, which involves modification of Transgrid’s existing 500 kilovolt (kV) network to accommodate the connection of the Central-West Orana REZ to Transgrid’s shared network. In particular, Transgrid’s non-contestable work scope consists of four elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New 330kV transmission line from Bayswater to Liddell

	<p>2. New 330kV transmission line from Mt Piper to Wallerawang</p> <p>3. Line cut in works into a New Wollar 500kV switching station</p> <p>4. Facilitation of construction outages for transmission line 79 (TL79) overcrossings.</p> <p>Transgrid and EnergyCo have entered into a Project Development Deed, under which Transgrid is carrying out various early works associated with the above.</p>
5	
(a)	<p>A research summary report, <i>Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone – Coordinating community impacts and benefits in the REZ</i> (March 2023) can be viewed at www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/cwo-rez-report-research-impacts-benefits.pdf.</p>
(b)	<p>The Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap is a strategic priority for the NSW Government. A NSW Whole-of-Government Steering Committee is overseeing coordination and delivery of the Roadmap, including matters such as workforce development in accordance with recommendations 2 and 43 of the Government's response to the NSW Electricity Supply and Reliability Check Up in August 2023.</p> <p>When the Roadmap was established, initiatives were put in place to address the matter of workforce development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• establishing a Renewable Energy Sector Board and plan for participation requirements in Roadmap projects• appointing an Electricity Infrastructure Jobs Advocate to advise the Minister on strategies and incentives to encourage investment, development, workforce development, employment, education and training in the energy sector• establishing a minimum employment purpose component as part of access fees, which can be used to invest in programs, services or facilities to support employment, training or skill outcomes• establishing the NSW Roadmap Implementation Steering Committee will facilitate a joined up, whole-of-government approach to these key challenges. <p>EnergyCo also co-chairs a Central-West Orana REZ Steering Committee with local councils in the REZ to investigate and address matters relating to the planning, design and delivery of the REZ.</p>

Questions from the Hon Chris Rath MLC

ENVIRONMENT

State of the Environment Report 2024

6	When will the 2024 State of the Environment Report will be released?
(a)	Will the report follow the same template as the 2021 State of the Environment Report to ensure an easy comparison?

(b)	Are you planning to add any new indicators that will be measured?
(c)	Have the Minister been provided with a draft of the report?
(d)	Can any preliminary outcomes from the report be shared at this time?

Answer

6	The NSW Environment Protection Authority will deliver the State of the Environment 2024 report to the Minister for the Environment by its statutory deadline of the end of 2024.
(a)	The 2024 report will again be delivered on a website, with topics grouped under environmental themes. The report will contain updated data and some new additional topics. The report will provide trends for indicators, showing change over time, to enable comparison to previous reports.
(b)	The environmental indicators for the State of the Environment 2024 were reviewed to ensure they are relevant, measurable, and complete. Potential additional indicators may be considered in the development of the report.
(c)	No.
(d)	No. The report will be tabled in Parliament when complete.

Lithium Ion Battery Fires

7	In August last year the Government announced the EPA would be rolling out social media content that warns of the risks of batteries and advises consumers how to properly dispose of old, unused or dead batteries. How is that campaign progressing?
(a)	How much has been spent on designing that social media content?
(b)	How much has the EPA spent on social media advertising for that content?
(c)	Over what months was the social media content rolled out and through which social media channels?
(d)	Given there have been 45 Lithium-Ion battery related fires in NSW so far in 2024, will the EPA be doing any further work to raise awareness of the issue?
(e)	When was the Minister last briefed on Lithium-Ion Battery fires in NSW?

Answer

7	The campaign, which ran in August 2023, has continued reinforcement of key messaging in 2024, including through a partnership with B-Cycle. B-Cycle is a voluntary scheme operated by the Battery Stewardship Council. The B-Cycle program covers loose handheld batteries and has drop-off points located at many retailers, including major supermarkets. The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is working with B-Cycle to establish accredited drop off points for household, used
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	batteries and small handheld devices with embedded batteries (i.e. vapes) at all community recycling centres.
(a)	The EPA used in-house design, so no external costs have been incurred.
(b)	\$0.
(c)	A three-week campaign was delivered in August 2023, with continued reinforcement in 2024 of key messaging, including through a partnership with B-Cycle.
(d)	Yes, this issue remains a key priority for the EPA in 2024. The EPA, in partnership with other government agencies including Fire and Rescue NSW, will continue to raise awareness through a number of platforms.
(e)	<p>The EPA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tony Chappel, attended a meeting hosted by the Minister for the Environment on 30 January 2024, with key industry and government stakeholders about battery safety.</p> <p>There are ongoing discussions between the EPA and the Minister on this important issue.</p>

Asbestos

8	What is the earliest date for which you have evidence that asbestos contaminated mulch was laid at any site in NSW?
(a)	What is the earliest date you have of asbestos contaminated mulch being laid at an NSW Government school?

Answer

8	The NSW Environment Protection Authority’s (EPA) investigation is focused between March to December 2023. No additional details can be provided due to the EPA’s ongoing investigation.
(a)	Liverpool West Public School and Allambie Heights Public School were the only two schools that had a confirmed asbestos find in mulch as part of the EPA investigation. It was first laid at Liverpool West Public School. The mulch at Liverpool West Public School was installed in two stages: Stage 1 was completed between March 2023 and April 2023, and Stage 2 was completed between July 2023 and October 2023. The mulch at Allambie Heights Public School was installed in December 2023.

HERITAGE

Heritage NSW and Government’s Housing Plans

9	Has Heritage NSW raised any concerns about the Government’s low and mid-rise housing State Environmental Planning Policy (LMHR SEPP), the Transport Oriented Development Program (TOD Program) and their application to Heritage Conservation Areas and Individual Heritage Listings?
(a)	Has the Minister requested any briefings from Heritage NSW about the impacts the

	Government’s housing plans could have on Heritage Conservation Areas and Individual Heritage Listings in NSW?
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Answer

9	Heritage NSW provides advice to the Minister for Heritage and relevant NSW Government agencies on matters relating to the heritage portfolio on an ongoing basis.
(a)	The Minister for Heritage seeks advice from Heritage NSW on matters relating to the heritage portfolio on an ongoing basis.

Haberfield and Camden Town Centre Heritage Listing

10	Since becoming Minister, has the Minister or her office written to Heritage NSW to advocate for or provide support for the listing of Haberfield or Camden Town Centre on the NSW Heritage Register?
(a)	Has the Minister requested any briefings on the work to register Haberfield or Camden Town Centre on the NSW Heritage Register?

Answer

10	<p>The Heritage Council of NSW considered nominations to list Haberfield and Camden Town Centre on the NSW State Heritage Register on 31 January 2023 (Haberfield) and 4 December 2023 (Camden Town Centre). While it considered that both places may be of State heritage significance, the Heritage Council resolved not to progress either nomination as they were not current priorities.</p> <p>Under the current legislation, the listing of large cultural landscapes (including heritage conservation areas) is complex due to high numbers of landowners, varied land uses and heritage values requiring consideration. Nominations for large cultural landscapes have not been prioritised since the inquiry into the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> in 2021, when the NSW Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Issues recommended the Heritage Act be amended to enable a more varied, inclusive and nuanced concept of what constitutes the State’s heritage, including as it relates to cultural and urban landscapes.</p> <p>The NSW Government is committed to implementing the inquiry recommendations, which will ensure the Heritage Act meets the changing needs of the community.</p>
(a)	Heritage NSW has kept me informed on matters being considered as part of the development of the NSW Heritage Strategy.

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

ENVIRONMENT

National Parks - Acquisitions

11	On what date did the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) make the decision
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	to purchase lands under Part 11 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPWA) 1974</i> in the vicinity of the Pilliga?
(a)	Who made that decision?
i.	Did the Minister for Environment have any role in that decision?
ii.	Was the Minister briefed before an offer was made?
(b)	On what date was the final decision made to exchange contracts on the land?
i.	Who made that decision?
ii.	Did the Minister for Environment have any role in that decision?
(c)	What acquisition fund was used to purchase the site?
i.	Was it the general acquisitions budget?
ii.	Was it from the Koala Strategy fund?
iii.	How much was spent on it?
(d)	Was the purchase based on areas that are in demand for biodiversity credits?
(e)	Has a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement yet been developed for this land?
(f)	Will gazetting that land as a National Park or conservation reserve under the NPWA extinguish any BSA, if it were developed?
(g)	What credit value is attributed to the land through the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology?
(h)	What consultation was undertaken in relation to the pilot program associated with this land?
i.	List the stakeholders?
ii.	Provide the dates of any and all public consultation processes or events?
12	Is there a program, pilot or otherwise, that would allow the NPWS to supply biodiversity credits using Part 11 lands?
(a)	Under the program, could these lands be used to generate profits from credits bought to offset Government or non-government developments?
(b)	How is this consistent with the objects of the NPWA 1974?
i.	How is it justified given the land acquired for the reserve system is already destined for management as a conservation reserve, and there can be no higher management to provide additionality?

