



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2006

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 9

WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

The Questions and Answers Paper is published for each sitting day and will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous sitting day and any new questions. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 1 (Including Question Nos 0001 to 0059)	26 June 2006
Q & A No. 2 (Including Question Nos 0060 to 0148)	27 June 2006
Q & A No. 3 (Including Question Nos 0149 to 0249)	28 June 2006
Q & A No. 4 (Including Question Nos 0250 to 0298)	29 June 2006
Q & A No. 5 (Including Question Nos 0299 to 0340)	11 July 2006
Q & A No. 6 (Including Question Nos 0341 to 0370)	12 July 2006
Q & A No. 7 (Including Question Nos 0371 to 0441)	13 July 2006
Q & A No. 8 (Including Question Nos 0442 to 0453)	14 July 2006
Q & A No. 9 (Including Question Nos 0454 to 0485)	04 October 2006

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

22 MAY 2006

(Paper No. 1)

*0001 M7 ACCIDENTS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) For the three-month period ending 31 March 2006, how many accidents have been recorded on the M7 Motorway?
- (2) What action is being taken to monitor and suppress breaches of the motor traffic laws on the road?
- (3) How many persons have been reported for breaches of the traffic laws in the period mentioned above?
- (4) For what offences have these motorists been reported?

Answer—

I am advised:

The information requested is subject to confirmation by the NSW Police.

Breaches of motor traffic laws are matters for the Minister for Police.

*0002 WATER TANKS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Is Sydney Water monitoring the number of water tanks being installed in properties within the Sydney Basin?
- (2) If so, what is the number of tanks installed over the past five years and what is the capacity of water stored in private water tanks in the Sydney Basin?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I am advised as at 31 May 2006, Sydney Water has paid 23,773 rainwater tank rebates since the Rainwater Tank Rebate Program commenced in 2002. Sydney Water has noted savings of an estimated 915 million litres of water per year as a result of the program.

*0003 MOUNT DRUITT COURT HOUSE—Mr Richard Amery asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What will be the total number of employees located at the new Courthouse at Mount Druitt?
- (2) Of these staff, how many will be:
 - (a) Corrective Service Officers?
 - (b) Officers of the Sheriff's Office?
 - (c) New South Wales Police Officers?
 - (d) Staff of the Attorney General's Department?
 - (e) Other staff?

Answer—

A total of eighteen positions within the Attorney General's Department are based at Mount Druitt courthouse.

This includes four Sheriff Officers, a Community Justice Centre officer and a Project Officer, Circle Sentencing. Staff from the NSW Legal Aid Commission and mediators will utilise the court's facilities as required on a case-by-case basis.

The actual number of Corrective Services officers and Police officers located at the court are matters for the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Police.

*0004 DIRECTIONS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS TRIBUNAL—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Does the Attorney General's Department follow up and check that decisions or directions of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal are acted upon or followed through?
- (2) If not, why not and does any agency undertake this role?

Answer—

It is not appropriate that the Attorney General's Department follow up on the decisions or directions of an independent tribunal or court.

Depending on the circumstances of a case, parties may have the option of applying to the Supreme Court for a prerogative order. If a government agency fails to comply with an order of the Tribunal, a complaint may be made to the Ombudsman if the agency falls within the Ombudsman's jurisdiction.

*0005 TRAU V MINISTER FOR POLICE 2003—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Police—

In reference to NSWADTAP 8 (Trau v Minister for Police 2003) has NSW Police undertaken the enquiries outlined in paragraph 22 of the determination?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me that the Judicial Member's comments referred to in the Honourable Member's question, following the dismissal of Dr Trau's appeal to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal, did not constitute an order or direction for NSW Police to take any further action and none was deemed necessary.

*0006 INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to the State Transit Revenue Protection Unit:

- (1) Since 1 July 2005, how many infringement notices for fare evasion have been disputed in court?
- (2) What is the total monetary value of these infringement notices?
- (3) Since 1 July 2005, how many cases of disputed infringement notices for fare evasion have State Transit lost in court?
- (4) Since 1 July 2005, what has been the total cost awarded against State Transit for the cases lost?
- (5) Between the period of 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, how many infringement notices for fare evasion were disputed in court?
- (6) Between the period of 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, what was the total monetary value of these infringement notices?
- (7) Between the period of 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, how many cases of disputed infringement notices for fare evasion did State Transit lose in court?
- (8) Between the period of 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, what was the total cost awarded against State Transit for the cases lost?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Since 1 July 2005 21 infringement notices have been disputed in court.
- (2) The total monetary value of the infringement notices is \$2,100.
- (3) and (4) None.
- (5) Between the period 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005 30 infringement notices were disputed in court.
- (6) The total monetary value of the infringement notices was \$3,000.
- (7) and (8) None.

*0007 TRAFFIC LIGHTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What is the anticipated date for the actual installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Old Northern and Hastings Roads, Castle Hill?
- (2) When will New Line Road be improved to two lanes each way up to Sebastian Drive (westerly section)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is developing concept design plans and preparing an estimate of cost for the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Old Northern and Hastings Roads.

The RTA carried out a study to assess the future needs of New Line Road, from Purchase Road, Cherrybrook to Quarry Road, Dural. The proposed road widening will be considered for inclusion in a future program of works.

*0008 SAFTE PROGRAM CRITERIA—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (1) After the six week criteria for the SAFTE program for our elderly, what happens if a longer period is required?
- (2) What is the situation if another, added, six week period is required immediately following the first?
- (3) Is the person eligible?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) The aim of the SAFTE Care Program is, within the first six weeks of intervention, to address urgent patient care issues while at the same time identifying long-term needs including the establishment of access to long-term sustainable support services for patients. In some cases patients have required an additional one-two weeks of service and these patients have been maintained on the SAFTE Care Program to ensure the best possible outcome.
- (2) and (3) If on completion of the first six-week period of the SAFTE Care Program, a patient's needs are ongoing, the patient is linked into continuing non-acute type services such as Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACAT) and Community Options Case Management Services. However, if a new issue arises and the patient is at risk of an imminent presentation to hospital, a re-referral may occur.

*0009 GALSTON SUBSTATION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform—

- (1) What further action is needed to complete the land acquisition at Galston in preparation for the building of a new substation?
- (2) When will these actions be completed?

Answer—

I am advised by EnergyAustralia:

- (1) None.
- (2) Not applicable.

*0010 HERITAGE MOTOR VEHICLES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

How many Heritage Motor Vehicles were registered during 2005?

Answer—

I am advised:

A total of 10,499 heritage vehicles were conditionally registered by the RTA during 2005.

The conditional registration of these vehicles allows limited access to the road network, primarily for historic vehicle club activities.

*0011 QUARANTINED PROPERTIES—Mr Thomas George asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) How many properties in New South Wales are now quarantined (ticks), irrespective of date of entry?
- (2) How many of these properties have been quarantined previously?
- (3) Have there been any properties that are in quarantine as a result of cattle which have been through the spray race at the border?
- (4) Are all properties in quarantine being charged for costs?
- (5) If not, how many are being charged?
- (6) Are all the properties being charged the same costs?
- (7) If not, what is the explanation for the variation in charges?

Answer—

I have been provided with the following response by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources:

- (1) 720.
- (2) 717.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) 108.

(6) No.

(7) This is due to a variation in treatment requirements, the treatment regime and the status of the herd.

*0012 DAVIDSON INQUIRY AND CCA JUDGEMENT—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Police—

In relation to the recent Davidson Inquiry 2003-2004 and the CCA Judgement, August 2005:

(1) What action do you intend to take in relation to those named in the reports as having committed serious offences?

(2) If no action is to be taken, what is the reason?

Answer—

(1) and (2) NSW Police has advised me that this matter is currently under investigation. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment further.

*0013 APPROPRIATE SENTENCE—KEMPSEY YOUTH—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

In relation to a 14-year-old Kempsey youth recently charged with aggravated burglary, break and enter and other matters:

(1) Are you aware the youth was sentenced to a bond on 12 April 2006?

(2) Are you aware the more serious charges pertained to the assault of an elderly woman at a Kempsey motel in the company of a number of other young offenders?

(3) Is a bond an appropriate sentence for such an offence?

(4) If not, what action will you now undertake in relation to this matter?

Answer—

I am advised that a search of court records for 12 April 2006 did not locate any 14 year old sentenced to a bond at Kempsey or Port Macquarie Children's Court.

I am further advised that as there were no sittings of the Local or District Courts at Port Macquarie on that date, it is unclear what case the Honourable member refers to.

*0014 GAS HEATERS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the health impacts of unflued gas heaters in New South Wales homes:

(1) Has New South Wales Health commissioned any studies on this issue?

(2) Are you aware of Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage research on this issue?

(3) In view of the above, do you consider this to be a matter of priority for New South Wales Health?

(4) If so, what action(s) are proposed as a result?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

(1) No.

(2) Yes.

(3) and (4) NSW Health has taken the following actions to address the issue of pollutant exposures arising from unflued gas heaters:

- published a fact sheet on the issue that is freely available on the NSW Health website;
- issued annual media releases advising householders of the potential health impacts of unflued gas heaters and actions they can take to mitigate potential health risks;
- distributed an information brochure through community health centres, Divisions of General Practice and Asthma NSW to raise community awareness of the latest findings on this issue;
- requested that gas heater manufacturers and retailers implement measures to assist consumers to reduce the potential health impacts of unflued gas heaters, including through provision of health information labeling with and/or on new unflued gas heaters;
- advised other NSW agencies, including the gas regulator, of the emerging health information regarding the impacts of unflued gas heaters; and
- collaborated with health departments from other jurisdictions to develop a national response to the potential health impacts of unflued gas heaters.

*0015 RBT UNITS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Police—

In relation to drink driving and Random Breath Test units, what are the figures for:

(1) How many RBT units currently operate in country New South Wales?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (2) How many RBT units operated in country New South Wales in 2005?
- (3) How many RBT units currently operate in metropolitan areas in New South Wales?
- (4) How many units operated in metropolitan areas in New South Wales in 2005?
- (5) How many people were tested at RBT units in 2005 in country New South Wales?
- (6) How many people were tested at RBT units in 2005 in metropolitan areas in New South Wales?
- (7) How many people tested positive to low to mid range Prescribed Concentration of Alcohol (PCA) in country New South Wales in 2005?
- (8) How many people tested positive to low to mid range Prescribed Concentration of Alcohol (PCA) in metropolitan areas in New South Wales in 2005?
- (9) How many people tested positive high range Prescribed Concentration of Alcohol (PCA) in country New South Wales in 2005?
- (10) How many people tested positive high range Prescribed Concentration of Alcohol (PCA) in metropolitan areas in New South Wales in 2005?
- (11) How much money has been spent in this financial year on drink driving advertising in metropolitan areas of New South Wales?
- (12) How much money has been spent in this financial year on drink driving advertising in country New South Wales?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) 6.
- (2) 6.
- (3) 7.
- (4) 7.
- (5) 1,704,178.
- (6) 1,714,030.
- (7) 10,165.
- (8) 10,337.
- (9) 2601.
- (10) 1899.
- (11) This is a Roads and Traffic Authority responsibility and should be referred to the Minister for Roads.
- (12) See (11) above.

*0016 ROADSIDE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

In relation to the New South Wales Roadside Environment Committee (REC):

- (1) What level of funding did this committee receive in 2004/05 and 2005/06?
- (2) What level of funds were expended in 2004/05?
- (3) For what purpose were these funds expended?
- (4) What evaluation is undertaken of REC projects and activities?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Roadside Environment Committee is an independent body which involves the cooperation of Government and community groups to better manage the State's roadside environment.

The RTA contributes \$100,000 per annum toward REC activities.

2004/2005 funds were expended on secretariat services to the REC, research projects and general administration costs.

The RTA contributes to the setting of the Committee's priorities, is represented at REC meetings and receives updates on the progress of REC initiatives. The REC also provides the RTA with a report annually which summarises the REC's activities in the preceding financial year.

*0017 GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to the Great Western Highway at Faulconbridge in the Blue Mountains:

- (1) Are you aware that there have been numerous serious accidents on that section of road?

- (2) Are you aware that since September 2005 there have been serious accidents on that section of road?
- (3) Will you immediately direct the Roads and Traffic Authority to install jersey kerb along this section of the highway in order to assist in preventing further accidents?
- (4) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) I am advised by the Minister for Roads that in December 2005 the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) installed safety barriers on the median of the Great Western Highway for approximately 310 metres on the eastern side of Bellevue Road and for approximately 70 metres on the western side of Bellevue Road.

I am further advised by the Minister for Roads that the RTA will install crash cushions on either side of the safety barriers on the eastern side of Bellevue Road, to further enhance safety for motorists, in the second half of 2006.

*0018 CROSS CITY TUNNEL—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What is the breakdown, in dollar terms, of the budgeted cost for legal advice sought by the New South Wales Government regarding the Cross City Tunnel in:
 - (a) 2002-03?
 - (b) 2003-04?
 - (c) 2004-05?
 - (d) 2005-06?
- (2) What is the breakdown, in dollar terms, of the budgeted cost for legal advice sought by the New South Wales Government regarding the Cross City Tunnel in:
 - (a) 2002-03?
 - (b) 2003-04?
 - (c) 2004-05?
 - (d) 2005-06?
- (3) What firms and representatives, by name, were engaged for legal advice?
- (4) Is any money still outstanding on said advice?
- (5) What is the amount, in dollar terms, of outstanding money?

Answer—

I am advised:

Details of expenditure on professional services and consultants are reported in the RTA's annual report.

*0020 INDEPENDENT TRAFFIC STUDY—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) Are you aware that the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has estimated that 70 per cent of traffic on the Pacific Highway between Wells Crossing and Iluka Road is local?
- (2) Are you further aware that there is widespread community concern as to the accuracy of this figure?
- (3) Will you establish an independent traffic study in order to verify this figure and to address the community's concern?
- (4) If not, why not?

Answer—

I refer the honourable member to the traffic information provided in the Route Options Development Report for the Wells Crossing and Iluka Road project.

I am advised that the area has been subject to a number of surveys since 2004 and the traffic study was reviewed in 2005 by traffic experts.

*0021 COMPENSATION CLAIMS—EASTERN DISTRIBUTOR—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) How much money, in total, did the 70 resolved compensation claims for damages caused by construction of the Eastern Distributor on private property cost the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (2) How many compensation claims for damages caused by the construction of the Cross City Tunnel have been lodged by local residents?
- (3) How many of these have been resolved?
- (4) How much, in total, have these compensation claims cost the RTA?

Answer—

I am advised:

The majority of the costs in settling the 70 compensation claims associated with the Eastern Distributor were borne by the contractor, Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd.

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) contributed \$66,852.45 to facilitate resolution of the claims.

The Independent Property Assessment Panel has been established in accordance with planning Condition of Approval 112 to resolve disputes relating to property damage claims connected with the Cross City Tunnel project.

The Cross City Motorway and its contractor Baulderstone Hornibrook Bilfinger Berger Joint Venture are responsible for rectification of property damage caused by the construction of the Cross City Tunnel.

*0022 NAMBUCCA FARMERS KITCHEN—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

In relation to the Roads and Traffic Authority's (RTA) requirement for the Nambucca Farmers Kitchen to provide a 162 metre long entry lane on the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Why have not similar requirements been made of other recent developments on the Highway, including RTA rest areas at Kundabung, Cooperabung and Cutty Creek and at the Macksville industrial area access?
- (2) Why are truck drivers entering the aforesaid business harassed by RTA staff regarding driving across a small piece of land between the highway and the business?
- (3) Why is the aforementioned business threatened with fines in relation to signage inside this property boundaries when other businesses are permitted various pieces of signage on or adjacent to the highway?

Answer—

I am advised:

The requirements for entry and exit lanes to businesses, rest areas and other amenities along the Pacific Highway are dependent on a number of factors including the lane configuration of the highway, traffic levels, speed limits and design guideline requirements in place at the time of approval.

Access to Farmers Kitchen is via a local road which requires drivers to have a B-double permit to use.

The enforcement of conditions relating to signage is a matter for Nambucca Shire Council. One of the conditions of the Development Application for Farmers Kitchen required no advertising signs to be displayed along the Pacific Highway without referral to the RTA. The RTA has contacted Council in order to resolve the matter.

*0023 "SOSE ALIVE 2"—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Education and Training—

In relation to the Year 7 and 8 textbook "SOSE Alive 2" by Jacaranda Press:

- (1) Is this book being used in NSW Government Schools?
- (2) If so, is it a compulsory part of the curriculum?
- (3) If it is not a compulsory text, in which NSW Government schools is it being used?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The publication SOSE Alive 2 was written for the Victorian curriculum, not for the NSW curriculum. In NSW schools select their own resources to meet the requirements of the curriculum. The book is neither compulsory nor recommended by the NSW Department of Education and Training. The Department of Education and Training advises that although there is some material in the book SOSE Alive 2 that could supplement the teaching of a few topics in the NSW curriculum, the book could not be used as a course of study and therefore would be unsuitable as a textbook.

*0024 TRAFFIC VOLUMES—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) With reference to the Base Case Financial Model referred to in the Project Deed for the Lane Cove Tunnel, are the traffic volumes in attachment A the traffic volumes referred to as the Patronage forecasts?
- (2) If not, what traffic volumes released in Parliament in November 2005 relate to the Patronage forecasts?
- (3) Are the traffic volumes shown in attachment A through to 2037 as modelled by Parsons Brinkerhoff?

Answer—

I am advised:

The patronage forecasts are included in the Lane Cove Tunnel Company's base case financial model which was tabled in the Parliament in November 2005.

- *0025 LANE COVE TUNNEL TRAFFIC—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

In what year will the sum of traffic from Lane Cove Tunnel and Falcon Street ramps reach 140,000 movements per day based on Roads and Traffic Authority estimates?

Answer—

I refer the honourable member to the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Lane Cove Tunnel Project.

- *0026 TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What are the differences in projected traffic movements per day between the "Active Case" and "RTA Case"?
- (2) What are these amounts?
- (3) How were they derived?
- (4) What is the explanation for the significant difference between these projections?

Answer—

I am advised:

The "Active Case" and the "Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) Case" are set out in the Lane Cove Tunnel Company's base case financial model which was tabled in the Parliament in November 2005.

- *0027 HEAVY VEHICLE MOVEMENTS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What are the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) estimated projections of heavy vehicle movements through the Lane Cove Tunnel eastbound and westbound for the period 2007 to 2037 inclusive?
- (2) What has the RTA based these projections on?
- (3) How many of these movements will be by heavy duty diesel vehicles?

Answer—

I refer the honourable member to the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Lane Cove Tunnel project.

- *0028 YOUNG DRIVER TRAINING—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) Has the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) conducted investigations into the psychological attitude of young drivers?
- (2) Does the current driver training regime address psychological attitude to road safety by young drivers?
- (3) Are you aware of any studies that have been completed worldwide investigating driver attitudes and available means to educate young drivers through psychological attitude?
- (4) How many accidents occur in New South Wales where driver attitude e.g. disregard of one's safety or the safety of others, can be attributed to the cause of the accident?
- (5) Is there a trend in the type of accidents occurring in New South Wales?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (6) Is New South Wales participating in the federally sponsored driver-training program originally announced by Federal Minister Anderson?
- (7) (a) Has the pilot program begun?
(b) If so, where?
- (8) How many schools in New South Wales participate in some form of driver training program? Which schools, by name?
- (9) Has the RTA conducted studies into the ability of young drivers and brain development e.g. ability of young drivers to become fully mature?
- (10) (a) Has the RTA conducted any studies into youth risk taking whilst driving?
(b) Are there any studies worldwide?
(c) Can you provide a precis of these studies?

Answer—

I am advised:

As part of the development of the Driver Qualification Test, the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) engaged an independent consultant to research and develop educational material and assessments to address young driver attitudes.

The Driver Knowledge Test (DKT) and the Driver Qualification Test (DQT) and supporting educational handbooks address driver attitudes. The current Road User's Handbook includes two new sections about safe driving and road safety.

Additional to the driver training component of the Graduated Licensing Scheme, the RTA provides all New South Wales schools with driver education curriculum resources to deliver attitude-based driver education programs. School-based driver education programs are delivered as part of mandatory Personal Development, Health and Physical Education curriculum in Years 7-10. These programs address the attitudes of young drivers and passengers and seek to prepare youth to make responsible decisions as road users.

The RTA in conjunction with Insurance Australia Group (IAG) engaged an independent consultant to conduct a review of the relevant work done overseas. This review aligns with the research conducted as part of the National novice driver programme trial. The RTA is currently working with the Federal Government and other agencies to conduct a large-scale trial of a "low risk" program focusing on driver behaviour and hazard perception with provisional drivers.

The major human factors involved in fatal crashes include:

- Speeding (or speed inappropriate for the conditions) - 37% of fatalities
- driver impairment - alcohol - 16% of fatalities
- driver impairment fatigue - 19% of fatalities
- restraint non-usage - 16% of occupant fatalities

The number of fatalities from crashes involving a young driver/rider (aged under 26 years) has declined over the past decade. The incidence of young adult speeding involvement has also decreased over the same period.

The National novice driver programme trial is jointly funded by the RTA, Federal Government, Victorian Government, the Insurance Australia Group (IAG) and the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV). The program's pilot is due to begin late in 2006.

The focus of New South Wales schools is on the delivery of attitude-based driver education as part of the mandatory Personal Development, Health and Physical Education curriculum for Years 7-10. Where schools elect to provide (behind-the-wheel driver training) this is provided as part of school-based programs.

In 2000, the RTA engaged an independent consultant to explore the issue of adolescence and road use behaviour. The RTA also engaged an independent consultant to examine this issue in the development of the Driver Qualification Test (DQT).

In 1999, the RTA engaged independent research companies to undertake focus group studies with young people concerning risk taking. In 2001, an independent consultant also prepared a summary paper of the five research studies particularly related to youth risk taking and road safety in New South Wales. The research report was prepared and was entitled Summary of focus group studies on young drivers Research report RRI/01.

In November 2004, the RTA released a paper Improving safety for young drivers. This publication listed

over 23 research papers related to young driver behaviour.

The RTA regularly monitors research studies concerning a range of young drivers issues.

*0029 COUNCILS AND LEPS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How many councils have been asked to determine new Local Environmental Plans (LEPs)?
- (2) How many councils have completed new LEPs and submitted them for approval?
- (3) How many new plans have been approved to date?
- (4) Have any developments been delayed because new LEPs have not been signed?
- (5) Which councils, by name, have had their plans approved?
- (6) How long do councils have to submit plans?
- (7) When will all plans currently with the Minister be approved?
- (8) Which councils, by name, are waiting for plans already lodged with the Minister's office to be signed?

Answer—

- (1) All councils have been requested to prepare new local environmental plans (LEPs) for the whole of their local government areas based on the Standard Instrument gazetted on 31 March 2006.
- (2) None.
- (3) None.
- (4) No.
- (5) None.
- (6) Timeframes for the preparation and submission of new standard local environmental plans have been agreed with councils. Councils will prepare their new LEPs within two, three or five years of the gazettal of the Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006, depending on the agreement reached.
- (7) and (8) No new standard LEPs have yet been submitted for my approval. A number of draft LEPs which amend existing instruments continue to be submitted for my consideration. I am not able to say when, or indeed whether, I will approve matters I have yet to consider.

*0030 GOVERNMENT REGISTRATION FEES—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What is the total number of motor vehicles registered in NSW from all Government departments and agencies?
- (2) Do all Government departments pay registration fees?
- (3) (a) If Government departments are required to pay registration fees, are there different categories/amounts charged to register motor vehicles from different departments?
(b) If so, how much?
- (4) How many motor vehicles in NSW are registered at a minimum government rate but are operated under a reverse novated lease/salary sacrifice scheme?
- (5) Are Government Departments required to pay stamp duty on registration costs for initial purchase of motor vehicles?

Answer—

I am advised:

As at 31 March 2006, there were 36,837 motor vehicles registered to NSW Government departments and agencies.

Government departments are required to pay standard registration fees which do not vary across departments.