(c)	Is National Parks proposing to 'sit on' land acquired for reservation under the NPWA 1974 and just not gazette it for 20 years in order to obtain biodiversity credits for it?
(d)	Are there any provisions under the NPWA 1974 to do anything else with Part 11 Lands BUT to gazette them as National Parks or conservation reserves?
i.	What are the provisions?
(e)	What does this mean for private landholders who are now effectively competing with publicly subsidised credit creation?
(f)	How is a proposal to use Part 11 Lands for an entirely different purpose than that specified in the NPWA 1974 lawful?
(g)	How does the purchasing of land based, on demand for biodiversity credits, avoid subverting the Reserve Acquisition Plan and the priority areas for acquisition based on conservation significance?
(h)	Has NPWS been in discussions with developers seeking biodiversity credits about this 'pilot' and the program for Part 11 Lands?
i.	Which developers has NPWS spoken to about the scheme?
ii.	When did these discussions occur?
(i)	Have any developers asked NPWS to purchase Part 11 lands that meet their credit requirements, or expressed an interest to NPWS in purchasing Part 11 lands so that they can gain planning approval on the basis of the credits created?
i.	List the developer entities?
(j)	What measures has NPWS put in place to ensure maximum accountability and full transparency around any discussions with developers relating to biodiversity credit creation?
13	Is NPWS currently undertaking BAM assessments on land prior to purchasing for addition to the reserve estate?
(a)	How many BAM assessments have been done?
(b)	How much does each BAM cost on average?
(c)	How much has been spent by NPWS on BAM assessments for potential land purchases for each year over the last three years?

Answer

11	<p>The process for deciding whether to purchase the relevant Pilliga property included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an assessment of conservation values, which identified very high conservation values (see response to 11(d) below)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commissioning of independent valuations • commercial negotiations by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) representatives with the agent representing the vendor, noting the land was on the open market. <p>This process began under the previous government.</p> <p>Following initial discussions with the agent, approval to make a conditional offer, subject to Ministerial approval, was given by the Acting Coordinator-General of the then Environment and Heritage Group on 20 March 2023 (during the caretaker period).</p> <p>Following further negotiations, approval to make a binding offer was given by the Minister for the Environment on 29 May 2023.</p> <p>The contract to acquire the property was exchanged on 13 June 2023.</p>
(a)	See answer to question 11.
i.	See answer to question 11.
ii.	See answer to question 11. The Minister was briefed prior to a binding offer being made.
(b)	See answer to question 11.
i.	See answer to question 11.
ii.	See answer to question 11.
(c)	Funding was sourced from the NSW Koala Strategy and Climate Change Fund (Parks Acquisition and Establishment Program).
i.	In part (see answer to question 11 (c)).
ii.	In part (see answer to question 11 (c)).
iii.	\$4 million.
(d)	<p>No. The purchase was made based on the high conservation values of the property. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one landscape that is not protected in any other national park in NSW • three endangered ecological communities • seven plant community types that are not reserved in any other national park • a large area of high quality koala habitat • habitat suitable for at least 15 threatened species – for example, the glossy black cockatoo • floodplain soils and vegetation communities that are distinct and very poorly represented in the nearby Pilliga reserves – this floodplain vegetation is at very high risk of clearing for broadacre agriculture.

(e)	No.
(f)	Yes. When land is reserved, under Part 4 or Part 4A of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> (NPW Act), a biodiversity stewardship agreement that applies to the land is terminated.
(g)	An application for a biodiversity stewardship agreement has not yet been made in relation to the pilot site.
(h)	Property transactions are confidential, and consultation is not undertaken prior to property purchase.
i.	See answer to question 11 (h).
ii.	See answer to question 11 (h).
12	There is only one site. That site is a pilot.
(a)	<p>There is no program. There is a single site which is a pilot. By law, any revenue generated by the sale of credits on Part 11 land must be applied to the management of reserved land (including to fund any restoration commitments under a biodiversity stewardship agreement).</p> <p>A final decision on whether to enter into a biodiversity stewardship agreement has not yet been made in relation to the pilot property.</p>
(b)	The pilot is consistent with the objects of the NPW Act, which include the conservation of nature and conservation of habitat, ecosystems and biological diversity of communities and species.
i.	Issues related to additionality will be considered as part of the pilot. This will include consideration of the nature and extent of relevant restoration activities.
(c)	If a biodiversity stewardship agreement is entered into, the land will be restored and managed accordingly.
(d)	Land acquired under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> is dealt with in accordance with that Act.
i.	See answer to question 11 (d).
(e)	<p>If credits are created and sold as a result of this pilot, this will occur in accordance with Government principles on competitive neutrality. The same principle applies to the creation and sale of credits on other public land or by other public agencies.</p> <p>The Final Report of the Independent Review of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> recommended (recommendation 39): ‘Consider allowing all land types to participate in the supply of credits, subject to strict application of transparent additionality principles. If public lands are used to generate credits, require independent review of the outcomes achieved, with public reporting’. This report is now being considered by the Government. The issues identified in the independent review, and the Government response, will inform further consideration of the pilot project.</p>

(f)	Part 11 lands (including the relevant Pilliga property which is the subject of the pilot) are managed in a way that is consistent with the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
(g)	The Pilliga property is of high conservation value – see response to question 11(d) above – consistent with the National Parks Establishment Plan and the principles consistently applied to prioritisation of land for addition to the national park estate.
(h)	No. NPWS is not involved in discussions with developers seeking biodiversity credits about the pilot Pilliga property.
i.	See answer to question 12 (h).
ii.	See answer to question 12 (h).
(i)	No. See answer to question 12 (h).
i.	See answer to question 12 (i).
(j)	There are no discussions between NPWS and developers relating to biodiversity credit creation on Part 11 land. See answer to question 12 (h).
13	No. The Pilliga property, as a pilot, is the only property for which a Biodiversity Assessment Method assessment will be undertaken.
(a)	A Biodiversity Assessment Method assessment for the one pilot property is underway.
(b)	The cost of a Biodiversity Assessment Method assessment varies depending on the size and complexity of property being assessed.
(c)	No Biodiversity Assessment Method assessments have been done prior to purchase of land under the NPW Act.

National Parks - Fires

14	Has the Department of Planning and Environment (and/or NPWS) completed studies to determine the total ecological impact to each National Park, State Forest, State Conservation Area and any other reserves owned by the NSW Government resulting from the 2019/2020 bushfires?
(a)	What were the outcomes for each reserve?
(b)	Can these reports be provided for each of the reserves affected by the 2019/2020 fires?
15	Has the NPWS carried out a strategic appraisal as to why so much area was burnt in National Parks and Nature Reserves by the 2019 / 2020 bushfires?
(a)	Can this report be provided?
16	Has NPWS conducted a strategic evaluation of the agency's performance during the 2019/2020 fires?

(a)	Can this report be provided?
17	What were the final operational costs for the Forestry Corporation & National Parks and Wildlife Service for each of the following fires that involved backburn escapes identified by fire scientist Nicholas Gellie?
(a)	Bees Nest
(b)	Drake – Long Gully
(c)	Busby’s Flat
(d)	Carrai Creek
(e)	Liberation Trail and Old Glen Innes Road
(f)	Stockyard Flat
(g)	Stockyard East
(h)	Gulf Road-Torrington
(i)	Muck Creek
(j)	Schultz Road
(k)	Kian Road complex
(l)	Myall Creek
(m)	Gospers Mountain
(n)	Mummel Road
(o)	Currowan – Clyde River
(p)	Green Wattle-Kowmung River – Yerranderie Road
(q)	Green Wattle-Kowmung River – Balmoral
(r)	Currowan – Clyde Mountain
(s)	Green Wattle -Kowmung River – Jenolan Caves
(t)	Currowan – Conjola Park
(u)	Green Valley
(v)	Dunns Road
(w)	Badja Forest
18	What were the number of aerial resources requested, approved and actively engaged

	in the following fires for each date set out below. Please break down the figures into each category (requested, approved, engaged) and date:
(a)	Green Valley / Talmalmo (29-30 December 2019)
(b)	Dunns Road (27-29 December 2019)
(c)	Badja Forest Road (27-29 December 2019)
(d)	Busbys Flat (4-7 October 2019)
(e)	Stockyard Flat (including Stockyard East and Stockyard West 4-8 November 2019)
19	Since the 2019 / 2020 fires, have any measures been implemented by NPWS to improve the agency's capacity to detect and quickly suppress remote fire ignitions?
(a)	What are these measures?
(b)	How much have these measures cost?
20	What are the costs to date for NPWS legal representation in the NSW Coronial Inquiry into the 2019 / 202 fire season?