There is no form of 'minimum government rate' for the registration of government vehicles in NSW. Individual government departments and agencies determine if they will operate vehicles under a leasing scheme.

The Roads and Traffic Authority collects stamp duty on behalf of the Office of State Revenue which sets the policy for stamp duty exemptions.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

*0031 SALARY SACRIFICE—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) How many Government Departments have salary sacrifice available, which enables staff to purchase motor vehicles for private use?
- (2) Under the agreements what pricing does the staff member receive, ie national fleet 1.10 10.100 etc or Government fleet?
- (3) Do all Departments operate the novated lease system for staff?
- (4) Is it Government policy that Government Departments use novated lease arrangements?
- (5) (a) Do any Departments use the reverse novated lease system?
(b) If so, which Departments, by name?
- (6) What benefit does a reverse novated lease provide to employees of Government Departments?
- (7) Do employees benefit through access to Government Fleet pricing of motor vehicles?
- (8) Do all transactions and leases pay stamp duty including novated leases?
- (9) When a reverse novated lease operates and the employee leaves the Department, who owns the car?
- (10) Who carries the insurance for a reverse novated lease car?
- (11) Does this insurance take into account under 21 years of age drivers as most leased cars are for private use?
- (12) Do some Departments encourage reverse novated leases and is this Government Policy?
- (13) Why do staff from one Government Department have access to Government fleet pricing and benefit from reduced purchase and tax costs eg no stamp duty, and staff employed by another Department have no access to such benefits?
- (14) Do Parliamentary staff have the same access to fleet pricing as some employees in other Departments have?
- (15) Do you have an official Government position policy on novated and reverse novated leases?
- (16) Is it policy that motor vehicles purchased on reverse novated lease are purchased from one particular dealer in a region, although the same fleet pricing exists at all dealers in NSW?
- (17) Why would some purchasing officers insist that a particular dealer be used for the purchase of Government fleet cars even when the dealer is hundreds of kilometres from the customer and the customer's town has a dealer which has the same product and price?
- (18) Is it legal for purchasing officers to receive incentives for directing the purchase of motor vehicles from one particular dealer?
- (19) Are any of your purchasing officers using reverse novated leases in a position to receive incentives for directing motor vehicle purchases from one particular dealer?
- (20) Is there a policy on the purchase of cars requiring Government staff wishing to novate lease as part of salary sacrificing to purchase motor vehicles from a particular dealer?

Answer—

- (1) No Government Department allows staff to purchase vehicles through salary sacrifice arrangements. The salary packaging policy allows staff to lease vehicles for private use. Senior Executive Service officers and Senior Officers may salary sacrifice through their department enabling them to choose a vehicle on Government contract that is then purchased by StateFleet and leased back to their department. Alternatively they can choose a novated lease that enables them to select from a broader choice of vehicles. Within the NSW public service, 58 agencies offer all employees novated leasing of vehicles as a benefit. Five of these agencies do not have any employees utilising this benefit.
- (2) Staff do not directly receive any discount pricing. Agencies enter into lease agreements with StateFleet and then provide vehicles to SES or Senior Officers under salary sacrifice arrangements. Novated leases do not receive the NSW Government discount. Some competitive pricing for petrol may exist due to the volume offered to Fleet suppliers.
- (3) No, not all agencies offer the novated lease system for staff.
- (4) It is an option that agencies may make available to staff. It is not mandatory.
- (5) Reverse novated leases are not currently available for staff of NSW Government Departments.
- (6) None as it does not apply.
- (7) Employees do not have access to Government Fleet pricing for purchase. They may obtain a vehicle under salary sacrifice arrangements that has been purchased by StateFleet at Government Fleet pricing then leased to their agency under an operating lease agreement. If officers wish to purchase a vehicle at the expiration of a lease they may do so at the Government Auction where they compete with other buyers.
- (8) Yes. Novated leases include agreement with suppliers to pay all normal taxes including stamp duty.
- (9) Not applicable

- (10) If such a reverse novated lease product existed it would be the employee.
- (11) Not applicable.
- (12) No. Not applicable.
- (13) In relation to Government Fleet pricing, this only applies to StateFleet or agencies that purchase vehicles. Employees cannot purchase vehicles at the NSW Government discount rate. Reduced purchase costs relate to fleet volume and do not prevent the payment of usual duties over the course of the lease.
- (14) It is not known. This enquiry should be directed to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the President of the Legislative Council.
- (15) A motor vehicle policy exists (please refer to Premier's website-Motor Vehicle Policy and Circulars 2005-29 and 2002-61) but there is no policy on reverse novated leases.
- (16) No. No reverse leases exist.
- (17) The motor vehicle contract is with major automobile companies who in turn nominate dealers to service the contract. How agency buyers use the contract and which dealers they choose to use is determined by them.
- (18) No.
- (19) No. Not applicable.
- (20) No. If you wish to lease a car under a novated lease, there is no specific dealer.

*0032 REGISTRATION TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

Why is it that when attempting to register a vehicle transfer in New South Wales on behalf of a company, an Australian Capital Driver's Licence is refused as proof of identity by the Roads and Traffic Authority?

Answer—

I am advised:

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

*0033 STAMP DUTY RECEIPTS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) How much in stamp duty receipts has been lost by the Government through the policy of encouraging reverse novated leases?
- (2) How much in stamp duty receipts has been avoided through the use of Government Fleet Pricing when purchasing a motor vehicle as part of a salary sacrificing package and reverse novated lease for private use?

Answer—

I'm advised that there is no government policy relating to "reverse novated leases", nor is the term defined within the Duties Act 1997.

*0034 WAGGA WAGGA DENTAL CLINIC—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many dentists are employed in the Dental Clinic in Wagga Wagga?
- (2) When will dentists be appointed to the Wagga Wagga Dental Clinic in order to reduce patients' waiting time?
- (3) How many dentists will be appointed?
- (4) Is advertising in place to attract dentists?
- (5) Does Greater Southern Area Health Service have adequate funds to employ dentists?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) One.
- (2) On successful recruitment of a suitable applicant.
- (3) Two are sought.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Yes.

*0035 QUALIFIED MEDICAL EXAMINERS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (1) Why is there only one (1) qualified Medical Examiner in Wagga Wagga for women who have been sexually assaulted?
- (2) How many qualified Medical Examiners are available in the Greater Southern Area Health Service?
- (3) Compared to 2004 has the number of Medical Examiners increased or decreased?
- (4) Why is there a lack of Examiners in Wagga Wagga?
- (5) Are Examiners covered for insurance purposes should they be called as witnesses in a subsequent court case?
- (6) Does the qualification of sexual assault Medical Examiners expose the doctor to litigation through his or her work?
- (7) Is it acceptable for a major city to have only one (1) examiner?
- (8) What have you or the Department of Health done to rectify the lack of Medical Examiners and when was this action undertaken?
- (9) When is it expected that this problem will be resolved?
- (10) How many women in 2005, 2004, 2003 and 2001 were required to travel for examination because there was no qualified examiner in Wagga Wagga available?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me NSW Health provides the following advice:

- (1) Medical Practitioners volunteer to undertake the role of conducting forensic examinations.
- (2) Seventeen, plus access to four in the ACT.
- (3) Data is not available.
- (4) See (1) above.
- (5) and (6) Where employees of an Area Health Service provide services as a medical examiner, and that is done as part of their employment with the Health Service, they are indemnified by the Treasury Managed Fund.
- (7) While it would be preferable to have several Medical Examiners in major cities, this may not always be possible in regional or remote locations. In these instances alternate arrangements including utilizing the resources of nearby centres ensures the continued provision of service to the community.
- (8) Regular training opportunities occur throughout the region. In addition, NSW Health is currently rolling out a model of practice called the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program for suitably qualified nurses to undertake specialist training and provide sexual assault forensic examinations for adult victims of sexual assault.
- (9) Completion of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner training requirements will alleviate service pressures in Wagga Wagga. The Greater Southern Area Health Service will continue its efforts to increase the number of examiners in Wagga Wagga.
- (10) A co-operative system has been developed between centres in order to best meet the needs of sexual assault victims and reduce incidents of transfers. The balance of transfers are to Wagga Wagga rather than out.

*0036 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE COMPLAINTS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many complaints, regardless of issue, has the Health Care Complaints Commission received about Greater Southern Area Health Service Mental Health?
- (2) How many complaints are from the 2650 postcode region?

Answer—

The Health Care Complaints Commission has provided the following advice:

- (1) Since the establishment of the Greater Southern Area Health Service on 1 January 2005, to 23 May 2006 the Health Care Complaints Commission has received 8 complaints regarding facilities delivering mental health services in the Greater Southern Area Health Service and 8 complaints regarding individual practitioners delivering mental health services in the Greater Southern Area Health Service.
- (2) During the period 1 January 2005 to 23 May 2006, 6 complainants have listed their address with a 2650 postcode.

*0037 BUS DRIVER FINES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) How many times has State Transit Authority (STA) required bus drivers to pay fines received for STA buses speeding in school zones for each of the financial years between 1 July 1999 and 30 June 2005, and since 1 July 2005?
- (2) How are STA bus drivers disciplined if they receive more than one speeding fine within a 12-month period while operating an STA bus?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) State Transit requires drivers to pay any fines imposed for speeding. This has occurred a total of 11 times in the period specified.
- (2) Under the Transport Administration (Staff) Regulation 2005 (NSW), Bus Operators who come under notice for multiple speeding offences are subject to formal discipline proceedings to be commenced by the issue of a notice of charge.

There are a range of disciplinary outcomes for Bus Operators who come under notice for more than one speeding offence and the appropriate disciplinary action is taken to fit the circumstances.

*0038 SPAD INCIDENTS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to incidents of Signals Passed At Danger (SPAD) on the CityRail network since 4 September 2005, how many SPADs have occurred on each of the following lines:

- (1) Eastern Suburbs and Illawarra line?
- (2) Bankstown line?
- (3) Inner West line?
- (4) Cumberland line?
- (5) Airport and East Hills line?
- (6) South line?
- (7) North Shore line?
- (8) Western line?
- (9) Northern line?
- (10) Carlingford line?
- (11) Olympic Park line?

Answer—

I am advised:

Details relating to incidents of Signals Passed at Danger (SPADs) are available both on the RailCorp website, www.railcorp.info and on the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) website, www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au.

*0039 BUS ACCIDENTS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to State Transit bus drivers:

- (1) How many times has State Transit buses been involved in road accidents since 1 July 2005?
- (2) Since 1 July 2005, how many State Transit bus road accidents were deemed the fault of State Transit bus drivers?
- (3) How many times were State Transit buses involved in road accidents between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005?
- (4) Between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, how many State Transit bus road accidents were deemed the fault of the State Transit bus driver?
- (5) If involved in a road accident while driving a State Transit bus, is it mandatory for State Transit bus drivers to undergo driver re-training?
- (6) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Of all trips operated by State Transit between 1 July 2005 and 9 May 2006, 0.08% involved a road accident between a State Transit bus and another vehicle. In less than half of these instances State Transit bus drivers were deemed at fault.

(3) and (4) Of all trips operated by State Transit between 1 July 2004 and 20 June 2005, 0.09% involved a road accident between a State Transit bus and another vehicle. In less than half of these instances State Transit bus drivers were deemed at fault.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

(5) and (6) State Transit monitors on-road incidents involving buses on a daily basis.

Drivers receive re-training in cases where significant damage is caused to a bus or other vehicles.

State Transit also has a policy of re-training drivers if they are involved in three minor or "or not at fault" on road incidents over a twelve-month period.

All drivers have the opportunity to attend counselling after an incident.

*0040 TRANSIT OFFICERS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to RailCorp:

- (1) How much revenue has been collected by Transit Officers since 1 July 2005?
- (2) How much revenue was collected by Transit Officers during the 2004/2005 financial year?
- (3) How much revenue was collected by Transit Officers during the 2003/2004 financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transit Officers do not collect revenue. This is a function of the Infringement Processing Bureau and the Office of State Revenue.

*0041 CANCELLED SERVICES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to the cancelled services on the CityRail network since 4 September 2005, how many schedules services have been cancelled on each of the following lines:

- (1) Eastern Suburbs and Illawarra line?
- (2) Bankstown line?
- (3) Inner West line?
- (4) Cumberland line?
- (5) Airport and East Hills line?
- (6) South line?
- (7) North Shore line?
- (8) Western line?
- (9) Northern line?
- (10) Carlingford line?
- (11) Olympic Park line?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (11) That between 4 September 2005 and 12 May 2006 0.84% of peak services were cancelled.

The CityRail benchmark is for 99% of peak timetabled services to operate.

*0042 LOST EVIDENCE—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Is the Attorney aware of the apparent loss by the District Court of a copy of a taped interview conducted by Hornsby police and the driver of a vehicle involved in a Pacific Highway Pymble traffic accident on 29 October 2001 which resulted in catastrophic injury to Ben Harrison?
- (2) How is it possible for a tape held by the Court in February 2006 to have been lost or misplaced two months later?
- (3) Has an investigation commenced into the loss of this evidence?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) Will the Attorney take steps to initiate an inquiry?
- (4) How often do NSW courts "lose" evidence?

Answer—

The Honourable Member would need to provide more detail concerning the nature and comment of the allegedly misplaced tape. A tape and transcript of separate Police interviews is presently in the possession of the District Court. Plainly, these articles have not been misplaced.

*0043 RAILCORP AND WORKCOVER—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

In relation to RailCorp:

- (1) Since 1 July 2005, how many WorkCover notices have been issued to RailCorp?
- (2) What is the total value of these WorkCover notices?

Answer—

WorkCover has issued a total of 18 Notices to RailCorp since 1 July 2005.

This includes fifteen Improvement Notices, two Prohibition Notices and one notice under section 62 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 in relation to the provision of information.

There have been no fines attached to these notices.

*0044 SYDNEY TO MELBOURNE RAIL SERVICE—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to RailCorp's Sydney to Melbourne and Melbourne to Sydney services:

- (1) What is the total cost of the current expansion of RailCorp's Albury facilities to cater for the operation of the services?
- (2) Since 1 July 2005, what is the total expenditure for lodging in Sydney overnight for RailCorp train crew operating the services?
- (3) How much has this expense increased or decreased from the 2004/2005 financial year?
- (4) Since 1 July 2005, what is the total expenditure for lodging in Melbourne overnight for RailCorp train crew operating the services?
- (5) How much has this expense increased or decreased from the 2004/2005 financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) No additional facilities will be required in Albury with the exception of lockers. It is estimated that the cost of the lockers will be approximately \$3,000.
- (2) Nil
- (3) NA
- (4) The total expenditure for lodging in Melbourne overnight for RailCorp train crew operating the services since 1 July 2005 was \$ 92, 260.
- (5) The expenditure for lodging in Melbourne overnight for RailCorp train crew operating the services decreased by \$25,720 when compared to the same period in 2004/05.

*0045 SYDNEY FERRIES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to Sydney Ferries:

- (1) Since 1 July 2004, how many vessels have been taken out of service as a result of a mechanical breakdown?
- (2) Since 1 July 2004, which vessel has been taken out of service the most number of times as a result of mechanical breakdowns?
- (3) Using the answer to question (2), how many times was it taken out of service as a result of mechanical breakdowns?
- (4) Using the answer to question (2), what is the total expenditure of repairs to this vessel since 1 July 2004?

Answer—

I am advised:

The requested information is not readily available from 1 July 2004 and the time and resources required to source it would constitute an unreasonable diversion of resources.

*0046 SYDNEY FERRY SERVICES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to Sydney Ferries:

- (1) How many Parramatta RiverCat services from Circular Quay have been cancelled since 1 July 2005?
- (2) How many Parramatta RiverCat services to Circular Quay have been cancelled since 1 July 2005?
- (3) How many Parramatta RiverCat services from Circular Quay were cancelled between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005?
- (4) How many Parramatta RiverCat services to Circular Quay were cancelled between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Answer—

I am advised:

I am advised by Sydney Ferries that 98 per cent of scheduled Parramatta Wharf services operated between 1 July 2005 and 31 May 2006.

I am further advised that 97.2 per cent of scheduled Parramatta Wharf services operated between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005.

*0047 RAILWAY CARRIAGES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to new rail carriages to be introduced commencing 2008:

If the Minister's press release of 24 February 2006 stated that 498 carriages will be completed by 2010 and the Premier's press release of 4 May 2006 states that 59 eight car trains (or 472 carriages) will be completed by 2012, what is the cause of the delay of two years?

Answer—

The Government has decided to extend the scope of the PPP rolling stock contract. The increased order will mean approximately 600 new rail carriages will now be purchased for the network.

The short-list proponents will now be asked to submit final bids for the contract to supply at least 59 eight-carriage double deck trains and at least 13 additional eight-carriage double deck trains.

The order will allow RailCorp to replace the remaining non-air-conditioned carriages and will provide additional capacity to meet the patronage growth being experienced across the network.

The increase to approximately 600 new carriages is a major investment in the future of the network. It is the biggest rolling stock acquisition in Australian history.

It will ensure the CityRail network can continue to grow and meet the needs of our expanding city.

*0048 BUS DRIVER ASSAULT—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to State Transit bus drivers:

- (1) How many times have State Transit bus drivers reported being physically assaulted since 1 July 2005?
- (2) How many times did State Transit bus drivers report being physically assaulted between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005?
- (3) How many instances of State Transit bus drivers being physically assaulted have been referred to the police by State Transit employees since 1 July 2005?
- (4) How many instances of State Transit bus drivers being physically assaulted were referred to the police by State Transit employees between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Transit Bus Operators are required to report incidents of physical assault to State Transit.

- (1) 76 incidents to 22 May 2006.
- (2) 86.
- (3) 47.
- (4) 43.

*0049 FERRY VESSEL INCIDENTS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to Sydney Ferries:

- (1) Since 1 July 2004, what is the total cost of all damage inflicted as a result of major and minor vessel incidents (major and minor as defined in the Sydney Ferries 2004/05 Annual Report page 25)?
- (2) Since 1 July 2004, what is the total cost of all repairs undertaken to date as a result of major and minor vessel incidents?
- (3) What repairs are still to be completed as a result of major and minor vessel incidents?
- (4) How many repairs as a result of major and minor vessel incidents have not commenced?

Answer—

I am advised:

I am advised the total cost of major and minor vessel incidents is not collated in a central database and that the time and resources required to source the requested information would constitute an unreasonable diversion of resources.

I am further advised that there were no vessels under maintenance due to incidents at the date of your question.

*0050 INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to RailCorp:

- (1) Since 1 July 2005, how many infringement notices have been disputed in court?
- (2) What is the total monetary value of these infringement notices disputed in court?
- (3) Since 1 July 2005, how many cases of disputed infringement notices have RailCorp lost in court?
- (4) Since 1 July 2005, what has been the total cost awarded against RailCorp for the cases lost?
- (5) Between the period of 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, how many infringement notices were disputed in court?
- (6) Between the period of 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, what was the total monetary value of these infringement notices disputed in court?
- (7) Between the period of 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, how many cases of disputed infringement notices did RailCorp lose in court?
- (8) Between the period of 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, what was the total cost awarded against RailCorp for the cases lost?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) For the period 1 July 2005 to 30 April 2006, 2,326 new Court Attendance Notices were issued for Rail Infringement Notices.
- (2) For the period 1 July 2005 to 30 April 2006, the fixed penalty total for the 2,326 Court Attendance Notices was \$538,290.
- (3) For the period 1 July 2005 to 30 April 2006, 4,113 matters have been determined. Of these 217 resulted in dismissal.
- (4) For the period 1 July 2005 to 30 April 2006, \$8,119.95 was awarded against RailCorp for the cases lost.
- (5) For the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, 5,251 new Court Attendance Notices were issued for Rail Infringement Notices.
- (6) For the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 the fixed penalty total for the 5,251 Court Attendance Notices was \$1,307,050.
- (7) For the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, 2,902 matters were been determined. Of these 198 resulted in dismissal.
- (8) For the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, \$2,030 was awarded against RailCorp for the cases lost.

*0051 GRAHAM CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) When can Mr David Graham of Wairoonga expect an answer to a letter concerning the Pacific Highway sent to the former Minister for Roads on 23 December 2005 and acknowledged on 10 January 2006?
- (2) Does your office routinely advise members of the public seeking responses to their letters to wait because of a backlog of hundreds of letters?
- (3) What are (a) your and (b) the Roads and Traffic Authority's targets for replying to correspondence from the public?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Parliamentary Secretary for Roads Matt Brown MP forwarded a response to Mr Graham's correspondence on 18 May.

*0052 TICKET MACHINES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to State Transit:

- (1) How many reported incidents of on-bus ticket validation machines being out of service have been

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

made since 1 July 2005?

- (2) What is the estimated loss of revenue from non-operational on-bus ticket validation machines since 1 July 2005?
- (3) How much has been spent on repairs to on-bus ticket validation machines since 1 July 2005?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) From 1 July 2005 to 30 April 2006 State Transit buses operated more than 4.1 million trips. The validation machine maintenance contract prescribes an agreed set of Key Performance Indicators and includes a target of 98% systems availability. The system has consistently performed at above 99% availability.
- (2) It is not possible to estimate this figure. However, any revenue loss would be minimal as the validation machines would be out of service for a short period of time.
- (3) Repairs to on-bus ticket validation machines are not separately costed.

*0053 SYDNEY FERRIES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to Sydney Ferries:

- (1) How many services to Manly Wharf from Circular Quay have been cancelled since 1 July 2005?
- (2) How many services to Circular Quay from Manly Wharf have been cancelled since 1 July 2005?
- (3) How many services to Manly Wharf from Circular Quay were cancelled between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005?
- (4) How many services to Circular Quay from Manly Wharf were cancelled between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005?
- (5) How many times have buses replaced ferry services between Manly Wharf and Circular Quay since 1 July 2005?
- (6) How many times did buses replace ferry services between Manly Wharf and Circular Quay between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005?

Answer—

I am advised:

From time to time Manly services do not operate due to heavy weather conditions, mechanical problems or other issues.

I am advised that when there is sufficient notice of a cancellation, Sydney Ferries arranges alternative transport for passengers on scheduled services or on replacement bus services between Manly and Circular Quay.

From 1 June 2004 to 30 June 2005, 96.1 per cent of scheduled Manly ferry services operated. Sydney Ferries arranged for buses to operate in place of 1.5 per cent of cancelled services to minimise the inconvenience to passengers.

From 1 June 2005 to 30 April 2006, 96.7 per cent of scheduled Manly ferry services operated. Sydney Ferries arranged for buses to operate in place of 0.6 per cent of cancelled services.

*0054 STATE TRANSIT BUS SERVICES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to State Transit patronage figures:

- (1) Since 1 July 2005, how many bus services have recorded less than 10 passenger trips between Central Station (Railway Square) terminus and Circular Quay terminus?
- (2) Between the period of 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, how many bus services recorded less than 10 passenger trips between Central Station (Railway Square) terminus and Circular Quay terminus?
- (3) Since 1 July 2005, how many bus services have recorded less than 10 passenger trips between QVB terminus and Circular Quay terminus?
- (4) Between the period of 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, how many bus services recorded less than 10 passenger trips between QVB terminus and Circular Quay terminus?

Answer—

I am advised:

Currently, State Transit's automatic fare collection system records information concerning ticket sales and ticket validations at the point of boarding. No information is collected when a passenger alights from a bus.

Therefore, the information requested is not available.

*0057 CT SCAN—MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) When was the CT scan machine installed at the Mount Druitt Hospital?
- (2) Since being operational, how many persons per month, on average, have been examined by this machine?
- (3) What was the total cost of the CT scan in question?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) The CT scan machine at Mt Druitt Hospital was installed in August 2003.
- (2) There have been an average of 140 patients, per month, examined by the machine.
- (3) The initial purchase cost of the CT scan was \$702,637.01

*0058 ROOTY HILL ZONING—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What is the zoning for the land on which the new Readymix Plant at Rooty Hill is to be built?
- (2) For how long has this land been so zoned?
- (3) What was the process and what authorities were involved in having this land zoned as per point one above?
- (4) Has there been any action to rezone this land in the past 15 years?
- (5) Has there been any request by the Blacktown City Council to change the zoning of this land over the past 15 years?
- (6) If so, when was this approach made and what was the result of this request?

Answer—

(1) to (6) I am advised the proposed development site is the subject of a number of different zonings under Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 1988 as amended, including:

- Lot 5 DP255515, Part Lot 1 DP 582388 and part Lot 3 DP 1042577 are zoned 4(a) Industrial General
- North Parade and Part Lot 15 DP 806053 is zoned 5(c) Special Uses (Local Road and Local Road Widening) and
- Lot 1 DP 607084, Part VIDE GAZ No 145 of 30/10/1942 and Part GovGaz 5/7/1859 Folio 1500 are zoned 5(a) Special Uses General.

In addition, Part Lot 2 DP 582388 is zoned Regional Parkland under Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (SREP) No 31.

It is noted that the full extent of the information requested is only held by Blacktown City Council as the majority of actions and approaches associated with rezonings occur at the local council level only and may not proceed to the Department of Planning.

I am advised that Section 149 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 provides that a person may, on payment of the prescribed fee, apply to a Council for a planning certificate with respect to any land within the area of the Council. Under Schedule 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000, planning certificates should include, among other information, zoning and land use under the relevant LEPs. A person may also view the relevant Council's planning and development section on their website.

23 MAY 2006

(Paper No. 2)

*0060 ASBESTOS IN DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (1) When will the property assessment survey be completed in relation to Department of Housing properties containing components produced from asbestos material?
- (2) In view of the much publicised concern over asbestos why has it taken the Department of Housing so long to conduct this audit?
- (3) Will the occupants of properties containing asbestos be informed?
- (4) Will the Minister prepare a relocation program under the Department's 'duty of care' to eliminate the possibility of any incidents caused by exposure to asbestos?

Answer—

(1) The Department is in the process of completing a Property Assessment Survey (as part of its Maintenance Reform Program) of all properties, buildings and grounds across the public housing portfolio in NSW.

(2) to (4) All available expert evidence is that building materials that may contain asbestos are considered safe if left undisturbed and are only unsafe when disturbed by dust generating procedures.

Where disturbed asbestos is present in public housing properties it is dealt with in accordance with the contract requirements for asbestos related works, including WorkCover requirements, Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and Safe Work Method Statements.

*0061 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) How many fibro-constructed dwellings are owned by the Department of Housing?
- (2) What percentage of total Department of Housing stock is comprised of fibro-constructed houses?
- (3) How many of these properties are being considered for disposal or replacement?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Departmental properties that were constructed or purchased prior to 1980 may or may not have asbestos-cement used as part of their construction.

(3) The Department regularly reviews its assets to determine their cost-effectiveness, viability, long-term benefits and whether they meet the current and projected future needs of clients.

*0062 JOHN FOORD BRIDGE AT COROWA—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What progress has been made on restoration works for the John Foord Bridge across the Murray River at Corowa?
- (2) What is the timeline for the joint Roads and Traffic Authority/Vic Roads upgrade of this bridge?

Answer—

I am advised:

Replacement of timber components on the adjacent NSW approach bridges is proposed in the 2006/07 financial year.

Rehabilitation works on the John Foord Bridge will commence when planning is complete. It is expected the work will take approximately 18 months to complete from commencement.

*0064 AIRCONDITIONING FOR ALBURY ELECTORATE SCHOOLS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Education and Training—

Which schools in the Albury electorate are on the priority 'hot spot' list for air conditioning?

Answer—

The Air Cooling Program for 2006/07 is currently being prepared. The program focuses on providing air cooling in permanent classrooms in schools located in areas which experience a mean maximum January temperature above 30 degrees Celsius. The hottest rooms in schools are being treated first.

The NSW Labor Government's decision to extend the air cooling program to schools with a mean maximum January temperature of 30°C and above, meant an additional 425 schools qualified for air-conditioning. Under the previous Liberal/National Government the mean maximum January temperature had to be above 33°C.

The needs of schools in the Albury electorate which meet the criteria will be considered in determining the next round of priorities.

*0066 NEW LAVINGTON FIRE STATION—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

Will funds be allocated in 2006/07 to construct the long awaited Lavington Fire Station in Kaitlers Road?

Answer—

There was no new funding allocated in the 2006/07 budget for this project.

*0067 AGED CARE BEDS AT CULCAIRN MPS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

(1) What steps are being taken to respond to community calls for the extension of Kiltearn House at Culcairn MPS to provide additional accommodation for aged and dementia care residents?

(2) What is the timeframe for any planning process currently underway?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

(1) Greater Southern Area Health Service has commenced service planning for the Culcairn Multi Purpose Service. The service plan will include considerable community consultation.

(2) The first meeting with the Culcairn MPS Advisory Committee was held on 9 May 2006 and it is anticipated that the Culcairn Health Service plan will be completed later this year.

*0068 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING LEASED PROPERTIES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

(1) How many Department of Housing properties are subject to:

(a) Short term headleasing?

(b) Long term headleasing?

(c) Spot headleasing?

(2) How many of these properties are occupied by seniors?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The number of head leases is contained in the 2006/2007 Budget Papers.

*0069 ALBURY-BASED COUNTRYLINK XPT TEAM—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

What progress has been made on the announced plan to base over thirty CountryLink XPT attendants in Albury?

Answer—

I am advised:

RailCorp is currently consulting with the Rail Tram and Bus Union on this matter. It is anticipated that staff will be recruited, trained and in position later this year.

*0070 SOUTH COAST REGIONAL PLAN CRITERIA—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

(1) What criteria was used in the South Coast Regional Plan to identify isolated and sensitive locations?

(2) Why wasn't Bermagui included and identified as urban land that needs assessment?

(3) How did the Department assess vacant land in and around Bateman's Bay given that much of the land is already subdivided, developed and/or already approved for subdivision?

(4) Why is there a need for an independent panel?

(5) Who appoints the panel?

(6) Are former politicians likely to be on the panel?

(7) What are the criteria for selection?

(8) Who supplied demand and supply figures to the Department?

(9) When were they supplied and what was relevant year of figure?

(10) Is there an intention to decrease urban expansion or future urban-zoned land in Eurobodalla?

(11) Are there transitional arrangements for urban-zoned land, ie Long Beach and Rosedale?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (1) I am advised that the sites were chosen in consultation with Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley councils based on factors such as isolation, environmental sensitivity and the zoning as urban, future urban or similar.
- (2) I am advised that Bermagui does not have any land zoned as future urban, and does not have a significant amount of land zoned as small rural holdings.
- (3) The Department has worked closely with Eurobodalla Shire Council in developing the draft Regional Strategy and the draft Eurobodalla Settlement Strategy that has been prepared by Council. Urban investigation areas which are identified in the final Eurobodalla Settlement Strategy will be Government endorsed.
- (4) There is a need for an independent panel to provide clear, objective advice to me.
- (5) I have already appointed the panel members.
- (6) The panel membership is:
 - Dr Andrew Refshauge (Chair), former NSW Planning Minister who was instrumental in implementing policies to protect the State's sensitive coastline from inappropriate development (eg SEPP 71).
 - Mr Vince Berkhout (Town planner) who has vast experience in advising government agencies and councils on sustainable urban growth strategies.
 - Dr David Robertson (Ecologist), who has more than 20 years experience in ecological surveying and research, including threatened species investigations and aquatic ecology.
- (7) Criteria for selection were expertise and experience in their field.
- (8) and (9) Population projections were supplied by the Transport Population and Data Centre. Information on housing supply and demand was supplied to the Department by each of the South Coast Councils as well as an external consultant. Councils were consulted during 2005 and early 2006.
- (10) The Panel will review the suitability of these sites for development, seeking input from councils, agencies, landowners and the wider community.
- (11) Urban zoned land in Long Beach and Rosedale are two of the 'sensitive urban lands' that will be examined by the independent panel. The review will determine the suitability and scale of any release to be undertaken in consultation with the local council, land owners, the community and relevant state agencies.

*0071 HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION—OVERTAKING LANE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) Will the Minister release the plan of construction for the overtaking lane, realignment of the Highway at the intersection of Brushgrove Lane and Victoria Creek on the Princes Highway?
- (2) What is the cost of the projects?
- (3) Why hasn't it been built as planned in financial year 2005/2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

The appropriate location for the overtaking lane is south of Mystery Bay Road. This location is appropriate considering the proposal to deviate the Princes Highway away from Victoria Creek.

The project is under development, including planning and cost assessment.

*0072 ROADSIDE RUBBISH—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What is being done to clean up roadside rubbish on the Princes Highway between Bateman's Bay and Ulladulla?
- (2) What is the budget to rectify the problem within the Roads and Traffic Authority?

Answer—

I am advised:

Under the RTA's general maintenance program, the RTA patrols the Princes Highway between Batemans Bay and Ulladulla on a weekly basis to clear rubbish.

*0073 HEALTH PROBLEMS AND BURN OFF—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Have any scientific studies been conducted to establish the cost to the community of health problems associated with burn offs?
- (2) If not, will the Minister commit to such a study?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of any studies into burn offs?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me that NSW Health provides the following advice:

- (1) No.
- (2) A cost/benefit analysis of burn offs go beyond direct health problems and hence commitment for such a study lies outside the Health portfolio.
- (3) The NSW Department of Health has undertaken research, which has provided estimates of health impacts of major bushfire and hazard reduction burns.

*0074 OCEAN OUTFALLS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the concerns of the Bermagui community in relation to the threefold increase of treated sewerage through the ocean outfall?
- (2) Will the Minister commit the \$4m to build a re-use scheme and halt the ocean outfall?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of the Marine Park Authority's view that they will need to assess the outfall in light of the new marine park?

Answer—

I'm advised the upgrade of the Bermagui Sewage Treatment Plant is being carried out by the Bega Valley Shire Council to cater for growth within Bermagui and to treat sewage from the Wallaga Lake villages. It is proposed as part of the Bega Valley Sewerage Program. The State Government has committed \$24.3M towards this Program from the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program to assist Bega Valley Shire Council in improving sewerage services throughout the Shire.

Matters relating to the details of the scheme are the responsibility of Bega Valley Shire Council.

*0075 BATEMAN'S BAY MARINA CO-OPERATIVE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the concerns of the Bateman's Bay Marina Co-operative regarding the Government's proposal for the marina?
- (2) Will part of Rotary Park be taken over and if so for what purpose?
- (3) Will it include a hotel/resort development?
- (4) How was the estimate of "more than 260 extra moorings" determined?
- (5) When must the marina berths be replaced, given their deteriorating state?
- (6) Are there plans to reclaim existing marina berths?
- (7) What will happen to the community land if the marina is handed to private enterprise?
- (8) Why has the pump-out facility not been constructed, given it was announced in April 1998 by the Hon John Aquilina MP?

Answer—

- (1) Yes. The Cooperative has been consulted during the planning phases of the marina upgrade project and been made aware of the Expression of Interest process for the future management of the facility.
- (2) Rotary Park will not be affected by the proposed development.
- (3) No.
- (4) The estimate was arrived at after preliminary studies commissioned by the Department, in consultation with NSW Maritime Authority.
- (5) The current marina berths need to be replaced in the next 2 to 3 years. In the meantime, the Department of Lands will continue its patch repair programme. Integral to this programme is regular monitoring of the condition of the piles.
- (6) The redevelopment will involve the transfer of dredge material from the eastern side of the harbour in order to reclaim the existing marina area. This has been deemed the most appropriate option, given the remaining life of the current berths, the need to have a larger land base and to ensure no impact on Rotary Park.
- (7) The marina will not be 'handed over' to private enterprise, and the development will not encroach onto Rotary Park. The Park continues to remain under the management of Eurobodalla Shire Council as a public recreation reserve.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (8) Funding for the pump-out facility was originally granted to Eurobodalla Shire Council. There have been some delays as part of the DA process. To expedite matters, the Department of Lands has recently forwarded its endorsement, as the landowner, to allow the planning process to go forward. Agreements in place reflect that the Department of Lands will be responsible for the construction of the facility, whilst Council will be responsible for its ongoing maintenance.

*0076 IPTAAS SCHEME—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why is a client who uses community transport not eligible to claim assistance through the New South Wales Isolated Patients' Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS)?
- (2) Given the difficulties facing patients in the state's south east and the distance from services, what is being done to give such clients assistance?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) The NSW Government provides a range of transport services for people needing assistance to travel to health appointments.

I am advised that a person may only receive assistance for travel from one Government service for the same trip.

- (2) In 2005/06, the NSW Government has provided more than \$11 million for non-emergency health related transport assistance in rural and remote areas of NSW. These services, which include IPTAAS and Transport for Health, assist transport disadvantaged people living in rural and remote areas to access essential health services.

The NSW Government has also responded to the needs of people living in rural and remote areas of NSW for travel assistance by reducing the distance limit for IPTAAS from 200km to 100km and increasing the motor vehicle allowance from 12.7 cents per kilometre to 15.0 cents per kilometre from 1 July 2006. These changes, which will cost an estimated additional \$2.6 million per annum, are expected to assist an extra 11,500 patients and their carers every year.

In addition, all non-emergency health related transport programs will be integrated into a single streamlined Transport for Health program. This will ensure consistency in eligibility and access, improve coordination and provide a single point of contact for clients in each Area Health Service.

*0077 SURGERY CUTBACKS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is being done to rectify the low level of theatre staff on call at Batemans Bay Hospital?
- (2) What is being done to rectify the Ophthalmology surgery cutbacks at Batemans Bay?
- (3) Why are children being transferred to Canberra in order to have fractures treated?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) A new nurse roster is currently being trialled for emergency theatre coverage in the Eurobodalla local government area. The separate rosters for Batemans Bay and Moruya Hospitals have been consolidated into the one roster, which is centred on Moruya operating theatres. This is to ensure a viable emergency theatre service for the Eurobodalla local government area. The operating theatre in Batemans Bay will continue to be available for use during scheduled operating theatre sessions.
- (2) Ophthalmology surgery levels have returned to their base activity level in 2005/06 following a period of extra ophthalmology surgery undertaken in 2004/05. There are ongoing discussions occurring with the Ophthalmologist in regard to future activity targets for ophthalmology surgery.
- (3) The Eurobodalla Health Service is able to treat non-complex fractures in both children and adults. In cases where more complex orthopaedic services are required, patients are transferred to an appropriate specialist service. Transfers to services outside of the Eurobodalla area generally only occur if the care required is outside the role delineation of the Moruya Hospital.

*0078 MERINGO BURNOFF—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

Given the concerns of Meringo residents about the lack of hazard reduction burns near their community, will the Minister instruct his department to undertake a burnoff in the Meringo village?

Answer—

Officers from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), and Rural Fire Service have previously inspected the regenerating shrub adjacent to Meringo village on several occasions.

The general vegetation type associated with this area of regeneration (generally coastal swamp forest or low shrub) is considered low fire risk. The separation between existing residential dwellings and regenerating bushland meets the requirements of NSW Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines 2001. Additionally, large areas of cleared land immediately to the west, north west and south of Meringo village provide a level of protection from wildfires.

DEC has undertaken to maintain three slashed tracks across the regenerating area. This fire management strategy provides further fire breaks and allows improved access in case of wildfires. DEC will also discuss with the Eurobodalla Bush Fire Committee the possibility of maintaining a fuel free zone on the northern side of the main access road on the Crown Road Reserve.

A further inspection will be organised to determine whether additional hazard reduction work is required.

*0079 MORUYA HOSPITAL DIALYSIS UNIT—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many people are using the dialysis unit at Moruya Hospital per week?
- (2) Have there been funding cutbacks at the dialysis unit?
- (3) Is the unit supposed to have 12 people accessing the service weekly as opposed to 7?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health

I am advised:

- (1) As at 17 May 2006, there were eleven people using the dialysis unit at Moruya Hospital. It is anticipated that a twelfth client will commence in June 2006.
- (2) and (3) The initial Service Agreement was for the provision of dialysis services for eight clients. However, due to increased demand, the number of places available at the facility has increased to twelve. There have been no funding cutbacks at the dialysis unit. Enhancement funding was recently approved for the four additional renal dialysis places.

*0080 TITLE AND STRATA REVIEWS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

What reviews have taken place into community title and strata management?

Answer—

Within the last three years there have been two major, whole of government reviews canvassing a wide range of issues affecting strata schemes. The first of those reviews was titled Living in Strata Developments in 2003. The second review, which followed shortly after, was titled Strata Schemes in 2004 - the Further Issues. Both reviews generated a significant number of responses from developers and professionals operating in the strata area as well as from residents living within strata schemes. Changes were made to the strata legislation as a result of both reviews.

The government has recently launched a wide ranging review of issues relevant to the development and management of community schemes. A consultation paper titled Review of NSW Community Schemes Legislation has been published jointly by the Department of Lands and the Office of Fair Trading. The public is encouraged to provide comments and suggestions on all aspects of community schemes living.

*0081 STRATHALLEN SALE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What is the total cost of transferring the existing Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care services and facilities located at the Strathallen Centre in Goulburn?
- (2) Where will the clients currently located at Strathallen be accommodated?
- (3) What is the total cost to the Department of purchasing this alternative accommodation?
- (4) How many clients are still to be relocated to their new accommodation?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (1) The total cost of transferring the existing Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care services and facilities located at Strathallen Centre in Goulburn was \$4,345,688, excluding Day Program relocation to Blackshaw Road, Goulburn, which was \$355,000.
- (2) All residents have been relocated into homes that can accommodate up to five people, in the areas of Goulburn, Yass and Queanbeyan.
- (3) Answer as per number 1.
- (4) Nil.

*0082 STRATHALLEN SALE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Was an independent valuation of the Strathallen property in Goulburn conducted before the sale of this asset to the developers of the Kenmore Hospital site?
- (2) If so what was the valuation of the property?
- (3) What was the final sale price achieved on this property?
- (4) What State Government regulations govern whether an asset is sold by tender or by private arrangement?
- (5) Why was Strathallen not sold through a tender process?
- (6) Which organisation is responsible for providing independent oversight of the probity of the Strathallen sale process?

Answer—

- (1) Yes, by the State Valuation Office.
- (2) There were two valuations offered:
 - (a) \$520,000 as a development site; and
 - (b) \$790,000 as a going concern.
- (3) \$750,000 (within the valuation range assessed by the State Valuation Office).
- (4) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) obtained approval to proceed with a direct sale to Longreach, in March 2005, from the Property Disposal Advisory Panel of the Government Asset Management Committee.
- (5) The direct sale to Longreach was justified on the basis that:
 - (a) Costs associated with the separation of utility services from the remainder of the original Kenmore Hospital site would be avoided. These costs were estimated to be between \$120,000 to \$150,000 by NSW Health.
 - (b) DADHC could continue to use the site for day programs during 2005, even if the sale was finalised before then.
 - (c) DADHC would not incur the project management costs and time delays in offering the property for sale in the open market.
- (6) The Government Asset Management Committee and its Property Disposal Advisory Panel had responsibility for providing independent oversight of the probity of the Strathallen sale process.

*0083 MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What was the total annual cost to the Greater Southern Area Health Service budget of the Mental Health Family and Carer Support pilot program, which is being phased out between July and September 2006?
- (2) In which specific locations was this program operated?
- (3) How many families of mental health patients accessed this program?
- (4) What is the total annual funding allocation for the new Mental Health Family and Carer Program, announced by the Greater Southern Area Health Service Manager of Service Development and Performance Mental Health in April 2006?
- (5) In what specific locations will the proposed family and carer advocacy/support positions be located?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me NSW Health has provided the following advice:

- (1) The annual cost to the Greater Southern Area Health Service budget for the demonstration Mental Health Family and Carer pilot program has been \$150,000 per year.
- (2) The program has operated in the following communities:
Young, Goulburn, Harden, Yass, Queanbeyan, Bombala, Cooma, Bega, Braidwood and a group of

communities around Braidwood.

- (3) Approximately 600 families per year have attended the group sessions, attended for individual support or contacted the program for information and assistance.
- (4) The new "Family Sensitive Mental Health Services" program will be funded at \$320,000 per annum. This does not include NSW Department of Health funding for the Non Government Organisation component of the new Family and Carer model.
- (5) The Family and Carer Advocacy/Support Workers will be located within the Mental Health Teams in each of the six Mental Health Clusters throughout Greater Southern Area Health Service. The specific office locations will be dependent on where the staff members are located. Each will have responsibility for providing a service across all communities within their Cluster.

*0084 SALE OF GOULBURN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) With regard to the 2 May statement regarding the sale of the Goulburn Railway Workshops to United Group Rail, what specific commitments have you obtained from United Group Rail, regarding the continued employment of the existing staff at the facility?
- (2) Will this sale result in any forced redundancies of staff?
- (3) Will United Rail Group guarantee continued employment of existing staff under their current conditions?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Employees have been offered an enhanced redundancy package.
- (2) No.
- (3) Discussions between United and Goulburn staff are ongoing.

*0085 PURCHASE OF PROPERTY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) On behalf of which NSW Government Department was the property at 30 Cunningham Drive Tarlo purchased?
- (2) For what purpose will this property be used?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Commerce purchased the property on behalf of the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.
- (2) The property at 30 Cunningham Drive, Tarlo is currently being upgraded and modified for occupation as a residential group home for people with disabilities.

*0086 KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) When will you finalise the draft Plan of Management for the Kosciuszko National Park?
- (2) How many of the 58 National Parks and Wildlife Service recommendations that were not agreed to by regional advisory committees during the recent meeting at Adaminaby referred to horse riding access in the park?

Answer—

I am pleased to advise that the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management was released on 15 June this year.

The Advisory Committees supported all 19 recommendations relating to horse riding that were put forward by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

*0087 CONVENTION AND BUSINESS EVENT BIDS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) In relation to the 333 bids for conferences or business events bid for by the Sydney Visitor and Convention Bureau (ref Question on Notice 5512), of which 214 were won, which bids were successful, and which bids were unsuccessful, by name of event or conference?
- (2) Of the unsuccessful bids in relation to (1) above, on what dates were/will these conferences or

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

business events take place and in what locations?