Answer

14	As part of the NSW Fire and the Environment 2019–20 Summary, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Science, Economics and Insights Division undertook a tenure blind assessment of the impact of the 2019–2020 bushfires. This included National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) reserves, state forests and World Heritage areas. From these analyses, priorities for management were identified for NPWS tenure.
(a)	The analysis focused on identifying state level priorities and was not documented at an individual reserve level. NPWS contributed expertise and data to the development of the state level recovery plans.
(b)	<p>The NSW Fire and the Environment 2019–20 Summary is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/Fire/fire-and-the-environment-2019-20-summary-200108.pdf.</p> <p>The Wildlife and Conservation Bushfire Recovery: Immediate Response January 2020 is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/wildlife-and-conservation-bushfire-recovery-immediate-response.</p> <p>The NSW Wildlife and Conservation Bushfire Recovery: Medium-term response plan is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/Fire/nsw-wildlife-and-conservation-bushfire-recovery-medium-term-response-plan-200478.pdf.</p>
15	The NSW Bushfire Inquiry concluded that multiple factors combined together contributed to the number and size of the 2019–2020 bushfires. Although on average,

	fuel levels were no higher than they had been for the last 30 years, the combination of extremely dry conditions and lightning storms led to ignitions that were propelled by record breaking fire weather conditions. NPWS has not conducted a separate strategic appraisal.
(a)	The Final Report of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry is available at www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2023-06/Final-Report-of-the-NSW-Bushfire-Inquiry.pdf .
16	NPWS contributed to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry that included multiple submissions and provision of all available intelligence as requested.
(a)	Not applicable.
17	<p>When a fire is managed by a single agency it is a Class 1 fire. NPWS is the lead agency for all Class 1 fires noted in the below responses.</p> <p>Once a Section 44 is declared, fires are managed as a group of fires within the Section 44 boundary and a new financial (WBS) code is created for the Section 44. The Section 44 is managed by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) as the lead agency, however NPWS continues to allocate costs to the appropriate code for time and resources.</p> <p>Section 44 WBS codes may capture costs for one or many fires. The NPWS costs associated with the Section 44 codes have been provided for the fires listed. As multiple fire locations can be incorporated into the same Section 44 declaration, the NPWS costs provided in questions 17 (a-w) may also include costs associated with fires which have not been listed in the question.</p>
(a)	<p>Bees Nest, Long Gully Drake, Carrai Creek, Stockyard Flat and Mummel Road were all incorporated in the same Section 44 (Section 44/19-20005). The costs for each specific fire cannot be obtained.</p> <p>NPWS costs for Section 44/19-20005 were \$13,859,336.62.</p> <p>The Bees Nest fire had its own code prior to becoming a Section 44 as it was initially a Class 1 fire. NPWS costs for Bees Nest as a Class 1 fire were \$1,111,194.18.</p>
(b)	Long Gully Drake – see answer for Bees Nest at question 17 (a).
(c)	Busbys Flat was part of Section 44/19-20009. NPWS costs for this Section 44 were \$398,872.40.
(d)	Carrai Creek – see answer for Bees Nest at question 17 (a).
(e)	<p>‘Liberation Trail and Old Glen Innes Road’ is not the name of one fire.</p> <p>NPWS records indicate there were three fires with those names:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberation Trail – ICON number 19110454354 • Old Glen Innes Road, Newton Boyd – ICON number 19102853435 • Old Glen Innes Road (2) – ICON number 19081544445.

	<p>Liberation trail, Gulf Road, Muck Creek, Schultz Road, Old Glen Innes Road and Newtown Boyd were all incorporated in the same Section 44 (Section 44/19-20013). The costs for each specific fire cannot be obtained once the Section 44 was declared. NPWS costs for Section 44/19-20013 were \$2,577,124.33.</p> <p>Old Glen Innes Road (2) was part of Section 44/19-20002. NPWS costs for this Section 44 were \$620,611.72.</p>
(f)	Stockyard Flat – see answer for Bees Nest at question 17 (a).
(g)	Stockyard East was part of Section 44/19-20011. NPWS costs for this Section 44 were \$3,033,371.18.
(h)	Gulf Road-Torrington – see answer for Liberation trail at question 17 (e).
(i)	<p>Muck Creek – see answer for Liberation trail at question 17 (e).</p> <p>Muck Creek had its own code prior to becoming a Section 44 as it was initially a Class 1 fire. NPWS costs for Muck Creek as a Class 1 fire were \$314,900.03.</p>
(j)	Schultz Road – see answer for Liberation Trail at question 17 (e).
(k)	Kian Road was part of Section 44/19-20012. NPWS costs of this Section 44 were \$3,788,627.66.
(l)	<p>NPWS records indicate there were two fires with Myall Creek in their name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myall Creek Road – ICON number 19110855043 • Myall Creek Road – ICON number 19122265993. <p>Both fires were part of Section 44/19-20015. NPWS costs for Section 44/19 – 20015 were \$1,728,953.83.</p>
(m)	Gospers Mountain was part of Section 44/19-20031. NPWS costs for this Section 44 were \$3,812,082.84.
(n)	Mummel Road – see answer for Bees Nest at question 17 (a).
(o)	<p>There was no fire with the specific name, Currowan – Clyde River.</p> <p>There were two fires in 2019–20 with Currowan in their name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currowan 2 - ICON number 20011071572 • Currowan Fire - ICON number 19112660058. <p>Both Currowan and Currowan 2 were part of Section 44/19-20033.</p> <p>See answer for ‘Currowan – Clyde Mountain’ at question 17 (r) for NPWS costs.</p>
(p)	<p>There was no fire with the specific name, Green Wattle-Kowmung River – Yerranderie Road.</p> <p>There was only one fire with a similar name, and it was Green Wattle.</p> <p>The Green Wattle fire was part of Section 44/19-20034.</p>

	NPWS costs for Section 44/19- 20034 were \$3,019,555.30.
(q)	<p>There was no fire with the specific name, Green Wattle-Kowmung River – Balmoral. There was only one fire with a similar name, and it was Green Wattle.</p> <p>The Green Wattle fire was part of Section 44/19-20034.</p> <p>See answer for ‘Green Wattle-Kowmung River – Yerranderie Road’ at question 17 (p) for NPWS costs.</p>
(r)	<p>There was no fire with the specific name, Currowan – Clyde Mountain.</p> <p>There were two fires in 2019–20 with Currowan in their name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currowan 2 - ICON number 20011071572 • Currowan Fire - ICON number 19112660058. <p>Both Currowan and Currowan 2 were part of Section 44/19-20033.</p> <p>NPWS costs for Section 44/19-20033 were \$547,608.56.</p> <p>Currowan had its own code prior to becoming a Section 44 as it was initially a Class 1 fire. NPWS costs for Currowan as a Class 1 fire were \$443,003.37.</p>
(s)	<p>There was no fire with the specific name, Green Wattle-Kowmung River – Jenolan Caves.</p> <p>There was only one fire with a similar name, and it was Green Wattle.</p> <p>The Green Wattle fire was part of Section 44/19-20034.</p> <p>See answer for ‘Green Wattle-Kowmung River – Yerranderie Road’ at question 17 (p) for NPWS costs.</p>
(t)	<p>There was no fire with the specific name, Currowan – Conjola Park.</p> <p>There were two fires in 2019–20 with Currowan in their name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currowan 2 ICON number 20011071572 • Currowan Fire ICON number 19112660058. <p>Both Currowan and Currowan 2 were part of Section 44/19-20033.</p> <p>See answer for Currowan – Clyde Mountain at question 17 (r) for NPWS costs.</p>
(u)	Green Valley was part of Section 44/19-20042. NPWS costs for this Section 44 were \$97,563.10.
(v)	<p>Dunns Road was part of Section 44/19-20040. NPWS costs for this Section 44 were \$3,755,325.03.</p> <p>Dunns Road had its own code prior to becoming a Section 44 as it was initially a Class 1 fire. NPWS costs for Dunns Road as a Class 1 fire were \$139,391.88.</p>
(w)	Badja Forest was part of Section 44/19-20041. NPWS costs for this Section 44 were \$1,025,097.88.
18	This question should be referred to the Minister for Emergency Services.