Answer—

(1) The following information was released by the Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau of confirmed events for Sydney:

Meeting Name	Date In	Date Out
Mobile Wireless Internet Forum	8/01/2001	13/01/2001
9th World Congress of the Theosophical Society	13/01/2001	19/01/2001
Taxation Institute of Australia National Conference	22/03/2001	25/03/2001
Allstate Chairmans Conference 2001	23/03/2001	28/03/2001
STAR 2001 Conference	18/04/2001	21/04/2001
25th Medical Womens Congress (MWIA)- Women's Health in a Multicultural World 2001	19/04/2001	23/04/2001
VI Junior Men's Softball World Championships	21/04/2001	5/05/2001
INTERTANKO Conference & Exhibition	22/04/2001	24/04/2001
20th Congress of the International Committee for Life Disability and Health Assurance Medicine (ICLAM)	29/04/2001	3/05/2001
International Colored Gemstones Association Congress (ICA)	29/04/2001	3/05/2001
International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS) 2001	6/05/2001	9/05/2001
International Fertilizer Association Annual Conference	19/05/2001	22/05/2001
20th International Conference on Power Industry Computer Applications (PICA)	20/05/2001	25/05/2001
Services Research Special Interest Group (SERVSIG) 2001	26/05/2001	28/05/2001
12th IAHR Cooling Tower Symposium	1/06/2001	4/06/2001
Rotary District 9680 2001 Annual Conference	1/06/2001	3/06/2001
Australian Industrial & Organisational Psychology Conference	21/06/2001	26/06/2001
International Food & Agribusiness Management Association (IAMA) World Congress 2001	25/06/2001	27/06/2001
Dreamtime 2001	1/07/2001	18/07/2001
International Conference on Integrated Optics and Optical Fibre Communications - IOOC	1/07/2001	4/07/2001
Congress of the International Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Symmetry - ISIS	8/07/2001	14/07/2001
EuroSTAR Conferences - AsiaSTAR 2001	9/07/2001	13/07/2001
International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS)	9/07/2001	13/07/2001
Federation World Group 2nd Round Australia vs Switzerland	21/07/2001	22/07/2001
Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG) 2001	21/07/2001	27/07/2001

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

7th World Congress for Microcirculation	1908/2001	2408/2001
International Association of Prosecutors Annual Conference and General Meeting	309/2001	909/2001
XIITH International Congress of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies	1609/2001	2009/2001
72nd World Congress of the International Association of Seed Crushers	1709/2001	2109/2001
Intl Stereoscopic Union (ISU) Congress	1909/2001	2409/2001
Davis Cup World Group Semi Final - Australia vs Sweden	2109/2001	2309/2001
8th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems 2001	1/10/2001	4/10/2001
Coca Cola Collectors Club National Conference	12/10/2001	15/10/2001
Annual Conference of the Institute of Quarrying Australia	16/10/2001	18/10/2001
Oracle Applications User Group Asia Pacific (OAUG-AP) Conference 2001	21/10/2001	24/10/2001
8th World Congress of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine	28/10/2001	1/11/2001
Universal Air Travel Plan Annual Conference and Info Search	1/11/2001	5/11/2001
International Metalworkers' Federation Congress, 2001	11/11/2001	15/11/2001
Herbalife Asia Spectacular	7/12/2001	9/12/2001
14th International Society for Developmental Neuroscience Biennial Congress	31/01/2002	402/2002
World Congress on the Peaceful Reunification of China and World Peace	1402/2002	1702/2002
General Assembly and Congress of the International Tunnelling Association	203/2002	803/2004
XVTH Conference & Workshop of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities	1003/2002	1503/2002
Feta Freight Systems International Worldwide Conference (FFSI)	1403/2002	1703/2002
Mitra Tours' Client Incentive	2803/2002	3003/2002
International Standards Organisation (ISO) TC58/SC4 Meeting	804/2002	904/2002
National Conference of the American Board of Trial Advocates 2002	904/2002	1404/2002
Avatar Master Course	1304/2002	2104/2002
International meeting on Strabismus	1704/2002	2004/2002
International Ocular Inflammation Society Conference	2104/2002	2604/2002
International Symposium on Uveitis	2104/2002	2504/2002
XXIXTH International Congress of Ophthalmology - IFOS	2104/2002	2504/2002

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

XIVTH World Congress of Cardiology - ISFC	5/05/2002	9/05/2002
Institute of Municipal Management National Conference	10/05/2002	13/05/2002
Australian Library and Information Association Conference	19/05/2002	22/05/2002
ICOMIA/IFBSO Joint Congress	26/05/2002	29/05/2002
Reliance Client Incentive	20/06/2002	23/06/2002
18th International Conference on Numerical Methods in Fluid Dynamics 2002	15/07/2002	19/07/2002
International Conference on Plasma Physics	15/07/2002	19/07/2002
International Conference of the Y's Men's Clubs	1/08/2002	4/08/2002
Harvard Project For Asian and International Relations	15/08/2002	18/08/2002
International Road Federation Asia Pacific Conference 2002	1/09/2002	5/09/2002
PIANC/AIPCN 2002 - 30th International Navigation Congress	22/09/2002	26/09/2002
World Congress on Microwave and Radio Frequency Processing	22/09/2002	26/09/2002
World Congress on Osteoarthritis	22/09/2002	25/09/2002
6th International Conference on Rotor Dynamics	30/09/2002	4/10/2002
Joint Meeting of British and Australia-New Zealand Colleges of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	1/10/2002	4/10/2002
Aust & NZ College of Mental Health Nurses Regional Meeting	15/10/2002	18/10/2002
4th Australasian Water Law and Policy Conference	24/10/2002	25/10/2002
XLVI International Union of Lawyers Congress	27/10/2002	31/10/2002
4th National Conference of the Insurance Advisors Association of Australia	7/11/2002	10/11/2002
Gartner Group Symposium/Txpo, 2002	12/11/2002	15/11/2002
Countrywide Annual National Conference 2002	16/11/2002	18/11/2002
International Symposium on Ceramics in Medicine - Bioceramics 15	1/12/2002	3/12/2002
Pacific Rim Conference of the Electronic Retailing Association	1/12/2002	4/12/2002
Pathways National Conference	1/12/2002	5/12/2002
Hill-Rom Global Sales & Marketing Staff Meeting	6/01/2003	9/01/2003
Lehman & Associates Client Incentive	2/02/2003	5/02/2003
Toyota Thailand Challenge of Champions Incentive Program	5/02/2003	9/02/2003
Coaltrans Australia 2003	8/03/2003	11/03/2003
Prudential Financial Korea Incentive Program	16/03/2003	19/03/2003
15th Conference of the Intl Soc for Postural & Gait Research	23/03/2003	25/03/2003

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

11th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis & Liver Disease 2003	6/04/2003	10/04/2003
Society of Australasian Social Psychology Conference	25/04/2003	28/04/2003
Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Association of Neurologists	12/05/2003	16/05/2003
Congress of the Asian Association of Paediatric Surgeons (AAPS)	12/05/2003	16/05/2003
Australian Medical Association National Conference	30/05/2003	1/06/2003
Market Australia NMTSS Convention	5/06/2003	7/06/2003
6th International Symposium on Paediatric Pain	15/06/2003	18/06/2003
International Conference on Care and Housing for the Ageing	22/06/2003	25/06/2003
Asian Pacific Tourism Research Association Conference	6/07/2003	8/07/2003
5th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics	7/07/2003	11/07/2003
25th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union - IAU	12/07/2003	23/07/2003
25th Annual International Conference of the IEEE - Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS)	24/07/2003	28/07/2003
Conference of the International Lactation Consultants Association	30/07/2003	3/08/2003
XII International Workshop on Glasses, Ceramics, Hybrids and Nanocomposites from Gels	3/08/2003	8/08/2003
13th Intl Confed for Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery	10/08/2003	15/08/2003
15th International Symposium on Radiopharmaceutical Chemistry	10/08/2003	14/08/2003
Health Informatics Society of Australia National Conference	10/08/2003	12/08/2003
Associated Incentive Travel Client Incentive	11/08/2003	16/08/2003
World Jurist Assoc Congress 2003	17/08/2003	21/08/2003
20th World Congress on Medical Physics & Biomedical Engineering	24/08/2003	29/08/2003
Dermalogica Spa Convention 2003	26/08/2003	27/08/2003
Soroptimist International Convention 2003	27/08/2003	1/09/2003
57th Annual Congress of the International Fiscal Association - IFA	1/09/2003	6/09/2003
International Congress of Pharmaceutical Sciences	5/09/2003	8/09/2003
FDI Annual World Dental Congress	18/09/2003	21/09/2003
Marine Safety 2003 Conference	23/09/2003	24/09/2003
International Congress on Law and Mental Health 2003	30/09/2003	3/10/2003
Krasdale Foods Incentive Program 2003	16/10/2003	18/10/2003
National Pro Bono Conference	20/10/2003	21/10/2003

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Gartner Group Symposium/ITxpo, 2003	11/11/2003	14/11/2003
Kia Motors Incentive	25/11/2003	28/11/2003
Pfizer China Incentive	2/12/2003	6/12/2003
Pfizer Taiwan Incentive	3/12/2003	7/12/2003
Asia Paints Incentive Program 2003	4/12/2003	6/12/2003
World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry 2004	8/02/2004	12/02/2004
SANS Computer & Information Security Training Conference	12/02/2004	17/02/2004
Krompac 2003	22/02/2004	25/02/2004
AITD National Meeting	10/03/2004	12/03/2004
Conference of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Association	25/03/2004	30/03/2004
AIA Insurance Hong Kong	27/03/2004	29/03/2004
Enviro 2004	28/03/2004	31/03/2004
Ausbuid 2004	31/03/2004	4/04/2004
Muang Thai Life Insurance Thailand	7/04/2004	10/04/2004
The Shephard Group - UV Asia Pacific 2004 Conference and Exhibition	17/04/2004	22/04/2004
Tap Pharmaceuticals	22/04/2004	30/04/2004
Variety International Conference	27/04/2004	30/5/2004
China Life Insurance Incentive 2004	12/05/2004	14/05/2004
7th World Biomaterials Congress	17/05/2004	21/05/2004
Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society Annual Scientific Meeting, 2004	26/05/2004	29/05/2004
ING Life Insurance Taiwan Incentive Program	1/06/2004	3/06/2004
ICICI Insurance India	9/06/2004	11/06/2004
Nan Shan Insurance Incentive	10/06/2004	12/06/2004
International Conference of the Institute of Internal Auditors 2004	18/06/2004	26/06/2004
Association of Australasian IB Schools Conference	3/07/2004	7/07/2004
International Symposium on Forecasting	4/07/2004	7/07/2004
World Congress on Medical Law	1/08/2004	5/08/2004
International Conference on Cancer Nursing	8/08/2004	12/08/2004
Agriculture Australia	9/08/2004	11/08/2004
Woolworths Limited 3rd National Conference	15/08/2004	18/08/2004
International Congress of Eye Research	29/08/2004	3/09/2004
Tourism Industry Council Annual Conference	2/09/2004	3/09/2004
19th World Energy Congress	5/09/2004	9/09/2004
AIA Indonesia Incentive	6/09/2004	8/09/2004
AIA Insurance Thailand	24/09/2004	27/09/2004
Asian-Pacific Aquaculture	27/09/2004	29/09/2004
World Congress of the International Council of Medical Acupuncture	1/10/2004	4/10/2004
Australian International Education Conference	5/10/2004	8/10/2004

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Associated Food Stores Incentive	11/10/2004	15/10/2004
Traumacare 2004 - Intl Trauma Anesthesia & Critical Care Society	15/10/2004	17/10/2004
BIG 4 Holiday Parks 2004 National Conference	17/10/2004	20/10/2004
Gray Line Worldwide Annual Meeting and Marketing Conference	18/10/2004	22/10/2004
International Conference on Auditory Display	1/11/2004	4/11/2004
Inaugural McDonalds Worldwide Managers Conference	7/11/2004	11/11/2004
12th National Ecotourism Conference	8/11/2004	12/11/2004
11th International Congress on Antiphospholipid Antibodies	14/11/2004	18/11/2004
Gartner Group Symposium/ITxpo, 2004	16/11/2004	19/11/2004
International Convention of Vietnamese Physicians, Dentists & Pharmacists of the Free World	28/12/2004	30/12/2004
Amway China	6/01/2005	27/01/2005
International Association for Public Participation - IAP2 - Asia Pacific Conference	5/03/2005	8/03/2005
Client Meeting - Sara Lee Direct Selling	7/03/2005	9/03/2005
Wyeth Philippines National Sales Conference 2005	9/03/2005	14/03/2005
Amway Taiwan 2005 Leadership Seminar	12/03/2005	14/03/2005
Citic-Prudential Supreme Club 2005	21/03/2005	23/03/2005
International Myeloma Workshop	10/04/2005	14/04/2005
Cathay Life 2005 Summit	16/04/2005	19/04/2005
Danks National Conference	18/04/2005	22/04/2005
E.Excel Ambassadors Overseas Trip 2005	20/05/2005	25/05/2005
Market Australia Convention	10/06/2005	11/06/2005
International Conference on Mobile Business	12/07/2005	13/07/2005
Country Public Library Association Conference	19/07/2005	22/07/2005
Congress of the International Society of Development Biologists - ISDB	1/08/2005	6/08/2005
26th Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis & Haemostasis	6/08/2005	12/08/2005
11th World Congress of Sport Psychology	14/08/2005	19/08/2005
International Allelopathy Society Conference	21/08/2005	26/08/2005
World Congress on Pain, 2005	21/08/2005	26/08/2005
Annual Meeting of the International Society for Hair Restoration Surgery	24/08/2005	28/08/2005
National Library & Information Technicians Conference	6/09/2005	9/09/2005
Seafood Directions	12/09/2005	14/09/2005
ING Life Insurance Hong Kong Incentive	17/09/2005	19/09/2005

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Asia Pacific Congress on Uro-Oncology	21/09/2005	23/09/2005
Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand Annual Meeting	25/09/2005	28/09/2005
Annual International Aviation Fire Protection Association Conference	5/10/2005	7/10/2005
IEEE Lasers and Electro-Optics Society Annual Meeting (LEOS)	23/10/2005	27/10/2005
Congress of the International Rhinologic Society	25/10/2005	29/10/2005
Congress of the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry	31/10/2005	5/11/2005
Gartner Group Symposium/ITxpo, 2005	1/11/2005	4/11/2005
18th World Congress of Neurology	5/11/2005	13/11/2005
Amway Japan Diamond Forum Meeting	1/12/2005	4/12/2005
Sunrider Asia Regional Incentive 2006	14/03/2006	17/03/2006
International Congress of Behavioural Optometry	21/04/2006	24/04/2006
16th Annual Interpacific Bar Association Conference	30/04/2006	3/05/2006
Beefsteak & Burgundy Club International Meeting	5/05/2006	7/05/2006
International Christian Medical and Dental Association Student Conference	7/07/2006	11/07/2006
International Christian Medical and Dental Association World Congress	11/07/2006	16/07/2006
International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING)	17/07/2006	21/07/2006
44th Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL-06)	20/07/2006	24/07/2006
World Congress of Occupational Therapists	23/07/2006	28/07/2006
Fifth World Fujianese Fellowship Conference	27/07/2006	30/07/2006
10th National PHAA Immunisation Conference/2nd Asia Pacific Immunisation Conference	30/07/2006	1/08/2006
13th International Heat Transfer Conference	13/08/2006	18/08/2006
Silent Win	22/08/2006	24/08/2006
People to People Worldwide Conference	23/08/2006	27/08/2006
18th Convocation of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons	31/08/2006	3/09/2006
AIA Singapore 2006	1/09/2006	4/09/2006
International Congress on Obesity - ICO	3/09/2006	7/09/2006
Congress of the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA)	10/09/2006	14/09/2006
International Congress of Neuropsychiatry	10/09/2006	14/09/2006

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

National Parks and Leisure Conference	17/09/2006	2009/2006
Conference of the Australian Association of Exercise and Sports Science	29/09/2006	1/10/2006
Gartner Group Symposium/ITxpo, 2006	1/10/2006	4/10/2006
Sibos	9/10/2006	13/10/2006
Joint Conference of the Asia Pacific Quality Association/QUALCON	17/10/2006	20/10/2006
Local Government Association (LGA) Conference 2006	29/10/2006	1/11/2006
International Conference of Port Cities	5/11/2006	9/11/2006
World Congress on Women's Health Issues	15/11/2006	18/11/2006
ACSPRI National Social Science Methodology Conference	11/12/2006	13/12/2006
Board Meeting of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI)	18/01/2007	22/01/2007
Critical Link 5: 5th International Conference on Interpreting in Legal, Health & Social Service Settings	5/02/2007	8/02/2007
Australian Tourism and Hospitality Research Conference (CAUTHE)	11/02/2007	14/02/2007
Institute of Welding International Congress	1/03/2007	5/03/2007
National Rural Health Conference	8/03/2007	11/03/2007
International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand & International Federation of Societies of Hand Therapists	11/03/2007	15/03/2007
International Corrugated Case Association and World Containerboard Organisation Joint Conferences	13/03/2007	16/03/2007
Radiology International Congress	17/03/2007	25/03/2007
International Conference on Rainwater Catchment Systems	1/04/2007	5/04/2007
XVIII World Congress of the WAS - 1st World Congress for Sexual Health	15/04/2007	19/04/2007
Lions Clubs Multiple District 201 Convention	1/05/2007	4/05/2007
Speech Pathology Australia National Conference	27/05/2007	31/05/2007
International Society for Cellular Therapy Conference	12/06/2007	15/06/2007
DFK International Annual Conference	1/07/2007	3/07/2007
Annual Conference of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives & Documentation Centres	1/07/2007	7/07/2007
XVIII International Conference on Relativity and Gravitation (GR18)	8/07/2007	14/07/2007
International Congress on Heterocyclic Chemistry	15/07/2007	20/07/2007

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention	22/07/2007	25/07/2007
Association for Behavior Analysis International Convention	12/08/2007	14/08/2007
Congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)	19/08/2007	23/08/2007
2007 World Airline Road Race	1/09/2007	3/09/2007
Congress of the International Society for Rotary Blood Pumps	1/09/2007	5/09/2007
Inaugural South East Asian Natural Healthcare Congress	1/09/2007	4/09/2007
World Junior Flatwater Championships	7/09/2007	9/09/2007
7th IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships	16/09/2007	23/09/2007
Annual Convention of the International Pipeline & Offshore Contractors Association	24/09/2007	27/09/2007
Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP)	1/10/2007	5/10/2007
6th Congress of Asia Pacific Symposium on Cochlear Implant and Related Sciences	30/10/2007	2/11/2007
Silent Win	28/11/2007	30/11/2007
Young Presidents' Organization Global Leadership Conference	1/02/2008	4/02/2008
International Brick Block Masonry Conference	17/02/2008	20/02/2008
International Conference on Electronic Materials IUMRS-ICEM	1/06/2008	5/06/2008
International Symposium on Environmental Biotechnology	1/07/2008	4/07/2008
World Congress of Theoretical and Computational Chemists (WATOC)	9/07/2008	14/07/2008
World Youth Day	14/07/2008	20/07/2008
World Congress of the Transplantation Society	10/08/2008	16/08/2008
International Commission for Optics (ICO) Congress	31/08/2008	4/09/2008
World Congress of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)	8/09/2008	11/09/2008
Annual Meeting of the International Association of Cancer Registries	18/09/2008	21/09/2008
Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society (Solar 2008) Conference	1/10/2008	2/10/2008
ISES Asia Pacific Regional Conference	1/10/2008	4/10/2008
CIML 2008 - International Conference on Legal Metrology	26/10/2008	1/11/2008
Metropolis Congress 2008	27/10/2008	30/10/2008
Conference of the Western Pacific Association of Critical Care Medicine	30/10/2008	2/11/2008
Meeting of the International Bone and Mineral Society	21/03/2009	25/03/2009
11th Congress of the International Association of Colour	1/05/2009	5/05/2009

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

International Congress of Societas Liturgica	7/05/2009	12/05/2009
Congress of the International Society of Autonomic Neuroscience (ISAN)	1/08/2009	4/08/2009
World Congress of the International Industrial Relations Association	23/08/2009	29/08/2009
Meeting of the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology - WFUMB	30/08/2009	3/09/2009
World Congress on Oils and Fats incorporating the International Society for Fat Research	1/09/2009	5/09/2009
XXVth World Congress of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine	1/09/2009	5/09/2009
World Congress of the International Society for Labour & Social Security Law	2/09/2009	4/09/2009
7th International Orthodontic Congress	5/02/2010	9/02/2010
International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Congress	11/04/2010	15/04/2010
World Conference on Women and Sport	1/05/2010	4/05/2010
International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences	1/05/2010	5/05/2010
64th International Institute of Municipal Clerks Annual Conference	16/05/2010	20/05/2010
Lions Clubs International Convention	27/06/2010	1/07/2010
11th International Symposium on the Genetics of Industrial Microorganisms	4/07/2010	8/07/2010
Silent Win	1/08/2010	5/08/2010
Annual Conference of the Audiological Society of Australia	12/08/2010	15/08/2010
20th Triennial Congress of the International Commission for Acoustics	14/08/2010	19/08/2010
Civil Engineering Conference in the Asian Region (CECAR)	1/09/2010	3/09/2010
4th Scientific Meeting of the Asian Pacific Menopause Federation	26/09/2010	29/09/2010
World Congress for Psychotherapy	1/07/2011	6/07/2011
26th Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress	1/08/2011	5/08/2011
Congress of the International Federation for Home Economics	1/01/2012	7/01/2012
21st Congress of the International Association of Disability and Oral Health	1/09/2012	4/09/2012
International Congress of Dietetics	1/09/2012	5/09/2012
Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Hypertension	29/09/2012	3/10/2012
Rotary International Convention	1/05/2014	4/05/2014

(2) The information on unsuccessful bids is commercially sensitive and is not provided. The Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau continues to work on these bids to secure them for Sydney at some later stage.

*0088 DONATIONS TO GOULBURN BASE HOSPITAL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

For what purpose was the \$7,400 donated to the Goulburn Base Hospital on 31 March 2005 by the NSW Fire Brigade, based in Goulburn, used?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

The upgrade of the Children's Ward playground at Goulburn Base Hospital is being undertaken by Convoy for Kids who, along with the NSW Fire Brigade, have donated funds for this project. The total cost is estimated at \$12,500. The funds have been placed in a specific Special Purpose & Trust account for this purpose. The upgrade is planned to commence in August/September 2006 with completion expected by the end of September 2006.

*0090 CLOSURE OF LEVEL CROSSING AT MARULAN—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) With reference to your decision to permanently close the level crossing at Marulan at rail kilometres 193.620, why did you not take into account the concerns of the NSW Rural Fire Service about increasing response time for emergency vehicles operating from the Marulan RFS Fire Shed and attending emergency situations in the housing development on the north-west side of the railway line?
- (2) As the response time for emergency vehicles to this area will now increase by up to 14 minutes, what alternative arrangements have you made to ensure the residents of Marulan receive the same level of protection from the Rural Fire Service that was previously available to them?

Answer—

I am advised:

The decision was made by RailCorp's Level Crossings Unit on the basis that motorists have limited sighting of approaching trains due to the topography of the land. There was the additional risk to motorists that a train travelling in one direction could mask a train travelling in the opposite direction.

On the basis of these risk factors and the fact that there was a safer alternative crossing (a bridge over the rail line) within 820 metres, the crossing was recommended for closure.

I am advised that the increased travel time to the safer alternative crossing is 121 seconds at signposted speed limits. The lengthy delays that used to occur due to trains using and/or standing over the old level crossing are also avoided.

*0091 ASSESSMENT OF SPECIAL TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training—

With regard to the significant correspondence regarding the approval of special transport assistance for one of my constituents, (your RML 06/838 dated 19 April 2006, RML 06/96 and RML 06/232 dated 10 February 2006 and RML 05/5822 dated 15 December 2005 refers) will you now reassess the suitability of Mr A Dalmonte in his role as a decision maker for these applications for special transport assistance?

Answer—

The Special Student Transport Unit and its senior officers have a role to assess applications for access to the School Student Special Transport Scheme (SSSTS) in accordance with established policy and guidelines.

Following the supply of additional information, the circumstances relating to your constituent's application were reviewed and special transport assistance is being provided.

The Department of Education and Training is currently undertaking a review of the procedures for assessing applications for access to special transport assistance. This will include the student eligibility assessment process as well as the appeals process.

*0093 HOME CARE IN GOULBURN—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

How many clients are currently on the Home and Community Care High Need Pool Waiting List, for personal care support to older people and people with a disability who have high support needs, in:

- (a) Goulburn?
- (b) Yass?

- (c) Boorowa?
- (d) Crookwell?
- (e) Gundagai?
- (f) Tumut?
- (g) Harden?

Answer—

The number of people on the High Need Pool Waiting List as at 1 June 2006, are:

- (a) Goulburn 2.
- (b) Yass nil.
- (c) Boorowa nil.
- (d) Crookwell 1.
- (e) Gundagai 1.
- (f) Tumut 1.
- (g) Harden nil.

*0094 TOURISM MARKETING OF NSW—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) On how many occasions in the past three years has Tourism NSW approached the Channel 7 lifestyle program, 'The Great Outdoors,' to include segments showcasing NSW's core icon destinations?
- (2) Are you aware that a similar Tourism WA proposal generated tourism publicity for Western Australia valued at about \$3 million?

Answer—

- (1) From January 2004 to June 2006, Tourism NSW has been successful in pitching 47 stories to The Great Outdoors featuring Sydney and Regional NSW.
- (2) I am advised that Tourism WA has generated publicity through The Great Outdoors, however, their publicity has included both paid advertorial and unpaid editorial. Tourism NSW has not paid for advertorials on the Great Outdoors to generate publicity for New South Wales.

*0095 CLOSURE OF DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING OFFICE AT TUMUT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) How many clients did the Tumut Office of the Department of Housing deal with during:
 - (a) 2004
 - (b) 2005 and
 - (c) to date in 2006?
- (2) How will service levels for the Tumut area be maintained when the closure will mean a reduction in staff availability in Tumut from 30 hours per week to 10 hours per week?
- (3) Under the same rationale, are you also considering closing the one-staff Department of Housing Offices at Nyngan and Broken Hill?

Answer—

- (1) The Tumut office only handles approximately three applications for housing per month and two Rentstart applications per week.
- (2) The office in Tumut is not closing. A full range of tenancy and application services will continue to be available five days per week, through the local Centrelink Office with mobile services being provided to tenants.
- (3) No.

*0096 POLICE RESIDENCES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Police—

- (1) Which of the Police Residences at Adelong, Batlow, Bigga, Binalong, Boorowa, Caragabal, Collector, Cootamundra, Crookwell, Goulburn, Grenfell, Gundagai, Gunning, Harden, Jugiong, Koorawatha, Qwandialla, Talbingo, Tarago, Taralga, Tuena, Tumut, Wallendbeen, Yass and Young, which are maintained by Transfield Services Pty Ltd under contract to the NSW Police have notifications of maintenance work outstanding for more than six months?
- (2) What action have you taken to clear the backlog of outstanding maintenance work?

Answer—

The Ministry for Police has advised me:

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (1) and (2) Maintenance of NSW Police properties is provided by Transfield Services Pty Ltd under an Alliance Contract. All requests for maintenance work are actioned in accordance with the rolling prioritisation system agreed to under the existing contract.

*0097 CROSS BORDER WATER AGREEMENT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

On what date will the ACT/NSW Cross Border Water Agreement be publicly released?

Answer—

The draft ACT/NSW Cross Border Water Resources Agreement has been provided to interested parties. The final agreement will be publicly released when it is ratified by the Commonwealth.

*0099 GRAFFITI—Mr George Souris asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) How many cases of malicious damage caused by graffiti incidents were reported to the New South Wales Police during the periods 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004, 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005 in the Electorate of Upper Hunter?
- (2) During the same two periods how many such incidents were reported to police in the local government areas of:
- Upper Hunter Shire Council?
 - Liverpool Plains Shire Council?
 - Mid Western Regional Council?
 - Singleton Council?
 - Muswellbrook Shire Council?
 - Dungog Shire Council?
 - Gloucester Shire Council?
 - Warrumbungle Shire Council?
 - Gunnedah Shire Council?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research does not record crime information by electorate.
- (2) Some of these local government areas (LGAs) have been subject to recent boundary changes. In these cases the following crime statistics are given for the previous LGA's within Shire Councils.
- The Upper Hunter Shire Council comprises the former Scone LGA and parts of Merriwa and Murrurundi LGAs. NSW police recorded seven incidents of graffiti in Scone LGA, one in Merriwa LGA and one in Murrurundi LGA in 2004. In 2005, two incidents were recorded in Scone LGA, none in Merriwa LGA and one in Murrurundi LGA.
 - The Liverpool Plains Shire Council comprises the former Quirindi LGA and parts of Gunnedah, Murrurundi and Parry LGAs. NSW Police recorded one incident of graffiti in Quirindi LGA, four in Gunnedah LGA, one in Murrurundi LGA and four in Parry LGA in 2004. In 2005, one incident was recorded in Quirindi LGA, seven in Gunnedah LGA, one in Murrurundi LGA and five in Parry LGA.
 - The Mid Western Regional Council comprises the former Mudgee LGA and parts of Merriwa and Rylstone LGAs. NSW Police recorded five incidents of graffiti in Mudgee LGA, one in Merriwa LGA and two in Rylstone LGA in 2004. In 2005, 15 incidents were recorded in Mudgee LGA, none in Merriwa LGA and five in Rylstone LGA.
 - NSW Police recorded 10 incidents of graffiti in Singleton LGA in 2004 and five in 2005.
 - NSW Police recorded 19 incidents of graffiti in Muswellbrook LGA in 2004 and eight in 2005.
 - NSW Police recorded three incidents of graffiti in Dungog LGA in 2004 and three in 2005.
 - NSW Police recorded two incidents of graffiti in Gloucester LGA in 2004 and three in 2005.
 - NSW Police recorded one incident of graffiti in Warrumbungle LGA in 2004 and nine in 2005.
 - NSW Police recorded four incidents of graffiti in Gunnedah LGA in 2004 and seven in 2005.

*0101 POST SCHOOL PROGRAM—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

Given that the Government requires all funded organisations that provide services to people with a disability to comply with the Disability Services Act and Disability Service Standards:

- (1) What action has the Government taken to ensure that all eligible adults with a disability are offered

- five days a week access to a Post School Program regardless of the level of their support needs?
- (2) When will the Government complete uniform quality benchmarks and guidelines for the Community Participation and Transition to Work Post School Programs?
 - (3) How will the Government inform and involve adults with a disability, their carers, and disability service providers in the reform of Post School Programs?
 - (4) What action has the Government taken to ensure that all eligible adults with a disability have access to appropriate transport to access Post School Programs?
 - (5) What action has the Government taken to streamline the Post School Program tender process so that funds can be used for service delivery rather than repeated paperwork?

Answer—

- (1) The Government has made a commitment to provide a minimum of 18 hours of support each week for 48 weeks per year. From February 2007, as outlined in *Stronger Together: a new direction for disability services: 2006-2016*, the NSW Government will increase Community Participation support from three days to four days a week and people with very high support needs will receive five days.

Four needs categories have been introduced to ensure that people have access to the minimum hours of support.

- (2) Community Participation Program Guidelines will be completed by 1 July 2006, when new services commence. Guidelines for the Transition to Work Program are under development and will be finalised following implementation of the Community Participation tender.
- (3) As part of the reform of post school programs, consultation processes and structures have been fundamentally improved during 2005 and 2006, to include the establishment of an ongoing Stakeholder Reference Group for post school programs and workshops with Aboriginal organisations.

In December 2005, the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care released *New Directions for Community Participation* for input from service users, families, carers, peak advocacy bodies and industry representatives. A wide range of submissions were received and feedback has been incorporated into the development of the Community Participation tender.

- (4) Information about transport will be included in the draft Community Participation Program Guidelines that will be released for comment.
- (5) Successful applicants in the Community Participation tender will, subject to performance, remain eligible to provide services until at least 1 July 2009, and will not be required to repeatedly tender to provide Community Participation services.

The Department is holding discussions with the Community Participation Stakeholder Reference Group to develop new arrangements for funding administration. These are being designed to balance the need to promote individual choice, with provider viability and administrative efficiency.

*0104 KIDNEY DISEASE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

With respect to the George Institute of International Health report on the economic impact of kidney disease:

- (1) How many NSW residents currently suffer from chronic kidney disease?
- (2) How does this figure compare to forecast figures for 2010?
- (3) Considering there is no dedicated national strategy for fighting kidney disease, what plans does the NSW Government have to address kidney disease?
- (4) Which of the George Institute of Health recommendations will the NSW Government implement?
- (5) Will the Government introduce an early detection program to identify NSW residents at high risk of kidney disease such as those with diabetes, hypertension, family history or of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent?
- (6) Will the Government introduce a General Practice Education program to provide GPs with the resources and knowledge to identify and manage kidney disease early?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me that he is informed by NSW Health as follows:

- (1) and (2) An accurate number of residents of NSW with Chronic Kidney Disease is unknown as many of these people remain undiagnosed. Projected numbers in the George Institute report relate to people with End Stage Chronic Kidney Disease requiring Renal Replacement Therapy (not Chronic Kidney Disease).
- (3) Then NSW Renal Dialysis Services Plan to 2011 is currently under development by NSW Health.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

(4) The NSW Government is already implementing the initiatives proposed by the George Institute report over which it has jurisdiction. These include:

- Expanding the use of marginally acceptable and non-heart-beating donors. A draft guideline in relation to the use of non-heart-beating donors is currently being developed by NSW Health.
- Ensuring adequate resourcing of training in home haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. The NSW Renal Planning Working Group is developing a plan for the delivery of dialysis services to 2011. NSW Health Department has recently commenced a review of how home dialysis training is provided and how these services are delivered.

(5) and (6) The NSW Chronic Care Program has implemented a range of innovative programs and initiatives across NSW since its establishment in 2000 and is recurrently funded at \$17.7 million. Both phase one (2000 - 2003) and phase two (2003 - 2006) have led to many positive outputs and outcomes that have relevance for those with chronic renal disease. These have included:

- development of innovative models of care for people with chronic illness
- implementation of a clinical service framework for heart failure with emphasis on prevention, and early detection and management of risk factors,
- initiatives to strengthen involvement of general practitioners in chronic care,
- dissemination of a personal health record,
- work to better define and promote rehabilitation, self-management support and care coordination among those who provide care for people with chronic illnesses,
- a range of initiatives under the NSW Aboriginal Chronic Care Program, and
- implementation of the Aboriginal Chronic Conditions Area Health Service Standards.

Phase three of the NSW Chronic Care Program (2006-2009) aims to build on the achievements to date.

In addition, the NSW Aboriginal Chronic Care Program was established in July 2000 to address the priority areas of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and kidney disease as identified in the NSW Aboriginal Health Strategic Plan (1999). NSW Health commits \$2 million (recurrently) to the program.

There are 31 Aboriginal Vascular Health project sites in rural and urban NSW. A number of these projects undertake screening for kidney disease. Projects work in partnership with mainstream health services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to improve prevention and management of chronic disease.

It should be noted that primary responsibility for educating and training general practitioners sits with the Australian Government. NSW Health is committed to working in partnership with GPs and supporting their development and education to the benefit of the people of NSW. To this end, NSW Health is currently finalising a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Alliance of NSW Divisions of General Practice. A priority for action in the Work plan, which will underpin the MOU, is to collaborate on planning more effectively for GP education and training.

*0105 SOUTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY AID MULTICULTURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Given that the South Sydney Community Aid Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre has been operating from the former Redfern Public School site and now has to vacate these premises:

- (1) What help has the Redfern-Waterloo Authority (RWA) provided to the Centre to obtain alternative premises?
- (2) Will the RWA negotiate a longer period for the Centre to find alternative accommodation?
- (3) Will the RWA provide short term accommodation to enable the Centre to assess long term options?
- (4) Will the RWA provide long term premises for this Centre given it provides important services to people from culturally diverse backgrounds within the RWA area?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The former Redfern Public School is owned by the Department of Education and Training (DET). I am advised that the RWA acted to assist the tenants of the former Redfern Public School and DET to identify suitable accommodation in the area and to negotiate financial assistance for the move.

Prior to the agreement to negotiate sale of the former Redfern Public School to the Indigenous Land Corporation, I had been informed that the South Sydney Community Aid Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre (SSCAMNC) had identified the need to relocate to more spacious premises.

They had applied to the City of Sydney for accommodation as part of the City's new subsidised accommodation scheme.

Decisions about subsidised accommodation will be known in August 2006. I am also informed that in the interim, SSCAMNC has been provided with short term accommodation by the City of Sydney in the Alexandria Town Hall. That accommodation is available now so no extension of tenancy is necessary or has been applied for.

The RWA has provided the same level of assistance to the other tenants of the former Redfern Public School.

*0106 SOUTH SYDNEY POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

With respect to the land leased to the South Sydney Police Citizens Youth Club, which is located on Department of Housing land at the corner of Elizabeth Street and Phillip Street Redfern:

- (1) What action has the Government taken in response to soil subsidence under this building?
- (2) What plans does the Government have for future use of this site?
- (3) How will the Government ensure that South Sydney PCYC has a permanent home in this area?

Answer—

- (1) Department of Housing officers have inspected the site and a further specialist inspection has been commissioned.
- (2) At this time, the continuing use of the site by the South Sydney Police and Community Youth Club.
- (3) The Department of Housing is committed to the South Sydney Police and Community Youth Club and the services offered to local youth in the area.

*0107 LOCAL AREA COMMAND RESOURCES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Police—

With regard to allocation of resources to Police Local Area Commands:

- (1) What criteria does the Government use to allocate police resources to individual Commands?
- (2) What criteria are used to determine Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Commands?
- (3) How does Kings Cross Police Local Area Command compare with Level 1 Commands based on these criteria now and five years ago?
- (4) How does Surry Hills Police Local Area Command compare with Level 1 Commands based on these criteria now and five years ago?
- (5) How does Redfern Police Local Area Command compare with Level 1 Commands based on these criteria now and five years ago?
- (6) Does the Government consider that these Commands should be made Level 1 Commands based on the criteria used to allocate police resources?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) Resources are allocated to Local Area Commands in accordance with a range of criteria including historical allocation, workload, internal reviews, industrial agreements and government commitments.
- (2) NSW Police applies job evaluation principles to determine the comparative complexity of Local Area Commands. This includes an analysis of workload, shift requirements and relevant local factors.
- (3) to (6) Evaluations such as those requested are performed only at the request of the NSW Police Executive.

*0108 NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

With regard to the UK Report Alternative Approaches to Neighbourhood Management from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the UK's Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Programme which aims to build sustainable communities and address social disadvantage?
- (2) What action has the NSW Government taken to build stronger communities in large inner city housing estates where there is a concentration of social disadvantage?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of the report's analysis of seven neighbourhood management programs, and that each program has a dedicated program manager?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (4) What are the results of the independent review of the Department of Housing's Community Development Program at the Northcott Estate in Surry Hills?
- (5) Will the Government provide skilled community development workers for all large Department of Housing estates?
- (6) Given the UK report indicates that successful neighbourhood management programs focus on capacity building and coordination across Government Departments, will the Minister liaise with the Ministers for Police, Community Services and Health to investigate joint funding for place management programs in large estates?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department has implemented a range of programs to build stronger communities.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The review of the Community Development Project at the Northcott Estate found that the project had made a positive contribution to the quality of life for tenants on the estate.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) The Government regularly undertakes investigations into the value of cross agency co-ordination in program delivery.

*0109 DECENT HOMES STANDARD—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Citizenship—

With regard to the 2004 English House Condition Survey, published in March 2006 by the UK Office of the Deputy Prime Minister:

- (1) Is the Premier aware that this report details the UK Government's success in reducing the number of social housing properties and private sector homes leased to vulnerable households, which do not meet the decent homes standard?
- (2) What is the NSW Government's equivalent of the UK's decent homes standard?
- (3) How many NSW social housing tenants live in homes that do not meet this standard?
- (4) How many households with below-average incomes live in homes that do not meet this standard?
- (5) What action will the Government take to ensure that social housing tenants and low-income earners live in decent homes?

Answer—

All landlords in NSW are required to comply with the requirement of the Residential Tenancies Act for safe, habitable accommodation. This requirement also applies to the NSW Government as a public housing provider.

The Government is committed to improving both the condition and quality of social housing in NSW. Over the last three years the Government has reduced the public housing maintenance backlog by 13 per cent.

Inspections are also being carried out to assess the condition of all public housing properties and to identify if important maintenance work is required on items such as kitchens, bathrooms, fences and roofs. To date, these Property Assessment Surveys have been conducted on almost 90 per cent of the 127,931 public housing properties listed for inspection.

*0110 OIL PRODUCTION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Citizenship—

With regard to the Hirsch Report "Peaking of World Oil Production: Impacts, Mitigation and Risk Management" and increasing petrol prices in Australia:

- (1) Is the NSW Government aware of the Report and its warning about dramatically increased fuel prices and price volatility?
- (2) What action has the Government taken in response to this report and its conclusions?
- (3) What action has the NSW Government taken to lobby the Commonwealth Government to research alternative fuels?
- (4) What investigation into alternative fuels has the NSW Government undertaken?
- (5) What action has the NSW Government taken to reduce reliance on oil for Government programs and activities?
- (6) What action has the Government taken to reduce community reliance on oil?
- (7) Will the NSW Government implement an integrated traffic and transport plan that reduces oil

consumption?

- (8) How will the Government ensure that motorists affected by higher petrol prices have a real alternative in public transport?

Answer—

(1) to (8) The NSW Government is aware of the report. Generally, issues such as the sustainability of global oil production, and the pricing of fuel are Commonwealth and international issues.

At its February 2006 meeting, the Council of Australian Governments noted the actions that governments were taking to encourage the development of the biofuels industry. The NSW Government has initiated a number of strategies in this area, including providing financial assistance to several biodiesel production plants; conducting an annual Biodiesel Forum; producing a NSW Bioenergy Handbook; and leading by example in relation to its own fleet vehicles.

The NSW Government's Metropolitan Strategy provides the basis for implementing and extending an integrated approach to traffic and transport planning, and improving the availability of public transport options. In addition, there are a number of initiatives in place to help encourage the uptake of public transport as a genuine alternative to car dependence in metropolitan areas, and to ensure that public transport itself becomes less reliant on petroleum products.

The Australian Transport Council is overseeing work on the issue of tax concessions for public transport.

*0111 POLICE RELATIONSHIPS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Police—

With respect to NSW Police relationships with and service to lesbian and gay community members:

- (1) What promotional material is provided to police stations about the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) program?
- (2) Do all police stations have current posters on display that inform visitors about and promote GLLOs and the role that they play?
- (3) How does NSW Police ensure that current information is on display in police stations?
- (4) Are all serving police officers aware of the GLLO program and GLLOs available to the community within their Command?
- (5) How does NSW Police ensure that all officers are aware of this program and can refer community members to a GLLO?
- (6) What system does NSW Police use to ensure that local police stations know where to refer gay or lesbian community members who need help beyond policing, such as counselling and support services like the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service, AIDS Council of NSW, and Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Program?
- (7) Does NSW Police have a promotion/communications strategy for the GLLO program, and what does this strategy include?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) All Local Area Commands are provided with promotional material for display in police stations relating to the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) Program. This material may include fact sheets, posters, fridge magnets and Mardi Gras-specific information.
- (2) The display of GLLO posters and information is a decision for the Local Area Commander.
- (3) NSW Police relies on its Local Area Commanders and its GLLOs to maintain displays of information and otherwise advise members of the public about the program.
- (4) and (5) All serving police officers are made aware of the GLLO program as recruits and once they commence in their probationary roles. Each GLLO officer has the responsibility to discuss the program with probationary constables and advise them of issues that may arise in the community. The Commissioner's Inspectorate reviews Commands to ensure the objectives of the program are being met. Information is also disseminated to Commands on a routine basis as well as following a critical incident or relevant event.
- (6) The Crime Management Unit, within which all liaison officers operate, supplies information on community based issues to individual stations and officers on a needs basis. The Senior Programs Officer is the main point of contact with external agencies. However, a key responsibility of GLLOs is to network with external agencies and other GLLOs to establish a knowledge base of resources and services available on gay and lesbian issues and to function as an educational resource within the Command.
- (7) NSW Police encourages all Commands to promote the work of all their Liaison Officers, including

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

GLLOs, on an ongoing basis. Examples include:

- public information displays and police involvement in events such as the Mardi Gras Fair Day, Royal Easter Show, Police Open Days and various community festivals;
- school talks on such issues as homophobic bullying;
- media articles; and
- attendance at relevant committees and working parties.

*0112 CONTAINER DEPOSIT LEGISLATION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

With respect to the November 2005 announcement by the Western Australian Minister for the Environment that she would investigate the introduction of Container Deposit Legislation (CDL):

- (1) What discussions has the NSW Government had with the WA Government on this matter?
- (2) Is it true that South Australian Councils benefit financially from deposits recovered from kerbside recycling, with about one third of drink containers sold recovered in this way?
- (3) What is the estimate of reduced contamination of kerbside recycling under a CDL regime, as has operated in South Australia for 20 years?
- (4) How does NSW compare with South Australia in recycling rates for glass bottles?
- (5) How does NSW compare with South Australia in recycling rates for plastic?
- (6) How does NSW compare with South Australia in recycling rates for aluminium cans?
- (7) What environmental and economic benefits would result in NSW if CDL was introduced?
- (8) How would CDL contribute to NSW commitments to reduce waste under the National Packaging Covenant?
- (9) What action has the NSW Government taken to assess the viability and cost/benefit of CDL in NSW since the WA Government announced its investigation?

Answer—

NSW is in regular contact with the Western Australian Government, and other jurisdictions through participation on the National Packaging Covenant Council. The Council has responsibility for the implementation and management of the current national approach to reducing packaging waste, the National Packaging Covenant (the Covenant).

The Covenant is the key national tool for reducing packaging waste, capturing a much broader range of packaging material than CDL, which focuses on beverage containers.

The Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments, along with industry, have signed up to the Covenant which sets a tough national recycling target of 65% for packaging and no further increases in packaging waste disposed to landfill by the end of 2010. Through the Covenant, governments have sent a strong signal to industry that it must make a serious commitment to reducing packaging waste or face regulation.

The Covenant will be reviewed in 2008. If it is found not to be delivering satisfactory outcomes, alternative instruments will be considered, and this may include CDL.

NSW reviewed the feasibility of introducing CDL in NSW as part of an Environment and Heritage Protection Council process in 2002. Mutual recognition agreements between the Commonwealth, State and New Zealand Governments require that goods must be traded without restrictions imposed by any individual state. This meant that a move by NSW to enact CDL legislation would require other States and Territories to adopt uniform legislation. South Australian container deposit legislation pre-dates the mutual recognition agreements, and has a permanent exemption.

CDL does, however, remain one of a number of possible approaches to effective waste management, along with kerbside recycling. NSW's well established kerbside recycling demonstrates high recovery rates for a wide range of recyclable materials. For example:

- the NSW recycling rate of newsprint was 79.4 per cent in 2005 compared with 71.5 per cent in South Australia; and
- the NSW recovery rate for steel cans is 6.9kg per household where kerbside recycling collections occur compared with a rate of 5.9kg per household from in South Australia [source: 2004-05 NEPC annual report].

NSW will monitor the outcome of the WA Government's investigation into CDL as part of ongoing work between jurisdictions to develop the most effective waste reduction frameworks.

*0113 PET FOOD INDUSTRY REGULATION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

With regard to the regulation of fresh pet food:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that pets fed on fresh pet meat may be eating unknown quantities of sulphur dioxide that causes thiamine deficiency, illness, and possible death?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of studies in the Australian Veterinary Journal that identify injury and death of pets caused by thiamine deficiency?
- (3) Is it true that there is currently no labelling or regulation of the sulphur dioxide additives that are used to mask discolouration and putrefaction?
- (4) Do pet food consumers have access to information about the potential impacts of sulphur dioxide additives?
- (5) What protection will the Government provide to NSW consumers who buy fresh pet meat that has sulphur dioxide additives?

Answer—

I have been provided with the following response by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources:

- (1) I am advised that sulphur dioxide levels in fresh pet food are not currently prescribed under NSW legislation. I am further advised that sulphur dioxide in fresh and manufactured pet food is not regulated in any state or territory.
- (2) I am aware that information on this issue has been published in the Australian Veterinary Journal.
- (3) I am advised that there is no regulation or labelling requirement for additives in fresh meat sold for pet food.
- (4) Pet owners would have access to information through normal 'market mechanisms' such as pet food retailers and veterinarians.
- (5) I am advised that the risk of problems due to sulphur dioxide is far too low to meet accepted public benefit requirements of regulation.

*0115 METROPOLITAN WATER PLAN—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the status of the Metropolitan Water Plan 2004?
- (2) What reporting mechanisms currently exist within government to monitor progress of implementation of the plan if the plan is still relevant?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The NSW Government released the 2006 Metropolitan Water Plan on 8 May 2006. As part of the Plan, the Government has established a new Metropolitan Water Independent Review Panel to provide expert input on metropolitan water planning matters.

*0116 STATE ROAD TOLL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) In reference to the New South Wales Road toll, how many persons were killed on New South Wales roads during the year 2005?
- (2) How many of these were pedestrians?
- (3) How many were riding a motor cycle?
- (4) How many were pillion passengers on a motor cycle?
- (5) How many of these persons were in a heavy vehicle?
- (6) How many were the occupant (driver or passenger) of a motor car?
- (7) Has there been a break down on the brand and model of car in which the persons referred to in (6) above, were killed?
- (8) If so, in which brand/model of vehicles were these persons the occupants in the subject fatal accident?