	This request for data should be referred to the Rural Fire Service because they were in control of these fires and deployed the aircraft.
(a)	See answer to question 18.
(b)	See answer to question 18.
(c)	See answer to question 18.
(d)	See answer to question 18.
(e)	See answer to question 18.
19	Yes, NPWS has implemented measures to improve the agency's capacity to detect and quickly suppress remote fire ignitions.
(a)	<p>Satellite fire detection</p> <p>OroraTech is a satellite-based fire detection system that has access to numerous satellites for the detection of heat signatures across the landscape. The system scans and assesses the surface of the Earth as the satellites pass overhead. The system applies intelligence to the data and determines if there is a fire present. Upon successful detection of fire, the system automatically notifies subscribed users. Users can interrogate the system via a subscription web portal.</p> <p>From 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022, NPWS engaged OroraTech for a six-month fee-for-service proof of concept trial. OroraTech offered NPWS a free two-month extension up until 28 February 2023 which was accepted.</p> <p>The 2022–2023 bushfire season was significantly less than anticipated and as such the initial proof-of-concept trial was not productive in terms of demonstrating fire detection in NSW. The trial was extended for an additional period from 1 March 2023 to 30 June 2024 on a fee-for-service basis. In NSW, the 2023–24 bushfire season has provided adequate fire ignitions to assess the technology. NPWS is currently undertaking an evaluation of the satellite fire detection trial.</p> <p>Fire cameras</p> <p>NPWS increased access to 19 fire camera locations. Since 2019–20, NPWS has enhanced fire camera capability through the installation of new cameras and the movement of all NPWS fire cameras (excluding Southern Ranges) to a new, single platform.</p> <p>Cameras in NPWS Southern Ranges are now actively monitored by a third party during times of elevated fire danger. NPWS is in early discussions with providers of fire cameras that use new and emerging technology, including artificial Intelligence to detect smoke and trigger notifications. This technology has become accessible since 2019–20.</p> <p>Additional aircraft</p> <p>NPWS procured an additional helicopter for the NPWS Flight Operations Unit that was available online in October 2021 to increase fire detection and response capacity as part of its Rapid Response Program.</p>

	<p>NPWS now has an internal fleet of five helicopters and one fixed-wing aircraft, plus an externally contracted helicopter specifically for NPWS Rapid Aerial Response Teams during the bushfire danger period.</p> <p>Additional firefighters</p> <p>Since 2019–20, NPWS has increased its firefighting workforce by 250 personnel. At the most recent census date (30 September 2023), NPWS had more than 1267 trained and current firefighters.</p> <p>Fire Access Fire Trail upgrades</p> <p>NPWS manages approximately 40,000 kilometres of roads and trails, including 31,148 kilometres of fire trails.</p> <p>Fire Access and Fire Trail (FAFT) Plans prepared by the RFS, working with local Bush Fire Management Committees, identify networks of strategic and tactical fire trails across public and private land in NSW. NPWS is currently implementing an accelerated program of upgrades and maintenance of the fire trail network in national parks as specified in FAFT Plans.</p> <p>In 2022–23, NPWS delivered \$25.1 million in fire trail upgrades with an additional \$20.1 million of fire trail maintenance in priority areas.</p>
(b)	<p>Satellite fire detection</p> <p>As of 20 March 2024, NPWS has spent \$280,419.40 on OroraTech software for 21 months of service.</p> <p>Fire cameras</p> <p>The provision of new cameras and upgraded hardware and software was \$160,000. Estimated NPWS spend on monitored fire cameras in the Southern Ranges Branch since 2019–20 is \$420,000.</p> <p>New/additional aircraft</p> <p>The new aircraft cost NPWS \$5,620,974.78 including GST and freight.</p>
20	<p>The total costs for NPWS legal representation in the NSW Coronial Inquiry into the 2019–2020 bushfire season are \$208,953.79 (excluding GST). Of this, \$96,375 was incurred in legal fees and \$112,578.79 in disbursements. All costs are covered by iCare.</p>

Environment Protection Authority

21	List the names of the laboratories that were found to be re-testing samples in the 2013 EPA investigation into recovered fines.
22	List the names of the facilities that produce recovered fines that were found to be re-testing samples in the 2013 EPA investigation into recovered fines.
23	List the names of the laboratories that were found to be re-testing samples in the 2019 EPA investigation into recovered fines.
24	List the names of the facilities that produce recovered fines that were found to be re-

	testing samples in the 2019 EPA investigation into recovered fines.
25	Which facilities were found not to be compliant with EPA sampling requirements in 2013?
(a)	Which facilities were found not to be compliant with EPA sampling requirements in 2019?
26	Which facilities were found to have contaminants other than asbestos in their recovered fines in 2013?
(a)	Which facilities were found to have contaminants other than asbestos in their recovered fines in 2019?
27	Which facilities were found to have asbestos in their recovered fines in 2013?
(a)	Which facilities were found to have asbestos in their recovered fines in 2019?
28	List the locations where contaminated or potentially contaminated recovered fines were used?
29	Is the EPA testing samples of mulch taken as part of its investigation for other contaminants?
(a)	List the other contaminants?
30	How many samples taken as part of the mulch investigation have returned positive results for contaminants other than asbestos?
31	How many samples taken as part of the mulch investigation contained construction and demolition waste?

Answer

21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney Environmental and Soil Laboratory - Thornleigh.
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benedict Recycling Pty Limited - Chipping Norton. • Benedict - Belrose.
23	<p>The following laboratories were found to be re-testing recovered fines samples (at the request of their clients) during the 2019 compliance campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney Environmental and Soil Laboratory - Thornleigh. • Resource Laboratories - Seven Hills. • Envirolab Services - Chatswood. • Eurofins - Lane Cove West. • ALS Environmental - Smithfield.
24	The following facilities producing recovered fines (referencing names as relevant at the appropriate time) were found to be re-testing sampling during the 2019

	<p>compliance campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bingo Industries - Auburn. • Breen Resources Pty Ltd - Kurnell. • South Coast Equipment Recycling - Warrawong. • Hi-Quality Waste Management Pty Ltd -St Marys. • Benedict Recycling Pty Limited - Mayfield West. • Benedict Industries Pty Limited - Moorebank. • Benedict Recycling Pty Limited - Chipping Norton. • Benedict - Belrose. • Brandown Pty Limited - Cecil Park.
25	<p>As set out in the final report for the 2013 compliance campaign, the following facilities producing recovered fines (referencing facility names at the relevant time) were found not to be complying with EPA sampling requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRC Pty Ltd - St Peters. • H. Hassarati & Co Pty Ltd - Greenacre. • Pittwater Council - Ingleside. • Sydney Transwaste Industries Pty Ltd - Homebush West. • Genesis - Eastern Creek. • Hi-Quality Waste Management Pty Ltd - St Marys. • Get Fast - Mortdale. • Aussie Skips Recycling Pty Ltd - Strathfield South. • Shoalhaven Excavation & Plant Hire Pty Ltd - South Nowra. • Ballina Shire Council - Ballina. • Botany Building Recyclers - Banksmeadow.
(a)	<p>In relation to the 2019 compliance campaign, the following facilities producing recovered fines (referencing facility names at the relevant time) were found not to be complying with EPA sampling requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hi-Quality Waste Management Pty Ltd - St Marys. • Benedict Recycling Pty Limited - Chipping Norton. • Benedict - Belrose. • Benedict Recycling Pty Limited - Mayfield West. • Benedict Industries Pty Limited - Moorebank. • Builders Recycling Operations Pty Ltd - Chester Hill. • Aussie Skips Recycling Pty Ltd - South Strathfield. • Brandown Pty Limited - Cecil Park.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breen Resources Pty Ltd - Kurnell. • KLF Holdings Pty Ltd - Camellia. • Budget Waste Recycling Pty Ltd (trading as Dump It Bins) - Arndell Park. • Rock and Dirt Pty Ltd - Clarendon. • South Coast Equipment Recycling - Warrawong. • Bingo Industries - Adderly, Greenacre, Helensburgh, McPherson, Minto, Revesby, St Marys, Wollongong.
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KLF Holdings Pty Ltd - Camellia. • Pittwater Council - Ingleside. • Sydney Transwaste Industries Pty Ltd - Homebush West. • Genesis - Eastern Creek. • Aussie Skips Recycling Pty Ltd - Strathfield South. • Dats Environmental Services Pty Ltd - Strathfield South. • Botany Building Recyclers - Banksmeadow.
(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aussie Skips Recycling Pty Ltd - Strathfield South. • Benedict Recycling Pty Limited - Chipping Norton. • KLF Holdings Pty Ltd - Camellia.
27	Asbestos was not tested for as part of the 2013 recovered fines compliance campaign.
(a)	<p>The following facilities (referencing names as relevant at the appropriate time) were found to have asbestos in their recovered fines during the 2019 compliance campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandown Pty Limited - Cecil Park. • Aussie Skips Recycling Pty Ltd - South Strathfield. • Benedict Recycling Pty Limited - Chipping Norton. • Benedict - Belrose. • Menangle Sands and Soil - Menangle. • KLF Holdings Pty Ltd - Camellia. • Builders Recycling Operations Pty Ltd - Chester Hill. • Budget Waste Recycling Pty Ltd - Arndell Park.
28	<p>From the records available to the EPA, in 2019, the following locations have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nalleys Road, Millers Forest. • Dellwood Street, Bankstown.
29	The NSW EPA has tested for asbestos and foreign materials in line with the resource

	recovery mulch order and exemption.
(a)	The NSW EPA has tested for asbestos and foreign materials in line with the resource recovery mulch order and exemption.
30	This is a part of an ongoing investigation, and inappropriate to comment on.
31	This is a part of an ongoing investigation, and inappropriate to comment on.