Answer—

I am advised:

517 is the provisional road toll for 2005. This is provisional as at 31 May 2006.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Of this figure 95 persons were pedestrians. 61 persons were riding a motorcycle and 3 were pillion passengers on a motorcycle. 29 persons were occupants of a heavy vehicle. 280 were occupants of a motor car.

*0117 SUTHERLAND LGA RATEPAYERS—Mr Barry Collier asked the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) What were the number of ratepayers in the Sutherland Local Government Area for the following years:
 - (a) 2005?
 - (b) 2004?
 - (c) 2003?
 - (d) 2002?
 - (e) 2001?
- (2) For each of the years mentioned in 1, how much money was raised by the Council in total from ratepayers?
- (3) For each of the years mentioned in 1, how much money was granted to Sutherland Shire Council from all agencies and departments of the New South Wales Government?
- (4) For each of the years mentioned in 1, how much money was granted to Sutherland Shire Council from all agencies of the Federal Government?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) In its rating returns to the Department of Local Government, Council advised that the number of ratepayers in its local government area in:
 - (a) 2004/05 was 80,737
 - (b) 2003/04 was 80,144
 - (c) 2002/03 was 79,452
 - (d) 2001/02 was 76,626
 - (e) 2000/01 was 76,626.
- (2) In its financial statements provided to the Department of Local Government, Council advised that it raised the following rates and annual charges from its ratepayers in:
 - (a) 2004/05 of \$90.938 million
 - (b) 2003/04 of \$88.276 million
 - (c) 2002/03 of \$84.092 million
 - (d) 2001/02 of \$79.576 million
 - (e) 2000/01 of \$76.744 million.
- (3) Council advised that it received grants from the New South Wales Government in:
 - (a) 2004/05 of \$6.080 million
 - (b) 2003/04 of \$5.307 million
 - (c) 2002/03 of \$6.066 million
 - (d) 2001/02 of \$7.421 million
 - (e) 2000/01 of \$4.400 million.
- (4) Council advised that it received grants from the Federal Government in:
 - (a) 2004/05 of \$4.834 million
 - (b) 2003/04 of \$4.797 million
 - (c) 2002/03 of \$4.748 million
 - (d) 2001/02 of \$4.447 million
 - (e) 2000/01 of \$4.274 million.

*0118 WALLAGA LAKE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Due to a lack of rainwater flowing into the Wallaga Lake at Bermagui on the Far South Coast, the subsequent water level is having a negative effect on the lakes seagrass beds; to mitigate the environmental damage being done will the Minister allow the lake to be artificially opened?
- (2) As the lake is only opened to the sea on occasions of large waves, will consideration be given to leaving the lake open on a permanent basis as laid out in a letter sent to the Minister by my office and from Mr Gary Wallington who lives adjacent to the lake?

Answer—

I am advised that the decision to open coastal lagoons rests primarily with local councils, the Department

of Natural Resources and the Department of Lands.

The Department of Environment and Conservation has written to South Coast councils, including Bega Valley Council, advising of the various factors that councils could consider in their decisions regarding coastal lakes.

*0119 HECTOR MCWILLIAM DRIVE SPEED LIMIT—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

Will the Minister instruct his department to reduce the speed limit on Hector McWilliam Drive as it approaches Tuross Head, from 60 kilometres per hour to 50 kilometres per hour as requested by the village neighbourhood watch group and supported by the Eurobodalla Shire Council as per a letter sent to the Minister by my office of 15 March?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Local Traffic Committee did not support a reduction in the speed limit on Hector McWilliam Drive.

The existing speed limit on Hector McWilliam Drive is considered appropriate for the existing road environment and consistent with speed zoning guidelines for similar roads that serve as a collector road between destinations. Therefore the RTA has no plans to institute changes at this time.

*0120 COMMERCIAL FISHING—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) Why is the New South Wales Government insisting commercial fishers with both a Commonwealth and New South Wales entitlement must forfeit their state licences with no compensation when taking part in the Commonwealth Fishing Business Exit Package?
- (2) What will be the ramifications to the Commercial Fishing Industry as part of the establishment of the Batemans Marine Park?

Answer—

I have been provided with the following response by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources:

- (1) Its not. The NSW Government has given fishers the option of surrendering their NSW ocean trawl and ocean trap and line fishery entitlements in exchange for an ex gratia payment of \$20,000 per fishery regardless of whether they submit a tender under the Commonwealth tender process.
- (2) The NSW Government has set aside \$8.5 million for a voluntary buy out of any commercial fishers that may be affected by the final zoning plan.

*0121 NATIONAL TOURISM ACCREDITATION PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) Has the Department or Tourism NSW surveyed tourism businesses to determine the level of support for NSW to participate in the national Tourism Accreditation Program foreshadowed in the Australian Government's Tourism White Paper?
- (2) If so what were the results of the survey?
- (3) Will you provide me with a copy of the results?

Answer—

- (1) No. In line with the current Commonwealth Government position Tourism NSW supports voluntary, industry-driven accreditation schemes that are self-sustaining through the support of fee-paying members who recognise the value of such schemes.

State tourism agencies and the Commonwealth support the new Tourism Business and Accreditation Portal which is managed by Decipher Technologies Pty and funded by the Australian Government in fulfilment of its \$2 million dollar national accreditation initiative under the Tourism White Paper.

The Portal has been designed with two toolkits. One will assist industry associations to develop and market tourism accreditation and relevant products, through a single, accessible and user-friendly site and, in addition, help raise awareness of accredited products available in the marketplace. The second will provide information and assistance such as www.business.gov.au with links to key

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

industry and government websites to enable operators to improve their business and management skills. A number of industry associations are involved.

- (2) N/A
- (3) N/A

*0122 YASS POLICE STATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Police—

Are there any plans to introduce 24-hour staffing of the Yass Police Station?

Answer—

Staffing allocations and operational hours within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

*0123 TUMUT HOSPITAL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) With reference to the 'relocation' of the Maternity Ward at Tumut Base Hospital detailed in the Tumut Health Service Plan 2006-2011, will this relocation be within the hospital?
- (2) Has any consideration been given to closing the maternity facilities at Tumut Hospital?
- (3) Will you guarantee that the Maternity Ward at Tumut Hospital will not be closed as part of the implementation of the Tumut Health Service Plan 2006-2011?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me the AChief Executive Greater Southern Area Health Service provides the following advice:

- (1) to (3) The Tumut Health Service Plan 2006-2011 refers to a review of the outcomes of the relocation of the maternity unit. The maternity unit was previously located in a separate building on the site and was re-located in 1999 to improve access to theatres, enhanced staffing arrangements and provide improved security. Community members requested that a review of the effects of this relocation be included as part of the Service Plan.

The Maternity Ward at Tumut Hospital will not be closed as part of the implementation of the Tumut Health Service Plan 2006-2011.

*0124 REGION 5—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) Is Region 5 going to be made a marine park?
- (2) If so, when and which parts?

Answer—

I have been provided with the following response by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources:

- (1) Consistent with nationally agreed principles, the NSW Government is committed to establishing a representative system of marine parks in NSW.
- (2) The Government has made no decisions in relation to a marine park in the Estuary General Region 5 at this time.

*0125 SIR ERIC WOODWARD MEMORIAL SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) When is the last time the Minister met with the Minister for Disabilities (or staff) regarding the need for a nurse at Sir Eric Woodward Memorial School?
- (2) What was the result of this meeting?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I have not met with the Minister for Disabilities (or staff) over this matter. However there are ongoing discussions between senior officers of the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Ageing, Disability and Homecare about the most appropriate support for meeting the needs of students at the Sir Eric Woodward Memorial School.

*0126 SIR ERIC WOODWARD MEMORIAL SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) When is the last time the Minister met with the Minister for Education (or staff) regarding the need for a nurse at Sir Eric Woodward Memorial School?
- (2) What was the result of this meeting?

Answer—

- (1) Representatives from the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) met with representatives of the Department of Education and Training (DET) on 9 May 2006. Another meeting took place on 20 June 2006, between DADHC, DET, NSW Health and Professor Parmenter from the Centre for Developmental Disability Studies, regarding the need for a nurse at the Sir Eric Woodward Memorial School.
- (2) The Centre for Developmental Disability Studies has prepared a draft report on this issue. It is expected that the draft report will be made available shortly to families for comment.

*0127 KEMPSEY GAOL—Mr Andrew Humpherson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) What is the current regional budget for the region which includes Kempsey gaol for 2005-06?
- (2) How much of this has been spent on overtime and other staffing costs for Kempsey Correctional Centre?
- (3) How much of the regional expenditure has been applied to each correctional centre?
- (4) What is the current Kempsey Correctional Centre budget?

Answer—

- (1) The budget for the region which includes the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre is \$147 million.
- (2) This figure will not be available until the end of the financial year.
- (3) This figure will not be available until the end of the financial year.
- (4) \$21 million.

*0128 CORRECTIONAL CENTRES—Mr Andrew Humpherson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) By Correction Centre, what is the most recent equivalent full time (EFT) number of custodial staff and other staff?
- (2) How many EFT staff are in regional offices, Head Office and any other non-centre locations?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The number of employees by category is reported in the Department of Corrective Services' Annual Report. The resources required to compile data in the format requested cannot be justified.

*0129 WELLINGTON GAOL—Mr Andrew Humpherson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) What is the current expected completion date for Wellington gaol?
- (2) What is the anticipated staffing numbers for the gaol?
- (3) When will advertising for employment of staff commence?
- (4) Is the Government considering private operation of the gaol?

Answer—

- (1) Construction of the new correctional centre at Wellington is due for completion in the first part of 2007.
- (2) Approximately 200 permanent staff.
- (3) Some senior positions have already been advertised. The Department of Corrective Services anticipates that recruitment for other positions will commence towards the end of 2006.
- (4) No.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

*0130 TRANSFER OF SERVICES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

What medical services have been transferred from Sutherland Hospital to St George Hospital?

Answer—

I am unaware to what the member refers.

*0131 RAIL LINE DUPLICATION—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) How much has been spent to date on the duplication of the Cronulla/Sutherland railway line?
- (2) What works have been undertaken so far?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) \$5.5 million

(2)

- Site investigations including services and boundary surveys;
- Preparation of concept engineering designs and tender documentation;
- Preparation of the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) including noise and vibration, flora and fauna, heritage and urban design studies; and
- Public exhibition of the REF including staffed information sessions.

*0132 RESIDENTIAL PARK OWNERS—RENT LEVELS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How are residential park owners being encouraged to restrict rent increases to the level of CPI or below?
- (2) What initiatives has the Government implemented to support this policy?
- (3) What monitoring programs have been initiated?
- (4) Are park owners complying?
- (5) How many complaints have been received regarding above CPI increases?

Answer—

- (1) Amendments to the Residential Parks Act 1998 which came into effect on 10 April 2006 and are relevant to this issue, in particular, section 58(2A) has application.
- (2) The amendments provide that if a rent increase does not exceed the Consumer Price Index (All Groups) for Sydney for the period involved, it cannot be challenged in the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal unless there has also been a reduction or withdrawal of services or facilities.
- (3) The amendment has only been in effect for two months and accordingly it is too early to make any meaningful assessment.
- (4) Park owners are not required to "comply" with the provision and will continue to exercise discretion in fixing site fees, albeit in the knowledge that rent increases that do not exceed the Consumer Price Index will not attract applications to the Tribunal.
- (5) The Office of Fair Trading does not maintain statistics of this nature.

*0133 NEWCASTLE FERRY—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to State Transit:

- (1) What were the monthly patronage figures for State Transit's Newcastle Ferry operations for each financial year from 1995-96 to 2004-05 inclusive?
- (2) How many Newcastle ferry services operated in each financial year from 1995-96 to 2004-05 inclusive?
- (3) What were the total operating costs of State Transit's Newcastle Ferry operations for each financial year from 1995-96 to 2004-05 inclusive?
- (4) What was the total revenue from State Transit's Newcastle Ferry operations for each financial year from 1995-96 to 2004-05 inclusive?

Answer—

Pursuant to the Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984 and the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, patronage data and operating costs for Newcastle Ferries can be found in the State Transit Authority Annual Reports for the years referred to in the Honourable Member's question.

*0134 TICKET SALES—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to ticket sales:

- (1) What are the current commission rates paid to vendors who sell Travel Passes and Travel Tens?
- (2) When were the commission rates last revised and increased? By how much?
- (3) What was the total amount paid to vendors in the 2004-05 financial year?
- (4) How much has been paid to vendors since 1 July 2005?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The current margin State Transit's ticket re-sellers receive for the sale of Travelten and TravelPass tickets is 2.5 per cent of the ticket value. The margins were reviewed in March 2005.

*0135 RAILCORP—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to RailCorp:

- (1) How many times did CityRail trains exceed speed limits in each month from September 2004 to date?
- (2) Since September 2004, what is the top recorded speed of a train exceeding a speed limit?
- (3) Since September 2004, what was the average exceeding speed of those trains recorded exceeding speed limits?
- (4) Since September 2004, which train line had the highest number of incidents of trains exceeding speed limits?

Answer—

I am advised:

Safety statistics since September 2004 are available on the CityRail website, www.cityrail.info.

*0136 HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM—UNDERSPENDING—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Is it correct that the Government has underspent \$37.5 million of allocated funds on the Home and Community Care Program as reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on 3 May 2006?
- (2) If this is correct, can the Government explain the reasons why, and explain how much of this money allocated for the Mid-North Coast has been underspent?
- (3) If this is not correct, can the Government confirm all monies allocated have been spent on the Mid-North Coast?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The New South Wales Government is not allowed to spend any HACC growth without the approval of the Commonwealth Government.

Over the past three planning years, there have been significant delays by Commonwealth Ministers in signing the HACC Annual State Plan.

Three years ago, the plan was signed by the Commonwealth after the end of the financial year.

Two years ago it was signed by the Commonwealth with three weeks of the financial year remaining.

This year, the Plan was signed by the Commonwealth in March, giving the State Government less than three months to allocate funding.

This has led to an accumulation of one-off funding. All of this funding will be allocated. I have written to the Federal Minister urging him to join with me to streamline the Home and Community Care Agreement.

*0137 KING CREEK GROUP HOME—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the King Creek Group Home has undergone major changes at the expense of some clients and staff due to the attempts by the Department to accommodate one well-known man with a severe form of Epilepsy that can include violent episodes?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (2) Is the Minister aware that this same individual has recently appeared in court for yet another breach of an Apprehended Violence Order that can be directly associated with his healthcare complaint, and directly associated with the Department's strategy to house this individual at the King Creek Group Home with other clients?
- (3) Is it agreed by the Department that this individual is no longer able to return to the King Creek Group Home?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the individual was in the management of the Department at the time of his arrest?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that no alternative supported accommodation placement is available for the individual, and that an 'out of area' placement is being sought to no avail due to all high need supported accommodation throughout the State being full?
- (6) Is the Minister aware that the Department is holding up the court process due to its failed attempts to find supported accommodation for this individual?
- (7) Is the Minister aware that whilst the Department fails to provide appropriate supported accommodation to an individual with a difficult health matter, that this individual remains in custody at Kempsey Correctional Centre, and looks likely to end up at the Additional Support Unit at Long Bay Gaol due to the lack of appropriate facilities available?
- (8) Is the Minister aware that from a health perspective, it has been reported that the individual is experiencing a significant decline in his health whilst in custody, including urinary incontinence, periods of withdrawn behaviour, and episodes of low mood?
- (9) What has been the impact of the restructure of the King Creek Group Home, on cost of fitout, on staff training and on inability of previous respite clients to access care, who all were affected due to a strategy by the Department to accommodate this individual, particularly in light of the new strategy by the Department to allow this individual with a health complaint to be dealt with by the Court, and cared for in the future by a gaol?
- (10) Will the Government adequately and urgently fund this Department to provide adequate care to people who otherwise are ending up in Gaol?
- (11) What is the Minister's response to His Honour's statement at the most recent hearing for this individual, that; "This man should be in residence, not in gaol. This man is unwell. It is cruel to have him in gaol where he will be a victim to prey. We can only hope that those who care for him in 2006 (in gaol) are enlightened and humane and have the facility because having regard to the report there is nowhere else I can place him. I cannot even rely on public housing and presumably he could not cope with that in any case. So in 2006 with all the fanfare of what we do or what we purport to do for people we resort to the archaic practice of gaoling people who have mental or other disabilities, because we cannot accommodate them elsewhere".

Answer—

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care has worked closely with the individual concerned and a number of agencies to identify appropriate supported accommodation options. The Department has considered a number of options during this process, as well as issues relating to compatibility, the risk of re-offending and a further accommodation breakdown.

The person now has a stable and appropriate placement on the mid north coast, which is appropriate to the person's individual needs.

The NSW Government has now finalised its 10-year Plan for disability service, Stronger Together.

Stronger Together represents a \$1 billion commitment in additional funding over the next five years and a reshaping of the system to provide fairer and easier access to deliver more flexible and responsive support.

Stronger Together will expand the disability sector's capacity for faster service, and will build on the recent recruitment of 18 behaviour support workers at a cost of \$6 million over five years.

It will also improve the quality of specialist support, and build on the roll out of regional behaviour intervention teams across NSW.

Stronger Together will also create an Office of the Senior Practitioner to oversee behaviour intervention practices, to lead improvement in the quality of services for people with complex needs.

*0139 MANNING-GREAT LAKES POLICE COMMAND—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Police—

With respect to the full range of complaints made by Joe Ban against the Manning-Great Lakes Police Command, is the Minister confident all matters have been fully dealt with in a way that provides fairness and justice to all concerned?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me that this matter has been the subject of two complex, lengthy and thorough investigations which have been conducted appropriately and monitored by the NSW Ombudsman. No communication from either Mr Ban, his legal representative or the Ombudsman has been received indicating dissatisfaction with the final outcome.

*0140 BROADBAND SERVICES—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Does the Minister agree with PBL Chair James Packer that Australia's broadband position is "embarrassing"?
- (2) Between Newcastle and the Tweed, can the Minister outline what Broadband access is available?
- (3) What role, if any, does the State have in provision of greater Broadband services?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (3) This matter should be referred to the Minister for Commerce, the Hon John Della Bosca MLC, who is responsible for managing the Government's policy responsibilities in relation to this issue.

*0141 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES—NORTH COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that voluntary redundancies (VRs) are being offered within the North Coast Area Health Service in an effort to address Government cuts to internal staff numbers?
- (2) How many VRs have been offered so far, and how many have been accepted?
- (3) How many VRs have been accepted by health workers living south of Kempsey?
- (4) In the case of Area Health and Port Base Hospital employee Cathie Buckley, why has the Government failed to recognise all former employees, including those on secondment, entitlement to public award rates leaving people such as Cathy at significant personal financial disadvantage?
- (5) Why have long-term 'casuals' in roles such as Breastscreen NSW been told at the eleventh hour that their position is being held for displaced permanent employees, leaving them with no opportunity to apply for positions anywhere within the health service structure, regardless of abilities and loyalties?
- (6) Has the issue of staff based in Taree outside of the boundaries of the new North Coast Area Health Service been resolved? If so, how?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from the Chief Executive, North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) As part of the process of amalgamating the State's former 17 Area Health Services into the eight that exist today, the offering of voluntary redundancies to staff in affected administrative positions, to re-direct money to frontline services, is an approved option of NSW Health.
- (2) As at 24 May 2006, two voluntary redundancies have been offered in the North Coast Area Health Service with none accepted.
- (3) None, as at 24 May 2006.
- (4) It would be inappropriate to comment on matters relating to individual employees. However, the North Coast Area Health Service has closely followed NSW Health policy directives governing voluntary redundancy.

The North Coast Area Health Service is obligated to recognise current permanent staff in relation to voluntary redundancies. Under these arrangements, no employee would be financially disadvantaged.

- (5) It is current Government policy that vacant positions arising from the amalgamation process are offered to suitably qualified permanent employees of NSW Health in the first instance. Casual employees are entitled to apply for externally advertised positions within the NSW Health service.
- (6) Appropriate functions have been designated for staff to remain in Taree until the State's Shared Corporate Services phase of the restructure is complete.

*0142 POLICE MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Police—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

With respect to announcements of actions to be taken:

- (1) In November 2003 the Minister for Police announced that an Operation Viking would be set up to crack down on street crime and illegal firearms:
 - (a) Was that team set up?
 - (b) How many members did it have?
 - (c) Does it still exist?
 - (d) What has it achieved?
- (2) The former Minister for Police also announced that five full-time police positions would be provided to the State crime command for the Firearms and Regulated Industries Crime Squad:
 - (a) Were those positions allocated?
 - (b) Are they still in existence?
 - (c) If so, where are they located?
 - (d) How many arrests have been made?
- (3) With respect to the announcement by the former Minister for Police that the Bureau of Crime Statistics would conduct a survey of prisoners sentenced for crimes involving firearms:
 - (a) Has that research been conducted?
 - (b) What were the results of that survey?
 - (c) What actions have you taken in response to the survey?
- (4) How many firearms and explosive detective dogs are in operation in NSW today?
- (5) With respect to the promise of the former Minister for Police to put in place a review of the existing stop and search powers with a view to more effectively targeting illegal handgun crime:
 - (a) Has that review been conducted?
 - (b) What were the results of that review?
 - (c) Did the above mentioned review in relation to stop and search powers consider policing tactics used with regard to persons on whom police hold intelligence of illegal firearms activity (eg drug gangs, bikie gangs, organised crime bosses etc)?

Answer—

NSW Police and the Ministry for Police have advised me:

- (1) (a) Yes.
 - (b) 47 Vikings Street Crime Unit (VSCU) positions were created; however, Vikings funding is used for Vikings operations conducted by Local Area Commands and Regions, Traffic Services Group, Aviation Support Branch and the Public Order and Riot Squad.
 - (c) Yes. The work and positions of the VSCU continue as detailed above.
 - (d) Data obtained from police information systems indicates that, between 29 September 2003 and 17 December 2005, the VSCU generated over 17,400 "events" including 2,737 information reports; 2,246 move-ons; 4,878 person searches and 4,340 arrests. Over 8,000 charges were laid as a result of Vikings operations in 2005 alone.
- (2) (a) Yes.
 - (b) Yes.
 - (c) Within the Firearms and Regulated Industries Crime Squad, State Crime Command at Police Headquarters, Parramatta.
 - (d) There are no separate arrest figures available for these 5 positions.
- (3) This question is more appropriately addressed to the Attorney General, within whose portfolio the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research resides.
- (4) The Dog Unit has an authorised strength of 26 firearm and explosive detection dogs. NSW Police is currently undertaking an operational needs analysis regarding the future requirements of the Unit.
- (5) A review was conducted of the existing stop and search powers and it was determined that the existing legislation provides sufficient powers to police to conduct searches for firearms. Subsequent to the review taking place, the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 commenced in April 2005, which provides police with sufficient powers to stop and search for firearms.

*0143 FIREARMS OFFENCES—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Police—

With respect to firearms offences:

- (1) Given that police were able to put themselves "in the vicinity" of every licensed firearms owner to enable a Section 59 (Firearms Act) inspection of their gun safes, have the police similarly placed themselves "in the vicinity" of gang members and organised crime bosses or others on whom police hold intelligence relating to illegal firearms to enable a "stop and search" to be conducted?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (b) If so:
- (i) How many illegal firearms have been identified by police while conducting "stop and search" activities?
 - (ii) How many people have been charged with offences following a "stop and search" procedure?
 - (iii) What charges have been laid against persons caught by police in "stop and search" procedures?
 - (iv) For those persons charged, how many were given gaol terms of:
 - less than 1 year;
 - between 1 and 5 years;
 - between 5 and 10 years;
 - over 10 years?
- (2) In 2003 the Minister for Police introduced the Firearms and Crime Legislation Amendment (Public Safety) Bill providing a 14-year maximum gaol term for persons convicted of stealing a firearm and 14-year gaol sentence for an unlicensed person in possession of an unregistered firearm in a public place in aggravated circumstances. For each of those offences separately:
- (a) How many people have been charged with those offences in NSW since the introduction of this Bill?
- (b) For those charged, how many people were given gaol terms of:
- (i) less than 1 year;
 - (ii) between 1 and 5 years;
 - (iii) between 5 and 10 years;
 - (iv) over 10 years?
- (3)
- (a) With respect to the offence of firing into a building/dwelling-house, how many persons have been charged with that offence under Section 93GA of the Crimes Act?
- (b) For those charged, how many people were given gaol terms of:
- (i) less than 1 year;
 - (ii) between 1 and 5 years;
 - (iii) between 5 and 10 years;
 - (iv) over 10 years?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) The inspection of gun safes is an operational process that is very different from the utilisation of intelligence based 'stop, search and detain' powers. It is inappropriate to imply a correlation between the two.

Regarding the statistical data requested, the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics. I suggest the Honourable Member's question is more appropriately addressed to the Attorney General, within whose portfolio the Bureau resides. Court outcomes are also a matter for the Attorney General.

(2) See (1) above.

(3) See (1) above.

*0144 FIREARMS REGISTRY—DATABASE ENQUIRIES—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Police—

When arresting and charging people with firearms offences:

- (1) Is it mandatory for NSW Police to query the Firearms Registry database and record the outcome of their enquiries for use in court proceedings and later statistical analysis as to:
- (a) Whether the alleged offender is a holder of a Firearms Licence or permit?
 - (b) Whether firearms seized or found in the possession of the alleged offender are registered?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (2) If it is mandatory, what do these statistics show about the incidence of crime committed by unlicensed persons with unregistered firearms?
- (3) If it is not mandatory, why is it not?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) When arresting and charging a person for firearms offences, such as illegal possession or safe storage breaches, it is critical to determine whether the offender is a licence or permit holder, whether the firearm is registered and/or what category of licence the offender may hold. While it is not mandatory for NSW Police to query the Integrated Licensing System, which is a database that holds firearm licensing information and is accessible by all of NSW Police, it is the primary method by which to determine this information.
- (2) N/A.
- (3) Police information systems are designed for operational purposes, not statistical analysis.

*0145 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Was the gym and swimming pool at Royal North Shore Hospital built, and is it maintained, with funds raised by the staff?
- (2) What provision has been made to replace it given it is proposed that it be demolished to make way for a new building?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me the Chief Executive, Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service, provides the following advice:

- (1) The gym and swimming pool were originally built more than 30 years ago and the asset is owned by Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service.
Fees generated from staff subscriptions contribute towards the expenses of running the gym and pool, however, the Area Health Service has heavily subsidised the service.
- (2) The Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service and Royal North Shore Hospital management are currently in discussions regarding short and long term options.

*0146 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TIMES—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Do hospitals register the time of arrival of each ambulance bringing patients to their Emergency Departments?
- (2) Do Emergency Departments register the time they take responsibility for patients delivered by ambulance?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) and (2) All hospitals have a system for recording the arrival time of ambulances and other times relevant to emergency department patient care.

*0147 SPIT ROAD CLEARWAY—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) Why is the weekend clearway on Spit Road between Medusa Street and Ourimbah Road justified when it was not in 2002 when it was first considered?
- (2) Will you rule out extending clearways along Spit and Military Roads and creating new clearways along Ourimbah Road or other side streets?
- (3) Will you rule out creating 24 hour 'bus only' lanes, which would effectively act as clearways, along Spit and Military Roads?

Answer—

I am advised:

The implementation of a weekend clearway was recently re-investigated as a measure to alleviate inbound traffic congestion along Spit Road.

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has no current plans to extend the existing clearway along Spit or Military Road. The RTA only implements clearways on classified roads under its responsibility.

*0148 SECONDARY SCHOOLS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many secondary students from Old Bar, Wallabi Point and Saltwater attend secondary school at Taree?
- (2) Will the Government consider a secondary school in the Old Bar area?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) Currently 209 secondary aged students residing in the Old Bar, Wallabi Point and Saltwater areas are enrolled at New South Wales government secondary schools in Taree and Wingham.

On current and predicted demographic data to 2010, there are not sufficient secondary aged students to warrant consideration of establishing a secondary school in the Old Bar area.

Secondary students within the Old Bar locality are within the catchment area of Taree High School, which has been exhibiting a slight decline in enrolment trends, has some surplus permanent accommodation and is anticipated to be able to accommodate any future growth in enrolment numbers from Old Bar.

Officers of the Department of Education and Training will continue to monitor student enrolment data and trends in the Old Bar and surrounding areas.

24 MAY 2006

(Paper No. 3)

*0149 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) To year ending 31 March 2006, how many motor vehicle accidents have been recorded that occurred in the automatic E Lanes situated at:
 - (a) the M4 toll booths?
 - (b) the M5 toll booths?
- (2) What were the causes of these accidents?
- (3) As a result of such accidents, how many persons were:
 - (a) killed?
 - (b) injured?

Answer—

I am advised:

Approximately 200,000 vehicles use the M4 and M5 on an average weekday.

In the year ending 31 March 2006, 27 motor vehicle accidents were identified within 200m either side of the toll booths on the M4 and M5.

RTA data does not capture motor vehicle accident information by lane.

According to preliminary data there were five injuries as a result of motor accidents in the 200m either side of the toll booths and no fatalities.

*0150 WILLOUGHBY BUS ROUTES—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

Is the Government proposing to change any bus routes within the Willoughby electorate and if so where?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Transit continually monitors the performance of its bus services to ensure that they best serve the needs of passengers and reflect demand levels.

*0151 WILLOUGHBY ROAD SAFETY—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

What action is being taken following safety concerns at the following locations within the Willoughby electorate at:

- (1) Fuller's Road, Chatswood?
- (2) Miller Street, Cammeray?
- (3) Edinburgh Road/Eastern Valley Way, Castlecrag?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has conducted investigations into concerns raised in your recent representations.

The RTA recently installed additional safety features such as advisory signs and replaced a length of guardrail on Miller Street, Cammeray. The RTA determined that it was not appropriate to reduce the speed zone on Miller Street from 60 km/h to 50 km/h. I understand that Miller Street is due for pavement resurfacing in 2006/2007.

The intersection of Fuller's Road, Chatswood has had two reported accidents associated with turning manoeuvres in the last five years. Further work is not considered appropriate at this time.

Edinburgh Road is a 50 km/h road. The RTA proposes to install additional 'Watch for Pedestrians' signage at the signalised intersection for motorists turning from Edinburgh Road southbound into Eastern Valley Way.

*0152 MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS TEAMS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to Mental Health crisis teams:

- (1) How many teams exist across New South Wales?
- (2) Where are they located?
- (3) What services and support do each of these teams provide?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) I am advised that services for people in mental health crisis are provided through a variety of services which include both community and hospital based care.
- (2) These services are located throughout each Area Health Service.
- (3) These services provide individual support and intervention in mental health crisis situations.

*0153 CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many hospital beds are there across New South Wales and where are they located?
- (2) What community based mental health support exists and where are they located?
- (3) Will the Government devote increased resources to child and adolescent mental health care?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me NSW Health has provided the following advice:

- (1) Details on public hospital bed numbers are published in the Department of Health's Annual Report.
- (2) NSW Health Mental Health Services provide a variety of community based child and adolescent mental health services and most operate at various locations across all Area Health Services.
- (3) Yes.

*0154 CLUBHOUSE MODELS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the Pioneer clubhouse (northern beaches) and Billabong (Tamworth) clubhouse models:

- (1) Does the State Government support these models?
- (2) If so, why will you not provide funds for Sunflower House (Wagga Wagga)?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me NSW Health provides the following advice:

I refer the member to my response to a question without notice in the Legislative Council on 11 May 2006 concerning Mental Health Clubhouses Funding.

- *0158 DEVELOPMENT-WILLOUGHBY ELECTORATE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What current projects or development applications within the Willoughby electorate would you consider to be matters of State significance ?

Answer—

The Department of Planning informs me that as of this moment, within the electorate of Willoughby, there are no development proposals that are of State significance being assessed as "Major Projects" under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

- *0159 NORTH WEST STRUCTURE PLAN—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Noting the level of community concern and the potential to "sterilise" properties, will the Minister remove the indicative route of the North West Rail Line on the North West Structure Plan?

Answer—

I am advised that detailed planning has commenced to determine the corridor for the North West Rail Link to Rouse Hill. Substantial funding for corridor acquisition was included in the 2006/07 Budget.

"Sterilization" of land would occur at the point that the corridor is determined. Affected land would then be subject to compulsory acquisition in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.

The North West Rail Link represents a substantial enhancement to public transport in northwestern Sydney. Deleting the indicative route from the Growth Centres Structure Plan would make no difference to the development of the line. However, your proposal to remove references to the North West Rail Link is noted, and presumably reflects a Coalition policy not to proceed with this project.

- *0160 FLASHING LIGHTS AT COLO HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

Noting a recent fatality and serious accidents, when does the Minister intend to provide flashing lights at the Colo Heights School Zone?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Evaluation of Flashing Lights in 40km/h School Speed Zones report, which is available publicly, found that existing flashing light systems were unreliable. An Expression of Interest (EOI) process is currently underway to identify the most reliable, up to date technology for a new school zone safety alert system. This technology will be progressively rolled out across the State on a needs basis, based on expert advice and safety criteria.

Subject to the EOI and tendering process, I have asked that the first 100 sites be expedited.

The individual circumstances of each school will be considered as part of this process.

- *0161 COLO HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Education and Training—

In relation to Colo Heights Public School, when does the Minister intend to:

- (1) Provide a suitable library building?
- (2) Provide a sewerage system that meets acceptable standards?
- (3) Consider maintaining the Administrative Manager for five days per week instead of 3.5 days particularly as she is the school's first aid officer?
- (4) Provide more educationally sound class sizes and grades?

Answer—

- (1) The Department's Asset Management Directorate is currently working with the Principal of Colo Heights Public School to manage library accommodation at the school.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (2) Funding has been approved for a replacement sewerage system at Colo Heights Public School. Work is scheduled to commence shortly subject to local Council approvals. The Principal is being kept informed of progress.
- (3) The allocation of school administrative and support staffing in government schools is in accordance with formulae developed to distribute resources equitably across the State. The allocation of school administrative and support staff to small schools has been enhanced significantly in recent years. Schools with between 26 and 50 students have a school administrative manager for 3.5 days per week. Schools may also apply to increase school administrative and support staffing levels through a supplementation scheme managed by Regional Directors.
- (4) The organisation of enrolled students into classes at Colo Heights Public School is educationally appropriate. The two classes have teachers experienced in teaching multi-age classes and high quality learning programs for all students are provided by the school.

*0162 DETNAC—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Education and Training—

Now that the Department of Education and Training New Apprenticeship Centres (DETNAC) has failed in its tender for the next three years, how will the services formerly provided by DETNAC to regional New South Wales continue to be provided?

Answer—

New Apprenticeships Centres are an initiative of the Federal Government. The Department of Education and Training New Apprenticeships Centre (DETNAC) has operated under contract to the Commonwealth since 1998. In that time the DETNAC became the largest and most effective NAC in NSW. It is also the only NAC to meet all of the Commonwealth's own quality and performance criteria across NSW. In addition, the DETNAC is the only NAC to have developed a comprehensive strategy for Aboriginal people to successfully participate in apprenticeships and traineeships. This strategy resulted in a growth of Aboriginal participation of over 230% in just eighteen months. The decision not to award DETNAC a further contract is very disappointing and I have indicated this to the responsible Minister, the Hon Gary Hardgrave MP.

As the services provided by the DETNAC were under a contract to the Commonwealth it is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government to ensure that they continue. The Commonwealth Minister should be held accountable should services to regional NSW not be maintained to the same high quality as provided by the DETNAC.

*0163 GARFIELD ROAD AND MARSDEN ROAD LIGHTS—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

In view of the opening of the M7 Westlink and changed traffic patterns, will the Minister investigate the re-phasing of the Garfield Road traffic lights to ensure improved traffic flows?

Answer—

I am advised:

The traffic signal timing at the intersection of Richmond Road and Garfield Road West has been adjusted to minimise delays and allow for increased traffic flow on Richmond Road.

The RTA will continue to monitor the operation of these traffic signals to ensure they are operating effectively.

*0164 RICHMOND ROAD SOUTH WINDSOR—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

In view of the increased traffic flow generated by the M7, when is it proposed to commence providing a dual carriageway?

Answer—

I am advised:

The section of Richmond Road between the M7/Rooty Hill Road North interchange and Bells Creek Bridge, Colebee has been recently widened to four lanes.

Having regard to future residential development in the Northwest (including Colebee and Marsden Park), consideration will be given to further widen Richmond Road.

*0165 PROPOSED SINGLE DECK SUBURBAN PASSENGER ROLLING STOCK—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

Has the Minister conducted a cost comparison between single and double decker suburban passenger rolling stock in terms of:

- (1) Capital cost per passenger place?
- (2) Increased maintenance and training costs associated with an "orphan" class of rolling stock?
- (3) Reliability issues?
- (4) Network impacts?
- (5) Australian content?

Answer—

I am advised:

After evaluation of the initial proposals, RailCorp concluded that single deck trains did not offer value for money.

*0166 3801 LIMITED—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Noting its heritage and symbolic significance, will the Minister support a permanent heritage/conservation order being placed upon the home of the 3801 Steam Train, the Large Erecting Shop Eveleigh?

Answer—

The permanent conservation order system was replaced by listings on the State Heritage Register in April 1999.

I am advised that the Large Erecting Shop in South Eveleigh is listed on the State Heritage Register.

I am also advised that the Redfern Waterloo Authority's Built Environment Plan and the related SEPP will be amended to include a reference to heritage listed items on a map, this includes the Large Erecting Shop in South Eveleigh, under a specific schedule to clause 5 of the SEPP.

*0167 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION MANAGERS—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Education and Training—

What steps are being undertaken to address the pay, shortage and training requirements for School Administration Managers?

Answer—

In 2004 the Department of Education and Training and the Public Service Association agreed on a package to finalise the review of the work of school assistants and senior school assistants. The package included an additional \$17 million to implement a new classification structure for school assistants (now school administrative officers) and senior school assistants (now school administrative managers).

Existing staff translated to the new structure from 1 July 2004 and received salary increases ranging from 5.7% to 6.8%.

The outcome of the review also provided for an additional \$8 million to be allocated to engage additional support staff in schools.

As a result of separate negotiations held with the Public Service Association, all school administrative managers will receive further pay increases of 4% per annum over 4 years, from July 2004 until July 2007. These increases are in line with public sector salaries increases.

The next pay increase for school administrative managers will be effective from the first pay period to commence on or after 1 July 2006. This increase will take a permanent full-time school administrative manager on the maximum level to \$46,139 per annum.

Every public school in New South Wales has a position of school administrative manager. The Department of Education and Training has not experienced any difficulties in filling vacant school administrative manager positions.

The Department of Education and Training provides professional learning programs for school administrative managers. These include Diploma of Frontline Management, Certificate of Administrative Leadership, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Technology in OASIS Administration and Finance, Mentoring, Certificate III Education Support, Administration of Prescribed Medications and

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Asthma Treatments, Environmentally Friendly Purchasing for Schools, and Managing People in the Workplace.

In addition, study assistance is available for school administrative managers to support external tertiary programs.

*0168 3801 LIMITED—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

Does the Minister intend to renew the lease of 3801 Limited for the Large Erecting Shop Eveleigh which expires on 26 November 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

3801 Pty Ltd does not have a lease for the property in question.

*0169 COURT HOUSE STAFF—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

Will staff and skill shortages in the court system be addressed in the coming Budget?

Answer—

I am not aware of any systemic staff or skill shortage in the NSW court system.

Staff resources are constantly realigned to support the delivery of service to clients of the courts. Occasionally, isolated staff shortages may occur due to normal operational factors such as leave, staff turnover, associated recruitment activity and allowing staff access to development opportunities such as training and relieving opportunities. These factors are not related to the Department's budget.

During the past twelve months, 90 per cent of Local and Supreme Court Staff have received at least two days of training. In the District Court, targeted training for staff on operational issues is conducted during the two days of the annual judges' conference. In 2006/2007 the Department aims to provide at least three days of training to every staff member. Court staff have a range of experience and skills and the average length of employment in the court system is 14 years.

The Department expects to reduce time taken to fill upcoming court vacancies following the introduction of bulk recruitment exercises.

*0170 COURT HOUSES IN REGIONAL NSW—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

Will any court houses in regional New South Wales be closed over the next five years?

Answer—

There are no proposals to close courthouses within regional New South Wales. This is in contrast to the closing of almost forty local courthouses under the previous NSW Coalition Government.

*0171 EASY ACCESS FACILITIES—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

When will easy access facilities be installed at all City Circle stations?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Iemma Government is spending a total of \$49.2 million on the Easy Access Program this year.

By the end of last year more than \$375 million had been spent on Easy Access upgrades, making 80 stations or more than a quarter of CityRail stations, independently accessible for all members of the community.

*0172 OLD NORTHERN ROAD OVERTAKING LANES—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

In view of the increasing levels of traffic, particularly trucks, and its importance to the tourism industry, when will overtaking lanes be provided to improve safety on Old Northern Road between Glenorie and Wisemans Ferry?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and Baulkham Hills Shire Council are upgrading this section of Old Northern Road with Section 94 funds paid by the Maroota Sand Quarries. This program will be completed in December 2006. An overtaking lane will be provided on Old Northern Road under the next Section 94 5-year program. Investigations are underway to identify the best location for the overtaking lane.

*0173 PITT TOWN LAGOON—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

What action is the Government proposing to redress the silting up of the Pitt Town Lagoon?

Answer—

The Pitt Town Lagoon is an ephemeral wetland in the floodplain of the Hawkesbury River. As such, the lagoon goes through naturally occurring wet and dry phases. The Department of Environment and Conservation is taking advantage of the current dry phase to remove noxious weeds from the lagoon and its islands.

*0174 PITT TOWN LAGOON PROTECTION—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

In view of its ecological significance including bird life, what additional protection will the Government provide for the important wetland, Pitt Town Lagoon?

Answer—

The Government has adopted a plan of management for Pitt Town Lagoon Nature Reserve and is implementing that plan to protect the ecological values of the Reserve. The Government is also working closely with Hawkesbury Council to protect its catchment.

*0175 NGO FUNDING—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Will the Government provide additional funds for state assisted Non-Government organisations as a result of the Social and Community Services Award of 2006?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Each year the NSW Government Budget includes a provision for indexation of grants.

Individual agencies that provide funds to Non-Government organisations then determine the appropriate specific level of indexation for their programs considering a range of factors, including the impact of the Social and Community Services Award.

*0176 HOSPITAL CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Does the Hunter/New England Health Service have an arrangement with the Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital to use contracted beds in certain circumstances?
- (2) If so, does that arrangement basically provide that if Manning Referral Hospital has a shortage of beds, they will invoke the contract with Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital to enable non acute patients of Manning Referral Hospital, who reside in the Great Lakes area, to be relocated to the Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital beds?
- (3) If so, why was Terry Cooper an arm amputee who had an operation on his other arm, which rendered that arm unable to be effectively used and therefore made him basically incapable of looking after himself, told on the day of the operation, in January 2006, that he would have to be discharged because the Manning Referral Hospital may need his bed over the weekend?
- (4) Why wasn't Mr Cooper offered a bed under the contract arrangements with Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital at the Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital in Forster?
- (5) Why wasn't ACTIP (Aged Care Transitional Intervention Program) advised of his forced discharge in January 2006?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

(1) and (2) I am advised that Manning Hospital has an agreement with the Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital that provides for the admission of transferred non-acute public patients in appropriate circumstances.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

(3) to (5) I am advised by the Hunter New England Area Health Service that there is no record of an inpatient by the name of Mr Terry Cooper at Manning Hospital during January 2006.

*0177 TOLL PAYMENT METHODS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What are the methods of payment and where can payment be made for motorists without E-tags using the M7 motorway?
- (2) Can a motorist pay the fee for using the M7 motorway at a Post Office with cash?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What are the methods of payment and where can payment be made for motorists without E-Tags using the Cross City Tunnel?
- (5) Can a motorist pay the fee for using the Cross City Tunnel at a Post Office with cash?
- (6) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

Motorists without an E-Tag can pay the toll for using the M7 by setting up a Roam e-PASS account at www.roam.com.au on the Internet or by calling 138 655. Once established, a Roam e-PASS account can be topped up in several ways including cash at Post Offices, selected Newsagents, major Coles Express outlets and at Shell service stations.

Motorists without an E-Tag can pay for trips on the Cross City Tunnel by setting up a beep pass account at www.crosscity.com.au on the internet or by calling 90 333 999. Details are available on the website.

*0178 MANUAL HANDLING CO-ORDINATOR—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Manual Handling Co-ordinator at Manning Base Hospital to be abolished?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) Is the manual handling procedure emanating from the Manning Base Hospital recognised as being best procedure by other medical institutions?
- (5) If so, why is the position being abolished?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me NSW Health has provided the following advice:

- (1) to (5) No decision has been made to abolish the position.

*0179 BUILDING DISPUTE—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Has the dispute between Albert and Donna Falzon and the builder Efim Pilipczyk Pty Ltd (trading as Homes by Us Architects and Builders (Licence No. 75452C) and Qualified Supervisor Efim Pilipczyk (Licence No. 28922C)) been resolved?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised by the Office of Fair Trading that:

- (1) Different aspects of the dispute between Mr and Mrs Falzon and Efim Pilipczyk Pty Ltd have been determined by the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal and the District Court. The findings have been against Mr and Mrs Falzon in both cases.

The disciplinary proceedings currently underway against the builder by the Office of Fair Trading are separate to the building dispute and are designed to protect future consumers, not to resolve Mr and Mrs Falzon's dispute or to provide the Falzons with compensation.

- (2) Not applicable.

*0180 DA FEES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Does the Department of Planning accept fees for processing Development Applications?
- (2) Does the Department of Planning from time to time refer any Development Applications back to Local Councils for processing?

- (3) If so, why?
 (4) If so, are any fees made available for local councils to offset the cost of processing such Development Applications?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
 (2) Yes.
 (3) In recognition of the local nature of and/or the ability of a council to process an application.
 (4) Yes.

*0181 ROAD RULES—DIFFERING PROVISIONS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

Do the Roads and Transport Authority's Road Users Handbook and the Australian Road Rules (at Rule 130) have differing provisions about keeping to the left on multi-lane roads?

Is the RTA Road Users Handbook in conflict with the Australian Road Rules in that the Handbook states that drivers should return to the left lane from the middle lane after overtaking the slower vehicles in the left lane, while the Australian Road Rule simply has a provision against driving in the right lane (unless in certain prescribed circumstances) but makes no mention of the ability or otherwise to drive in the middle lane?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Road Users' Handbook is a plain English interpretation of the road laws and includes sections on safe driving practices and behaviours.

Under the Australian Road Rules, drivers may use the middle lane on a multi-lane road even if they are not overtaking other vehicles. However, the RTA advises and encourages road users to use the left lane unless passing other vehicles. By encouraging motorists to keep left, this reduces the likelihood of faster vehicles using the left lane for passing.

*0182 LICENCES ISSUED—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What are the number of licences that are issued or overseen by the Department of Fair Trading?
 (2) What are those licenses?

Answer—

I am advised by the Office of Fair Trading that:

- (1) The Office of Fair Trading issues and maintains the public register for 34 different licences and certificates for individuals or companies to trade in New South Wales.
 (2) Those licences and certificates are listed below:
 Automotive electrician fixed workshop licence
 Automotive electrician fixed workshop certificate
 Automotive electrician mobile workshop licence
 Body maker licence
 Body maker certificate
 Brake mechanic licence
 Brake mechanic certificate
 Building consultant licence
 Business agent licence
 Contractor licence for building and trade work
 Conveyancer licence
 Corporations licence (Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002)
 Exhaust repairer licence
 Exhaust repairer certificate
 Front end specialist licence
 Front end specialist certificate
 Liquefied petroleum gas mechanic licence
 Liquefied petroleum gas mechanic certificate
 Motor cycle mechanic licence

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Motor cycle mechanic certificate
 Motor dealer licence
 Motor mechanic fixed workshop licence
 Motor mechanic fixed workshop certificate
 Motor mechanic mobile workshop licence
 Natural gas mechanic licence
 Natural gas mechanic certificate
 On-site residential property manager licence
 Panel beater licence
 Panel beater certificate
 Pawnbroker and second-hand dealer licence
 Public weighbridge licence
 Radiator repairer licence
 Radiator repairer certificate
 Real estate certificate
 Real estate agent licence
 Stock and station agent licence
 Strata managing agent licence
 Trade measurement services licence
 Trades certificate and qualified supervisor certificate for building and trade work
 Transmission specialist licence
 Transmission specialist certificate
 Travel agent licence
 Vehicle painter fixed workshop licence
 Vehicle painter fixed workshop certificate
 Vehicle painter mobile workshop licence
 Valuer certificate

*0183 LICENSING—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many builders are licensed by the Office of Fair Trading?
- (2) How many tradespeople are licensed by the Office of Fair Trading?