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Energy Security Safeguard

32	How many households have accessed household energy saving upgrades under the Energy Security Safeguard in:
(a)	2023?
(b)	2022?
33	Please list the number of households that accessed the scheme in 2022 and 2023 by postcode.
34	Of the households that accessed the scheme in 2022 and 2023, how many were for:
(a)	Household lighting upgrades?
(b)	Air conditioner upgrades?
(c)	Hot water system upgrades?
(d)	Pool pump upgrades?
35	For those households accessing a hot water system upgrade, how many systems were upgraded to a new:
(a)	Gas system?
(b)	Electric / heat pump system?
(c)	Solar system?
36	How many households have accessed the Rebate Swap For Solar offer?
(a)	Please list the number of households that have accessed the Rebate Swap For Solar offer by postcode.
37	How many vehicle owners elected to offset their emissions under the Vehicle Emissions Offset Scheme (VEOS) in 2023?

Answer

32	Answers provided below for each individual question. Note that figures for 2023, and for combined 2022–2023, will not be final until 30 June 2024 after all audit and compliance activities are complete.
(a)	40,724.
(b)	28,484.
33	See Appendix 1 – Residential Energy Savings Scheme implementations 2022-2023 by postcode. Note that figures in the table provided in the appendix represent installations of each category in each postcode and do not reflect discrete households. More than one implementation (e.g. lighting upgrade) could occur at the same household.
34	
(a)	23,470.
(b)	6599.
(c)	39,578.
(d)	Zero.
35	
(a)	Zero.
(b)	39,081.
(c)	499.
36	As of 15 March 2024, 3338 households have accessed the Rebate Swap for Solar offer.
(a)	The list is presented in the table at Appendix 2 – Households that have accessed the Rebate Swap for Solar offer by postcode.
37	In calendar year 2023, 5249 vehicle owners chose to offset their emissions through the Vehicle Emissions Offset Scheme.

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act

38	In relation to the Climate Change (Net Zero Futures) Act 2023:
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(a)	Given the second reading speech on the Bill stated that it “manifests a clear State policy for addressing greenhouse gas emissions to ensure that we reduce the risk of dangerous climate change and meet our Paris agreement commitments, as noted in the bill’s purpose” - why wasn’t it given precedence over John Barilaro’s ‘Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW’ in the final decision on Boggabri Modification 8 Coal Project?
(b)	Given the purpose of the Act, why did the Boggabri Modification 8 Coal Project not assess whether downstream emissions of the project will threaten efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and hold it well below 2°C?
(c)	Given one of the guiding principles of the Act includes the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, why wasn’t this even considered, nor even mentioned, in the final decision on the Boggabri Modification 8 Coal Project?
(d)	Did the EPA provide any advice to the Department of Planning about the Boggabri Modification 8 proposal after the Net Zero Future Act was passed and before a decision was made, to assist the Department in understanding the Act and how it should be considered in planning decisions?
i.	If so, please provide a copy of that advice
ii.	If not, why not?
(e)	If the Guiding Principles and Purpose of the Act are ignored by the Department of Planning in making decisions on coal projects, what has changed since former Deputy Premier John Barilaro introduced the Strategic Statement on Coal?
39	In Budget Estimates on 7 March 2024, the Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water was unable to advise whether or not the latest modelling (due for release soon) will show that NSW is on track to meet a 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. How will you ensure that new GHG emissions from expanded coal mining projects are not locked in by planning determinations, at the expense of the broader NSW community and the objectives of the Net Zero Future Act?
40	In relation to industry-sector advisory groups which the EPA committed to establish under the Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2026, and specifically the Advisory Group on Mining:
(a)	What was the appointment process for the Advisory Group?
i.	Who approved the final makeup of the Advisory Group
(b)	Given the Plan committed to inviting ‘a broad range of representatives to form these advisory groups, including representatives from industry, government and the community’, why has the EPA created an Advisory Group on Mining where 8 of the 10 members are mining companies or mining-related ‘research’ groups, with the majority associated with the mining of coal or gas?

(c)	Why is there only 1 community group member on the Advisory Group on Mining with no representation from peak conservation groups?
(d)	How does this group comply with the Action Plan which specified a broad range of representatives?

Answer

38	
(a)	This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
(b)	See answer to question 38 (a).
(c)	See answer to question 38 (a).
(d)	No. The NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) last advice on this proposal was 15 August 2023.
i.	Not applicable.
ii.	Consultation with the EPA was undertaken prior to the legislation being passed in Parliament on 30 November 2023.
(e)	This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
39	<p>Implementation of the <i>Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023</i> and the work of the Net Zero Commission will increase opportunities to consider the interaction between the planning system and climate impacts. The Act is designed to drive stronger whole-of-government and whole-of-economy action on climate change. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is working closely with key agencies to strengthen accountability for consideration of climate change and progress towards the Act's objectives through a new whole-of-government governance model.</p> <p>The Department supports establishment of the Net Zero Commission by 30 June 2024.</p> <p>Implementation of the Act, including regulations, will be progressed through close collaboration with agencies across government, following advice from the Commission.</p>
40	
(a)	The EPA approached specific industry, community and expert bodies which hold knowledge and expertise in the mining sector and could work collaboratively across their respective fields to provide advice to the EPA on regulatory options, gaps, risks and opportunities for the sector.
i.	The EPA.
(b)	The EPA committed to establishing a mining industry-sector advisory group that

	holds specific knowledge and expertise of the mining sector.
(c)	<p>As these are statutory advisory groups, there are limits to the number of members that can be appointed by the EPA. The EPA had to select the membership to ensure broad representation across the industry, expertise, and Aboriginal knowledge and community representation.</p> <p>The EPA is establishing a separate Environment Advisory Group which will provide a forum for community groups to provide advice to the EPA on all industry sectors.</p>
(d)	The membership is consistent with the commitment under the Action Plan.

Net Zero Emissions Modelling – GHG Data

41	When will the NSW Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections, 2021–2050 be updated with the latest data from the latest model run and when will these projections be published on the SEED portal?
42	There are about 16 new coal expansion proposals currently in the NSW planning system. How many of these expansions were modelled by the NZEM team and included in the latest model run?
43	Which of the 16 coal expansions were NOT included in the model run?
44	If NSW DPE or the NSW IPC are assessing a coal expansion that was not included in the last model run, how will they know if additional Scope 1 and 2 emissions from the development will breach the state’s GHG targets or not?
45	Does the NZEM team assume that ALL coal mine proposals in the NSW planning system will be approved, therefore Scope 1 emissions from these projects should be modelled and included in the official GHG projections for NSW?
46	Some operating coal mines - for example Rix’s Creek - do not report their Scope 1 emissions at all to the NSW government in their Annual Reviews. These mines will report their data to the Clean Energy Regulator in Canberra under the NGERs Act but there are strict privacy provisions within the Act that greatly limit data sharing of this information.
(a)	Who has access to NGERs coal mine emissions data in NSW?
(b)	Does anyone working in the compliance teams of either DPE or the EPA have access to this data?
i.	If no, how does the NSW government know if these mines are reducing or increasing their emissions; and
ii.	if so-called ‘reasonable and feasible’ abatement measures implemented at these mines are having any impact?

Answer

41	The updated projections model is being finalised and will be released in the coming
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	months.
42	All mines in NSW are modelled based on likely production forecasts provided by the Department of Regional NSW's Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG). As modifications at each mine are progressed through the planning process, relevant information is updated in the model. There are currently 18 coal mines within the planning system, noting that not all of these would be considered expansions. All of these mines are in the model, based either on the MEG's likely production forecasts or updated with the information in the planning system, depending on the timing of when the development modification hits the planning system.
43	See answer to question 42.
44	See answer to question 42.
45	Mines are modelled based on the likely production forecasts from MEG or updated with the information in the planning system, depending on the timing of when the development modification hits the planning system. This includes approved, proposed and intended mining operations. The likely production forecast is MEG's best estimate based on known extension plans and potential resources that could be accessed.
46	
(a)	Under the <i>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007</i> , NSW Government agencies that have confidentiality agreements in place with the Clean Energy Regulator have access to all NSW emissions data reported to the Clean Energy Regulator.
(b)	The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and NSW Environment Protection Authority have access to confidential data.
i.	Not applicable.
ii.	Not applicable.

Namoi Region Air Quality Advisory Committee

47	Why was the Namoi Region Air Quality Advisory Committee established (2017) and then, apparently, disbanded/abandoned just a few years later? What precipitated the change?
48	Why has the Namoi Air Quality real-time monitoring scheme never been implemented? Why aren't the people of the region worthy of the same kind of monitoring that is currently available in the Upper Hunter?
49	How far did planning for the implementation of a real-time monitoring network get to? Why was it abandoned?

Answer

47	<p>At the 2017 NSW Clean Air Summit, the former Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, announced that the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the then Office of Environment and Heritage (now part of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) would establish a North-West Air Quality Monitoring Network by the end of 2017.</p> <p>At this time, the EPA also established the Namoi Regional Air Quality Advisory Committee as a mechanism for consultation between government and community regarding air quality and future enhancement of the monitoring network. It aimed to provide an avenue for the EPA, and other agencies, to road test communication materials and approaches for the broader community. The committee's structure and processes mirrored committees established in the Upper Hunter and Newcastle communities with similar air quality monitoring networks.</p> <p>Members were appointed for two-year terms, with one position remaining vacant (NSW Farmers representative). The committee held its first meeting in June 2018 and provided the EPA with direct and regular contact with key community members, helping to develop positive relationships with the local community. The inaugural committee came to the end of its two-year term in May 2020.</p> <p>The EPA initially approached the outgoing members of the previous committee to gauge interest in re-nominating. Remaining vacant positions were advertised and a regionally targeted media release issued. In the intervening period the EPA made direct approaches to targeted individuals throughout the region to encourage sufficient nominations to enable the committee to be reconvened for its second term. Advertisements were posted in local, regional and State newspapers, and on EPA social media pages, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.</p> <p>Only six nominations were received for the 14 positions on the committee. Given the poor response, the EPA determined that it would adopt an alternative approach to engaging with the community around air quality in the region, involving publication of seasonal air quality analysis reports and targeted engagement with various communities when the time came to discuss expansion of the Namoi Air Quality Monitoring Network.</p>
48	<p>The Namoi Air Quality Monitoring Network has been implemented. Two public air quality monitoring stations were commissioned in December 2017 – one in Gunnedah and the other in Narrabri. These stations have been contributing real-time data to the NSW Air Quality website since then. In addition to these two stations, the EPA publishes data from three industry monitors located at Maules Creek, Wil-gai near Boggabri and Werris Creek on a weekly basis on the EPA's website. The EPA intends to integrate these monitors (or more appropriately located stations) into the public real-time network in the future. This process has been delayed while financial arrangements for the network were negotiated.</p>
49	<p>It was not abandoned – see answer to question 48.</p>

BioNet

50	Have all backlogged wildlife records have now been uploaded to BioNet?
51	What arrangements have been made to ensure there will be no future delays in uploading records into BioNet each year?

Answer

50	<p>The data on both BioNet and the NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation Dashboard reflects records up to 30 June 2022.</p> <p>The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) collates wildlife rehabilitation information from NSW wildlife rehabilitators at the end of September each year. Before the data can be published, NPWS undertakes quality assurance processes to address the variable quality of the data received.</p> <p>NPWS expects that 2022–23 data will be uploaded to the NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation Dashboard and then to BioNet by May 2024.</p>
51	<p>Upgrades are being progressively made to BioNet to streamline data input, simplify access to BioNet and increase the volume and quality of data available.</p>

Maule Creek Blasting Practices and Leard State Forest

52	What specific measures are in place to protect the Leard State Forest from blasting impacts from the Whitehaven Coal Maules Creek Mine?
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Answer

52	<p>Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd holds Environment Protection Licence No. 20221 (the Licence). The Licence contains a condition (Number O1.1) that requires licensed activities to be undertaken in a competent manner. This includes blasting activities at the premises.</p> <p>The licence also contains condition O5.1 which prohibits the emission of offensive blast fume from the premises. Offensive blast fume means post-blast gases (whether visible or invisible, odorous or odourless) from the detonation of explosives at the premises that by reason of their nature, duration, character or quality, or the time at which they are emitted, or any other circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) are harmful to (or is likely to be harmful to) a person that is outside the premises from which it is emitted, or(ii) interferes unreasonably with (or is likely to interfere unreasonably with) the comfort or repose of a person who is outside the premises from which it is emitted.
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Wildlife Rehabilitation Strategy

53	What advice has been provided to the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector about next steps now that the NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation Strategy has come to an end?
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54	What engagement with the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector is planned?
55	Will the government provide ongoing resources for the review of the NSW Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy and continuation of its program streams into the future?
56	Will the department have a plan in place for a co-design process to develop what will succeed the previous multi-year Strategy and the \$6 million in funding it was allocated?
57	What progress, if any, has been made to date on the implementations of Recommendations 45 and 46 of the Henry Review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act, which directly relate to the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation sector?

Answer

53	The wildlife rehabilitation sector was advised that the NSW Government continues to support the sector, and the measures in the NSW Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy 2020-2023 will stay in place as they are reviewed in consultation with the sector.
54	The NSW Government is committed to continuing to engage and listen to the sector to better understand what support is required, with a view to ensuring that support continues for this important work.
55	The NSW Government is committed to providing support for the valuable work the sector provides to wildlife.
56	The NSW Government is committed to engaging with the wildlife rehabilitation sector to look at the most effective way to deliver this work into the future. Working with the sector is important in identifying sustainable models of delivering wildlife rehabilitation.
57	<p>Recommendations 45 and 46 are being considered as part of the Government response to the statutory review of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>.</p> <p>The NSW Government is committed to an open ongoing dialogue with the wildlife rehabilitation sector over the valuable work that is being undertaken, and to continuing to support the sector through the regulatory framework. As an example, a new Rehabilitation of Protected Animals Policy was published just prior to the release of the review, and has been updated most recently in January 2024, including revised regulatory and licensing arrangements and quality assurance standards for the sector.</p>

Appendix 1 – Question 33**Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode**

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2000			54	54
2007			11	11
2008		4	16	20
2009		1	56	57
2010		4	74	78
2011		4	46	50
2015		8	35	43
2016		4	27	31
2017		4	43	47
2018		18	148	166
2019	1	13	24	38
2020	1	18	103	122
2021		9	73	82
2022		8	86	94
2023		5	51	56
2024	1	9	90	100
2025	1	8	47	56
2026	1	14	147	162
2027	3	1	42	46
2028		1	22	23
2029	1	2	59	62
2030	2	10	101	113
2031	2	20	154	176
2032	1	14	150	165
2033	1	12	96	109
2034		9	160	169
2035	1	49	392	442
2036	5	75	246	326
2037	1	15	117	133
2038		8	91	99
2039		9	76	85
2040	3	39	198	240
2041		16	88	104
2042	2	35	82	119
2043		12	26	38
2044	4	20	36	60
2045	1	10	99	110
2046	3	31	237	271
2047	1	13	90	104
2048		16	51	67
2049		22	48	70
2050		7	36	43
2060		11	62	73
2061		1	15	16
2062		8	64	72

Appendix 1 – Question 33**Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode**

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2063		9	94	103
2064		9	67	76
2065	2	29	180	211
2066	1	47	153	201
2067		29	172	201
2068	1	26	164	191
2069		32	193	225
2070		34	184	218
2071	1	34	189	224
2072		21	137	158
2073	2	45	153	200
2074		103	192	295
2075	1	50	259	310
2076	3	96	260	359
2077		155	203	358
2079	1	68	46	115
2080		19	8	27
2081	1	64	46	111
2082		48	37	85
2083		19	5	24
2084		10	29	39
2085		56	124	180
2086		48	127	175
2087		43	130	173
2088		36	234	270
2089		7	74	81
2090		13	86	99
2092		14	60	74
2093		42	142	184
2094		2	30	32
2095		15	39	54
2096		13	50	63
2097		22	77	99
2099		61	140	201
2100		62	142	204
2101	1	45	100	146
2102	1	12	82	95
2103		37	79	116
2104		20	21	41
2105		23	13	36
2106	1	15	79	95
2107		40	114	154
2108		2	10	12
2110	1	16	83	100
2111		28	114	142

Appendix 1 – Question 33**Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode**

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2112		58	253	311
2113		53	160	213
2114	1	54	184	239
2115		47	39	86
2116		18	16	34
2117	1	87	124	212
2118		156	192	348
2119		75	110	185
2120	1	124	187	312
2121		91	262	353
2122		88	181	269
2125		114	179	293
2126		90	232	322
2127	1	2	45	48
2128		15	13	28
2130		4	68	72
2131		33	163	196
2132	1	19	137	157
2133		23	148	171
2134	1	22	129	152
2135		41	331	372
2136		13	96	109
2137		38	265	303
2138		24	130	154
2140		9	57	66
2141	1	127	121	249
2142	3	91	65	159
2143		129	37	166
2144	1	125	57	183
2145	1	632	406	1039
2146		190	93	283
2147	3	479	216	698
2148	6	776	265	1047
2150		39	39	78
2151	1	116	108	225
2152	1	79	57	137
2153	4	361	559	924
2154	2	253	333	588
2155	4	124	303	431
2156	1	132	105	238
2157		35	10	45
2158	1	68	53	122
2159	1	49	22	72
2160	1	235	152	388
2161		285	107	392

Appendix 1 – Question 33**Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode**

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2162	1	322	68	391
2163		177	17	194
2164	3	497	69	569
2165	6	858	124	988
2166	7	1603	100	1710
2167		154	118	272
2168	1	581	157	739
2170	8	1183	398	1589
2171	3	123	121	247
2172		19	19	38
2173		44	40	84
2174		1	4	5
2175		34	9	43
2176	4	739	280	1023
2177		183	36	219
2178		71	28	99
2179		67	7	74
2180		2		2
2190	1	133	97	231
2191		17	35	52
2192	1	24	81	106
2193	3	46	267	316
2194		29	115	144
2195	1	68	72	141
2196	1	145	237	383
2197		163	89	252
2198	1	107	145	253
2199	2	304	95	401
2200	2	387	173	562
2203		23	96	119
2204	1	59	152	212
2205	2	20	164	186
2206		60	432	492
2207	3	82	345	430
2208		51	194	245
2209		91	136	227
2210	2	182	237	421
2211		178	129	307
2212		135	104	239
2213	3	210	150	363
2214		54	24	78
2216		46	191	237
2217		62	175	237
2218	1	25	140	166
2219		34	104	138

Appendix 1 – Question 33**Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode**

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2220	1	38	296	335
2221		51	166	217
2222	2	33	168	203
2223	2	65	182	249
2224		93	152	245
2225		42	33	75
2226		90	73	163
2227	1	72	83	156
2228		90	123	213
2229	2	131	211	344
2230	1	95	111	207
2231		24	4	28
2232	3	200	195	398
2233	5	158	130	293
2234	2	284	209	495
2250	45	468	330	843
2251	21	306	213	540
2256	6	203	60	269
2257	16	368	202	586
2258	4	32	13	49
2259	95	592	412	1099
2260	31	149	131	311
2261	58	425	252	735
2262	55	200	117	372
2263	92	272	131	495
2264	9	148	200	357
2265	3	37	33	73
2267		18	49	67
2278		30	11	41
2280	6	226	244	476
2281	12	187	131	330
2282	8	111	83	202
2283	20	279	217	516
2284	4	105	71	180
2285	9	245	150	404
2286	1	43	29	73
2287	8	328	121	457
2289	7	76	125	208
2290	12	210	212	434
2291	1	32	63	96
2292	1	9	5	15
2293	1	9	6	16
2294	1	9	2	12
2295	1	195	30	226
2296		9	3	12

Appendix 1 – Question 33**Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode**

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2297		10	2	12
2298	2	40	20	62
2299	6	67	29	102
2300	2	17	38	57
2302			4	4
2303	4	34	42	80
2304	3	69	42	114
2305	5	40	67	112
2306		12	4	16
2307	1	32	5	38
2309		1		1
2311		2		2
2312	1	7	1	9
2315	1	189	118	308
2316	3	58	45	106
2317	1	79	43	123
2318	2	186	54	242
2319	2	141	40	183
2320	3	156	139	298
2321	3	66	51	120
2322	2	206	91	299
2323	7	156	134	297
2324	2	231	161	394
2325	12	195	181	388
2326		97	44	141
2327	5	99	36	140
2328		12		12
2329	2			2
2330	8	115	51	174
2332	1			1
2333	18	25	10	53
2334	1	29	4	34
2335	2	38	16	56
2336	3	2	2	7
2337	5	15		20
2340	63	143	2	208
2341	2			2
2343		1	1	2
2344		2		2
2345		1		1
2346		2		2
2350	1	30	8	39
2352	3	12		15
2354		1	3	4
2357	5			5

Appendix 1 – Question 33**Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode**

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2358	2	3		5
2360	1	5		6
2372		2		2
2380	18	1		19
2381		1		1
2382		1		1
2396	1	1		2
2400		7		7
2415		5		5
2420		17	3	20
2421		7	1	8
2422		50		50
2423		47	5	52
2424		1		1
2425		23	1	24
2426		5		5
2427		10	17	27
2428	1	125	112	238
2429	3	28	18	49
2430	8	149	75	232
2431	1	10	16	27
2439	3	194	20	217
2440		49	43	92
2441	5	20	6	31
2443	13	43	45	101
2444	131	384	134	649
2445	13	35	22	70
2446	19	53	21	93
2447		14	12	26
2448	1	34	24	59
2449		2	3	5
2450	5	86	86	177
2452	4	24	33	61
2453	1	10		11
2454	1	18	3	22
2455		5	4	9
2456		42	29	71
2460	1	178	45	224
2462		7	3	10
2463		13	1	14
2464	1	8		9
2466		4		4
2469	7	2		9
2470		20	45	65
2471		2	2	4

Appendix 1 – Question 33**Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode**

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2472	1	2		3
2473		3	2	5
2474	2	9		11
2476		2		2
2477	3	28	19	50
2478	17	108	184	309
2479	3	8	11	22
2480	4	63	78	145
2481	3	22	44	69
2482	1	14	36	51
2483	3	19	16	38
2484	8	34	37	79
2485	8	40	81	129
2486	9	160	238	407
2487	6	18	76	100
2488	2	7	3	12
2489	2	26	53	81
2490		2		2
2499	1			1
2500	174	87	143	404
2502	41	102	34	177
2505	24	18	12	54
2506	41	31	28	100
2508	16	72	36	124
2515	80	80	50	210
2516	39	22	46	107
2517	107	40	67	214
2518	161	63	70	294
2519	111	67	74	252
2525	84	35	50	169
2526	89	51	75	215
2527	135	73	93	301
2528	106	102	130	338
2529	144	92	156	392
2530	191	110	174	475
2532	1			1
2533	109	86	95	290
2534	65	24	15	104
2535	73	39	21	133
2536	45	95	256	396
2537	15	76	41	132
2538	7	6	12	25
2539	65	80	289	434
2540	509	247	288	1044
2541	201	87	86	374

Appendix 1 – Question 33

Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2545	2	3		5
2546	1	10	2	13
2548	6	7	61	74
2549	1	3	4	8
2550	16	42	24	82
2551	6	2	1	9
2555		1		1
2556		32	5	37
2557		64	22	86
2558		140	38	178
2559		5		5
2560	2	983	302	1287
2563		2		2
2564		295	62	357
2565	1	292	153	446
2566	1	398	104	503
2567		130	207	337
2568		4	1	5
2569		29	3	32
2570	2	248	149	399
2571		83	68	151
2572		92	41	133
2573	1	32	30	63
2574	1	48	38	87
2575	6	94	65	165
2576	8	50	111	169
2577	44	70	48	162
2578	2	10	3	15
2579	3	16	3	22
2580	34	136	112	282
2581	3	5	1	9
2582	2	26	27	55
2583	2	2	1	5
2586	1	6		7
2587	5	32	4	41
2588	2	1		3
2590	15	6		21
2594	69	7	2	78
2618		4		4
2619	1	14	107	122
2620	7	91	254	352
2621		19	25	44
2622	5	3		8
2623		2		2
2626	2	1		3

Appendix 1 – Question 33**Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode**

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2627	7			7
2628	2	3		5
2629	4			4
2630	41	1	2	44
2632	3	2		5
2633	2			2
2640	316	51	60	427
2641	247	22	29	298
2642	37	22	5	64
2643	10	13	4	27
2644	11	15		26
2645		10		10
2646	4	27		31
2647		7		7
2648		62		62
2650	348	216	221	785
2651	2	14	7	23
2652	15	11	5	31
2653	2	4		6
2655		21	4	25
2656		18		18
2658	1	5	7	13
2659	10	7		17
2660	5	13		18
2663	11	9	20	40
2665	1	2		3
2666	5	10		15
2668		2		2
2671	2	1		3
2675	6	2		8
2680	135	12		147
2681	10			10
2700	8	17		25
2701	7	6		13
2702		5	2	7
2703	2	2		4
2705	28	23		51
2706	4	5		9
2710		53		53
2711	3	17		20
2712		23		23
2713		41		41
2714		7		7
2715		5		5
2716		28		28

Appendix 1 – Question 33**Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode**

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2717		13		13
2720	11	19		30
2721		1		1
2722	4	10		14
2725		1		1
2726		2		2
2727	1			1
2729	1			1
2730	1	5		6
2731		21		21
2732		4		4
2735		1		1
2737		1		1
2738		16		16
2739		31		31
2744	1			1
2745	15	177	90	282
2747	30	764	113	907
2748	1	33	16	50
2749	11	137	38	186
2750	58	775	164	997
2752	1	92	7	100
2753	4	292	24	320
2754	4	109	23	136
2756	1	445	98	544
2757		6		6
2758	3	150	28	181
2759	10	207	128	345
2760	14	339	88	441
2761	2	217	98	317
2762	2	52	17	71
2763	3	354	147	504
2765	7	234	41	282
2766	1	133	68	202
2767	1	182	83	266
2768	3	73	176	252
2769		5	60	65
2770	8	878	221	1107
2773	29	73	43	145
2774	50	131	65	246
2775	2	23	1	26
2776	14	44	23	81
2777	68	192	167	427
2778	10	30	22	62
2779	18	57	37	112

Appendix 1 – Question 33

Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2780	47	88	83	218
2782	30	57	62	149
2783	10	24	10	44
2784	2	14	4	20
2785	29	30	5	64
2786	4	13	2	19
2787	3	2	5	10
2790	20	38	33	91
2791	1			1
2792		2		2
2793	1	1		2
2794	63	5	7	75
2795	90	104	57	251
2797		2		2
2798	15	2	2	19
2799	19	12		31
2800	352	35	17	404
2803	2	2		4
2804	2	1		3
2805		1		1
2806	2			2
2807	3	1		4
2810	8	5		13
2817		2		2
2818		1	3	4
2820	11	7	3	21
2821	7	2		9
2823	1	1		2
2824		2		2
2825	4			4
2827	3			3
2828	4			4
2829	7			7
2830	313	54	15	382
2831	6	2		8
2832		43		43
2834		1		1
2835			1	1
2845	5	3		8
2847	6	9		15
2849	2			2
2850	25	20	23	68
2852		2		2
2864	2	1		3
2865	2	3		5

Appendix 1 – Question 33

Residential Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) implementations 2022-2023 by postcode

Postcode	Energy Efficient Air Conditioner	Heat Pump and Solar Hot Water	LED Lighting	Total
2866	14	4	4	22
2867	4			4
2868	2		1	3
2869	3	2		5
2870	28	6		34
2871	10	2		12
2873	3	1		4
2874	1			1
2875	1			1
2880	4			4
3644		1		1
Total	6920	42023	37658	86601

Note:

- Figures in this table represent installations of each category in each postcode and do not reflect discrete households. More than one implementation (e.g. lighting upgrade) could occur at the same household.
- Figures compiled on 22/03/2024 based on certificate registrations up to 29 February 2024.
- Data which includes implementations for 2023 (such as these combined figures for 2022–2023) is subject to change because 2023 implementations can be registered for certificate creation and audited up to 30 June 2024.

Appendix 2 – Question 36a
Households that have accessed the Rebate Swap for Solar offer by postcode

<i>Postcode</i>	<i>Total systems installed</i>	<i>Postcode</i>	<i>Total systems installed</i>	<i>Postcode</i>	<i>Total systems installed</i>
2870	1	2126	2	2196	15
2018	2	2128	1	2197	2
2019	1	2130	2	2198	3
2020	3	2132	1	2199	7
2022	1	2133	2	2200	14
2024	1	2134	1	2204	1
2026	1	2135	2	2205	4
2031	1	2136	2	2206	7
2032	1	2137	2	2207	5
2034	1	2138	1	2208	12
2035	2	2141	6	2209	11
2040	1	2142	7	2210	5
2041	1	2143	3	2211	4
2044	1	2144	1	2212	10
2046	1	2145	15	2213	2
2049	1	2146	7	2214	3
2060	1	2147	16	2216	4
2065	1	2148	13	2217	5
2066	2	2150	4	2218	1
2068	2	2151	2	2219	3
2069	1	2152	1	2220	5
2070	1	2153	10	2221	9
2071	1	2154	2	2222	3
2072	1	2155	7	2223	9
2073	1	2156	1	2224	6
2074	1	2160	6	2225	1
2076	2	2161	3	2226	1
2077	3	2162	2	2227	1
2081	1	2163	3	2228	5
2082	1	2164	6	2229	6
2083	1	2165	15	2230	6
2086	1	2166	19	2231	1
2096	1	2167	2	2232	15
2100	2	2168	15	2233	10
2103	1	2170	27	2234	11
2112	1	2171	15	2250	45
2113	1	2173	6	2251	40
2114	1	2176	19	2256	16
2115	4	2177	6	2257	20
2117	1	2179	2	2258	5
2118	3	2190	5	2259	59
2120	3	2191	1	2260	21
2121	1	2192	3	2261	39
2122	2	2194	2	2262	22
2125	1	2195	5	2263	23

Postcode	Total systems installed
2264	2
2267	3
2280	8
2281	4
2282	2
2283	4
2284	1
2285	5
2287	6
2289	2
2291	1
2292	1
2295	1
2298	1
2299	1
2303	2
2304	1
2305	2
2307	1
2315	5
2316	1
2318	1
2319	4
2320	16
2321	6
2322	7
2323	4
2324	4
2325	10
2327	2
2330	1
2333	4
2334	1
2335	3
2337	1
2338	1
2340	12
2341	1
2343	1
2346	1
2347	1
2350	2
2352	1
2353	1
2360	1
2365	3
2369	1
2372	2

Postcode	Total systems installed
2380	2
2381	1
2396	1
2421	1
2422	2
2427	2
2428	11
2429	3
2430	22
2431	16
2439	13
2440	38
2441	8
2443	16
2444	69
2445	20
2446	16
2447	24
2448	23
2449	7
2450	82
2452	29
2453	6
2454	12
2455	6
2456	41
2460	59
2462	9
2463	30
2464	19
2465	1
2466	7
2469	6
2470	19
2471	3
2472	1
2473	12
2474	11
2477	23
2478	44
2479	7
2480	63
2481	9
2482	11
2483	14
2484	40
2485	39
2486	97

Postcode	Total systems installed
2487	28
2488	3
2489	21
2490	2
2500	17
2502	8
2505	3
2506	4
2508	4
2515	8
2516	3
2517	15
2518	6
2519	12
2525	9
2526	6
2527	17
2528	16
2529	22
2530	39
2533	21
2534	8
2535	8
2536	131
2537	87
2538	14
2539	154
2540	112
2541	39
2545	3
2546	49
2548	36
25482	1
2549	9
2550	71
2551	10
2557	4
2559	1
2560	29
2564	1
2565	5
2566	5
2567	3
2570	8
2572	1
2574	1
2575	4
2576	1

<i>Postcode</i>	<i>Total systems installed</i>
2578	1
2579	1
2580	4
2582	2
2583	1
2586	1
2590	1
2594	5
2619	1
2620	6
2621	4
2622	2
2623	1
2630	2
2640	15
2641	7
2642	1
2643	1
2645	1
2646	4
2650	10
2656	1
2659	1
2660	1
2663	1
2665	1
2668	1

<i>Postcode</i>	<i>Total systems installed</i>
2680	5
2700	4
2705	1
2710	1
2713	2
2720	1
2725	1
2731	1
2745	10
2747	18
2749	4
2750	15
2753	2
2754	1
2756	2
2759	13
2760	9
2761	11
2763	8
2765	5
2766	7
2767	6
2768	2
2769	2
2770	24
2774	5
2775	1

<i>Postcode</i>	<i>Total systems installed</i>
2776	1
2777	6
2780	5
2782	2
2783	2
2785	1
2790	3
2792	1
2794	2
2795	7
2798	1
2799	2
2800	7
2810	2
2820	1
2822	1
2827	1
2830	5
2845	2
2848	1
2850	3
2864	1
2866	1
TBC	8
4280	1