Answer—

I am advised by the Office of Fair Trading that:

- (1) As at 31 March 2006, 28,737 current full building licences were issued to individuals, partnerships and companies; 3,111 restricted building licences and 473 building consultant licences were also issued.
- (2) As at 31 March 2006 there were 92,727 current contractor licences issued to individuals, companies and partnerships for various trade categories.

*0184 LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) Does the Department of Local Government have the Lithgow City Council on a financial watch list?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) Has the Mayor of Lithgow City Council stated publicly that the Council is \$9.5 million in the black?
- (4) If so, will you consent to the Council's request for a 14.44 per cent rate increase?
- (5) If so, why?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) The Department of Local Government monitors the financial position of all NSW councils. Departmental officers have reviewed Lithgow City Council's financial reports for 2004/05 and followed up areas of concern. The Department will continue to monitor the financial position of Lithgow City Council, as with all councils in NSW, through review of financial reports, budget summaries and other reports where necessary.
- (2) N/A
- (3) I am unaware of any comments made by the Mayor of Lithgow City Council in relation to the Council's financial position.
- (4) Lithgow City Council has submitted an application to increase rates above the rate-pegging limit. It will be considered in the context of the criteria set out in the Department's Circular to Councils

06-13, issued on 28 February 2006. These criteria include community support, other funding options, impact on ratepayers, compliance with rating legislation, demonstrated outcomes, and demonstrated efficiencies.

(5) N/A

*0185 THREE TREE LODGE—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) Does the Lithgow City Council have any financial or otherwise interest in the Three Tree Lodge residential aged care facility in Lithgow?
- (2) If so, what is that interest?
- (3) If not, does the Three Tree Lodge residential aged care facility appear as a form of asset in the accounts of the Lithgow City Council?
- (4) If so, why?
- (5) If so, in what capacity?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) According to Lithgow City Council, there is a tripartite agreement between Lithgow City Council, Three Tree Lodge Incorporated and the NSW Department of Health. Under that agreement, Council is provided with the control of the infrastructure assets of Three Tree Lodge to ensure the long-term provision of aged care facilities for the community.
- (3) The facility is a 'controlled' non-current asset of council and recorded in the council's asset register.
- (4) Council is provided with the control of the infrastructure assets of Three Tree Lodge to ensure the long-term provision of aged care facilities for the community.
- (5) I am advised that Council's auditor has certified that Council has followed appropriate accounting standards in recording the asset in the 2004/05 financial reports.

*0186 MEDICAL MISTAKES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many medical mistakes occurred at Hornsby Hospital in 2005?
- (2) How many of these resulted in:
 - (a) disability and
 - (b) death?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me NSW Health has provided the following advice:

- (1) and (2) Public reporting of the serious incidents that occur in the NSW public health system is undertaken annually.

*0187 BREASTSCREEN NSW—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

What number of:

- (a) 50-69 year old women and
- (b) 40-49 year old women have been screened by BreastScreen NSW in each year since 2000 in the Hornsby Local Government Area?

Answer—

The member is referred to the Annual Reports of the Cancer Institute of NSW.

*0188 CHILVERS FIRE 2002—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

Were bulldozers used in fire breaks and back burning in the 2002 Chilvers fire?

Answer—

Heavy earthmoving equipment was used during this bush fire emergency.

*0189 PACIFIC HIGHWAY WORK—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

What is the total cost of the recent work along the Pacific Highway at Mount Colah/Mount Ku-ring-gai where the road was resurfaced, lines repainted, signs added and other related activities?

Answer—

I am advised:

The total cost for work was approximately \$300,000.

*0190 RAPID ASSESSMENT TEAM—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Rapid Assessment Team (RAT) operating according to original plans?
- (2) If not, why has there been a change in the RAT operation?
- (3) Has the funding been altered?
- (4) If not, where is the funding now going?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) In some hospitals the role of the Rapid Emergency Assessment Teams has changed.
- (2) This change in operation has occurred for a number of reasons, such as the increased availability of Clinical Initiative Nurses and Advanced Practice Nurses, and the development of new models of Emergency Care.

Models of care such as Fast Track Zones and Triage and Treat concentrate on lower acuity patients (Triage categories 4 and 5) and are examples of effective streaming. These models focus on the early assessment, fast tracking and early initiation of clinical care and expose patients to senior clinicians earlier during their time in the Emergency Department. These clinicians include Nurse Practitioners and nurses using extended skills.

- (3) and (4) During 2004, recurrent funding was identified for the continuation of Rapid Emergency Assessment Teams at the participating hospitals.

*0191 LEGISLATION REVIEW TOURIST SITES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) Are there plans to review legislation pertaining to tourist sites which will standardise tourist facilities and activities across all local government areas?
- (2) If so, when will this occur?

Answer—

- (1) Matters concerning local Government generally fall under the portfolio responsibilities of the Hon Kerry Hickey MP, Minister for Local Government and you should direct your question to him.

I am advised by Tourism New South Wales that there are no plans to review legislation pertaining to tourist sites.

- (2) As above.

*0192 NSCC AHS DENTISTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many dentists are employed in the Dental Clinic at Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) Are there plans to increase the number of dentists in Hornsby Hospital Dental Clinic, so that the waiting list can be reduced?
- (3) How many dentists will be appointed?
- (4) Is advertising in place to attract dentists?
- (5) Does Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service have adequate funds to employ dentists?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me he has received the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) I am advised there are 4.0 FTE dentists employed at Hornsby Hospital Dental clinic.
- (2) to (4) The Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service continues a strong national and international recruitment drive and seeks to appoint additional dentists Area-wide.
- (5) Adequate funding is available for the employment of dentists across the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service. The shortage of dentists is not a funding issue - it reflects a shortage of suitably trained dentists across all States and Territories.

A report published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2003 on the Australian dental workforce argued that the number of dental graduates of Australian dental schools would need to increase by 120 each year to develop a sustainable self-sufficient workforce. The Commonwealth Government provided funding for an additional 78 HECS places a year across Australia, in 2005 - 42 positions less than required to maintain the workforce at a self-sufficient level.

With around 85% of dentists in New South Wales in the private sector, there is not a ready supply of Australian trained dentists to meet the demands for public sector services.

*0193 DETACHED PERSONS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many detached persons are there at Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) How long have each of these been on the detached persons list?
- (3) What is planned for the future of these people?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) There is no such thing as 'detached' persons at Hornsby Hospital. However there are displaced/excess employees based at Hornsby Hospital. As of 11 May 2006, there are five such employees.
- (2) Four employees were registered on the Displaced Persons List on 9 December 2005. One employee was registered on the Displaced Persons List on 23 February 2006.
- (3) One employee has undertaken redeployment and retraining for a position in the Royal North Shore Pharmacy with impending permanent placement. The other four employees are participating in retraining and performing meaningful work as directed in the Department of Health Policy No 2000/78 (a copy of which is available on the Department of Health's Website).

*0195 BUS CONTRACT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) Has the Government signed the contract with Trans Dev regarding bus operations?
- (2) If not, why not, and when will this take place?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes. More than a year ago.
- (2) See (1).

*0196 MARSDEN CENTRE—ACCUSATIONS AGAINST WORKERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What accusations were made against support workers at the Marsden Centre?
- (2) What action was taken against them?

Answer—

- (1) There have been a number of allegations of assault of clients against several staff in three different units at the Marsden Centre.
- (2) In all cases, the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care has followed appropriate protocols in accordance with the Premier's Guidelines for the Management of conduct and performance under the NSW Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002 by:
 - immediately placing the staff on non-client related duties;
 - reporting the allegations to the NSW Police where appropriate; and
 - appointing an external independent consultant to investigate and report on these matters.

*0197 JOHN WILLIAMS CENTRE SALE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) How much was the John Williams Centre (Wahroonga) sold for?
- (2) What was this money used for?
- (3) Has all the money been used to improve disability respite services?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

(1) The John Williams Centre comprised 2 parcels of land and was sold as a single package. The main parcel of land at 35-45 Water Street, Wahroonga owned by the John Williams Memorial Charitable Trust sold for \$9.08 million. The adjoining parcel of land at 64 Billyard Avenue, Wahroonga, owned by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care sold for \$0.80 million.

(2) The funds were used to purchase replacement children's respite group homes close to homes and schools of children with disabilities who previously accessed the John Williams Centre.

To date, \$1.49 million in capital funds has been spent on the acquisition of two properties, located at:

- 28 Normac Road, Girraween, and
- 39 Dartford Road, Thornleigh.

(3) Approximately \$7.2 million remains in the John Williams Memorial Charitable Trust Account.

All the money will be used to continue providing improved respite services for children, according to the terms of the John Williams Trust Fund.

*0198 ELECTIVE SURGERY—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

What methods are being employed to reduce the elective surgery waiting list at Hornsby Hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health provides the following advice from NSW Health:

Additional resources and better use of resources.

*0200 WHALES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Citizenship—

What is the New South Wales Government doing to assist with reducing the slaughter of whales in Australian waters?

Answer—

The NSW Government considers whaling activity in Australian or international waters to be deplorable and does not support this activity. The killing or harm of a marine mammal in NSW waters and in Commonwealth waters is an offence under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, respectively.

While the humpback whale population was decimated in the whaling era, the population is once again increasing. Whaling activities could have a serious impact on the recovery of threatened whale species such as the humpback or southern right whale.

The NSW Minister for the Environment has publicly stated his disapproval of whaling activities and has written to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage to voice his concerns and to urge the Federal Government to take stronger measures to protect whales. In addition, the NSW Government remains increasingly concerned over the illegal killing of whales in Australia's Antarctic Territories (AAT) and Exclusive Economic Zones and will continue to pressure the Federal Government to prevent illegal whaling vessels from operating in Australian waters.

*0201 RTA REASSESSMENT OF INTERSECTIONS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

(1) When did the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) representative reassess the intersections (Foxglove and Excelsior Roads) along the Pacific Highway at Mount Colah in relation to Saturday morning, and before 8 am and after 4 pm, traffic movements?

(2) What is the action relating to this reassessment?

Answer—

I am advised:

Extensive investigations have been undertaken into this site and the results made public.

Following assessment in April 2006 it was determined that the installation of traffic signals at the intersections of the Pacific Highway and Excelsior Road and Foxglove Road is not required at this time.

*0202 STATE SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What current development applications within the Hornsby Electorate are matters of 'State significance'?

Answer—

I am advised by the Department of Planning that as of this moment, within the Hornsby Electorate, no proposals have been declared State significant as "Major Projects" under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

*0203 RAILWAY RUBBISH—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) How often does RailCorp undertake rubbish removal from its properties e.g. Hornsby railway station and environs?
- (2) When will the Hornsby railway station and environs, as well as all railway land in the Hornsby electorate next be cleared of litter?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Litter reduction work on tracks is conducted during track work possessions. It is not possible to conduct litter reduction work on tracks more often due to safe working and access issues.
The removal of rubbish from station platforms and concourses is completed on a regular basis in accordance with RailCorp Standards for Cleaning and Station Presentation. Rubbish is collected by staff who conduct regular inspections.
- (2) A major litter reduction campaign is scheduled for Hornsby Station and tracks during a track possession scheduled for early July 2006.

*0210 NATIONAL PACKAGING COVENANT—Ms Pam Allan asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Are you aware that neither Coles-Myer nor Woolworths have signed the National Packaging Covenant?
- (2) What action have you taken to address this situation?
- (3) Will you take further steps to ensure these major retailers sign up?
- (4) If they still don't sign will you implement the 'take back' provisions of the NEPM?

Answer—

The NSW Government is aware and concerned that Woolworths, Coles Myer and a number of other large brand owners have not resigned the new National Packaging Covenant. The Government and the Department of Environment and Conservation are continuing to work with these companies, and others, who have not yet resigned this agreement.

A strengthened regulatory instrument to enforce the National Environment Protection Measure in NSW is currently being finalized. The NSW Government is committed to fulfilling its obligation to follow up those companies who are failing to act responsibly to manage their packaging.

*0211 CIVIC AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION FORUM—Ms Pam Allan asked the Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) How many delegates from New South Wales will attend the Civic and Citizenship Education Forum in Canberra in June?
- (2) Which schools will they represent?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Nineteen delegates from eight New South Wales schools attended the National Civics and Citizenship Education Forum conducted by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training on 1 and 2 June 2006.

These schools were Henschke Primary School, Maitland High School, New England Girls School, Kildare Catholic College, Gosford Christian College, Quilba College, Green Valley Islamic College and St Ives North Public School.

*0212 DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Are you aware that Holroyd City Council has recently approved, under delegated authority, developments at 357 Great Western Highway, Wentworthville and 41-43 Hampden Road, South Wentworthville?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (2) Are you aware there is community concern that these developments do not comply with council's own development control plans?
- (3) Is it the case that the applicant for both projects was a candidate in the last Local Government elections for Holroyd City Council?
- (4) What action do you propose to take to alleviate community concern?

Answer—

- (1) I was unaware of the approval of these developments prior to this question being asked of me.
- (2) No.
- (3) As I have had no involvement in the development assessment process in this instance, I am unaware of the identity of the applicant.
- (4) This is a matter for Holroyd City Council.

*0213 BUCKET CAR WASHING—ELDERLY PEOPLE—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Are you aware of increasing concern amongst elderly members of the public concerning washing their cars with buckets?
- (2) What strategies has Sydney Water put in place to assist such elderly people or people with chronic fatigue syndrome who find it physically difficult to use buckets to wash their cars?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised me:

- (1) and (2) Water restrictions are one of a range of measures that are being taken to manage Sydney's water supplies during the current drought.

Since the introduction of mandatory water restrictions on 1 October 2003, the people of Sydney, the Illawarra and Blue Mountains have saved over 195,000 million litres of water. This is a great achievement by the community, which has overall responded positively to the need to save water.

The water restrictions are aimed at limiting activities that are not essential for the health and hygiene of individuals and the community, and for which there is an alternative. To help prevent wastage, the use of hoses for washing cars is restricted.

There are, however, a number of community groups that require special consideration in times of water restrictions such as our elderly citizens or those whose health is affected. As the customer needs in this area vary widely, Sydney Water assesses each individual case on its merits and negotiates exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

Further information on applying for exemptions is available on Sydney Water's website at www.sydneywater.com.au or by contacting Sydney Water on telephone 13 20 92.

*0215 RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT—GREAT WESTERN HIGHWAY—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What plans does your Department have for more residential and commercial development along the Great Western Highway between Parramatta and Wentworthville?
- (2) What planning studies exist for this area?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Planning is working closely with Holroyd and Parramatta Councils in the review of their residential development strategies and is in the process of undertaking a Central West Sub-Regional Strategy (i.e. for the Parramatta, Holroyd, Fairfield, Auburn and Bankstown Local Government Areas) to support appropriate development within the LGAs, including locations such as land in proximity to the Great Western Highway.
- (2) I am advised that some development options were canvassed in the Liverpool to Parramatta Transitway Land Use Study prepared for the Department and made available to Holroyd Council in 2005.

*0216 DEVELOPMENT PLANS—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Do Pendle Hill, Toongabbie and Wentworthville shopping centres have development control plans?

(2) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Preparation of Development Control Plans is the responsibility of local councils. Therefore this question is best directed to the relevant local council(s).

*0217 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LANDOWNERS—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Is there a standard acknowledgement of the Aboriginal traditional owners of local lands issued to schools and councils in Western Sydney?

(2) If so, what is it?

(3) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) to (3) This question should be directed to the Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP, the Minister for Education and the Hon Kerry Hickey MP, the Minister for Local Government who respectively have primary responsibility for schools and councils.

The NSW Government has an Aboriginal Cultural Protocol and Practice Policy to guide NSW Public Sector Agencies on how to appropriately acknowledge Aboriginal peoples traditional association to land at official events. The Policy is available on the Premier's Department website.

*0218 STREET NAMES—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

With the opening of new suburbs in the North West Sector of Sydney, what efforts will your Department take to ensure that local Aboriginal names will be preserved in local names?

Answer—

This question should be directed to the Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Lands who has primary responsibility for the naming of geographical features and street names through the Geographical Naming Board and the NSW Dual Naming Policy.

The NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Plan, Two Ways Together, sets out a whole of Government approach, through the Culture and Heritage Cluster Group and its Aboriginal Languages Policy, to increase community awareness of Aboriginal languages. This policy encourages the recognition of Aboriginal cultural heritage associated with localities through the dual naming of places and through Local Government strategies.

*0219 TRANSITWAY REPORT—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

(1) Does the Department of Planning have a study on development around the Parramatta-Liverpool Transit Way?

(2) If so, will you make the report publicly available?

(3) If not, has the Department plans to prepare such a report?

Answer—

(1) The Liverpool – Parramatta Transitway Land Use Study was prepared for the Department of Planning to assist the relevant councils in making future land use decisions in proximity to the Transitway.

(2) A copy of the study was provided to Holroyd, Fairfield and Liverpool Councils for their consideration.

(3) N/A

*0220 NON-PAYMENT FOR PETROL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Police—

(1) Has there been an increase in the number of reports to police of people leaving service stations without paying for the petrol they put into their motor vehicles?

(2) How many such reports have been made to the Mount Druitt Police Station in the 12-month period ending 30 April 2006?

(3) How many persons were arrested following the reports mentioned in question (2) above?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me :

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS) cannot provide the specific information requested by the Honourable Member. However, the number of reports of people leaving service stations without paying for goods (including petrol), submitted on COPS by police attached to Mt Druitt Local Area Command in the 12 months to 30 April 2006, was 122.
- (3) There were 3 individuals against whom legal action was taken associated with the reports above. NSW Police data indicates that, in the majority of these cases, the service station owners will not allow their staff to testify at court, as the wages cost is not considered justified.

*0221 WAGGA WAGGA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Ian Armstrong asked the Minister for Police—

Will you obtain from the Wagga Wagga Local Area Commander the following information:

- (1) How many one-man police stations are located within the Wagga Wagga Local Area Command?
- (2) How many of these one-man police stations are staffed?
- (3) When the police officer in charge of a one-man station is rostered on duty, how many hours per week is that officer required to work at the local station servicing the needs of the local community?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) to (3) Information about police numbers is available on the NSW Police website: www.police.nsw.gov.au. Staffing allocations and operational hours within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

*0222 COOTAMUNDRA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Ian Armstrong asked the Minister for Police—

Will you obtain from the Cootamundra Local Area Commander the following information:

- (1) How many one-man police stations are located within the Cootamundra Local Area Command?
- (2) How many of these one-man police stations are staffed?
- (3) When the police officer in charge of a one-man station is rostered on duty, how many hours per week is that officer required to work at the local station servicing the needs of the local community?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) to (3) Information about police numbers is available on the NSW Police website: www.police.nsw.gov.au. Staffing allocations and operational hours within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

*0223 LACHLAN LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Ian Armstrong asked the Minister for Police—

Will you obtain from the Lachlan Local Area Commander the following information:

- (1) How many one-man police stations are located within the Lachlan Local Area Command?
- (2) How many of these one-man police stations are staffed?
- (3) When the police officer in charge of a one-man station is rostered on duty, how many hours per week is that officer required to work at the local station servicing the needs of the local community?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) to (3) Information about police numbers is available on the NSW Police website: www.police.nsw.gov.au. Staffing allocations and operational hours within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

*0224 GRIFFITH LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Ian Armstrong asked the Minister for Police—

Will you obtain from the Griffith Local Area Commander the following information:

- (1) How many one-man police stations are located within the Griffith Local Area Command?
- (2) How many of these one-man police stations are staffed?
- (3) When the police officer in charge of a one-man station is rostered on duty, how many hours per week is that officer required to work at the local station servicing the needs of the local community?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

(1) to (3) Information about police numbers is available on the NSW Police website: www.police.nsw.gov.au. Staffing allocations and operational hours within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

*0225 UNSOLVED DEATHS IN COWRA—Mr Ian Armstrong asked the Minister for Police—

- (1) With the establishment of the Unsolved Homicide Team in New South Wales, what action, if any, has been taken to re-investigate the following unsolved cases in Cowra:
 - (a) The deaths of Georgina Watmore and Catherine Holmes?
 - (b) The death of Kristy Williams?
 - (c) The death of Arthur Williams?
- (2) If yes, have investigations been completed?
- (3) If not, are the investigations continuing?
- (4) If no action has been taken in relation to the above solved cases can the Minister advise if any priority has been given to the re-investigation of any one of or all three cases?
- (5) How many unsolved cases have been referred to the Unsolved Homicide Team?
- (6) How many cases have been re-investigated and completed?
- (7) What are the outcomes of those re-investigations?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) to (3) No re-investigation of the cases specified by the Honourable Member has commenced to date.
- (4) The review of all unsolved homicide cases has not yet been completed. When all cases have been fully reviewed they will be prioritised and investigative resources allocated, in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures. Police deliberately do not publicly identify cases which may be re-investigated, for operational reasons and also due to concern for the sensitivities of family members.
- (5) 454.
- (6) and (7) As at 1 June 2006, reviews had been completed on 360 unsolved homicide cases. Nine cases assessed as requiring urgent re-investigation have been referred as such. Eight of these are subject to current re-investigation and one is currently before the courts.

*0226 RETIREMENT VILLAGES ACT—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Retirement Villages Act:

- (1) When will the current review be complete?
- (2) When will you be introducing amendments to the current Act?
- (3) What is your response to some operators increasing departure fees to 40 per cent while a minority have raised the fee to 50 per cent?
- (4) Do you believe there should be a cap placed on operators in relation to the departure fees charged?
- (5) What are the reforms you will be proposing?
- (6) What recourse do residents in retirement villages have if operators deny access to basic financial records which residents are entitled to view?

Answer—

- (1) The review has already been completed.
- (2) It is anticipated that a draft Bill will be introduced into Parliament in the 2006 Spring Session.
- (3) I have not been advised that this has occurred. Current contracts cannot be altered without the agreement of residents.
- (4) This will be considered if there is evidence that such a control is advisable.
- (5) The Government is considering all of the recommendations contained in the review report as well as other matters that were raised by stakeholders after the tabling of the report in Parliament.
- (6) Residents can apply to the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal to have an order made in relation to such disputes if they cannot be resolved within the village concerned.

*0227 TOURISM SIGNAGE IN SYDNEY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) Which authority is responsible for the placing of tourism signage of significant sites in Sydney?
- (2) Why does the former residence of Sir Edmund Barton in Gloucester Street in the Rocks not have tourism signage indicating its significance?
- (3) Why is the archaeological site at the corner of Windmill Street in The Rocks not open to the general

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

public?

Answer—

- (1) The City of Sydney is the authority responsible for the placement of all signage, including tourism signage on the local road network throughout Sydney.
- (2) As the City of Sydney is the responsible authority, this question should be directed to the Lord Mayor of Sydney.
- (3) The Rocks area is managed by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. This question should be directed to the Hon Frank Sartor MP, Minister for Planning.

*0228 TUMUT HOSPITAL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) When was the presence of asbestos in the bathrooms of Tumut Hospital wards first identified?
- (2) Has the presence of this asbestos been identified as posing a health risk to staff and patients?
- (3) When is this asbestos going to be removed?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me that the Chief Executive Greater Southern Area Health Service provides the following advice:

- (1) Asbestos was known to be present in Tumut Hospital, and was formally audited and documented in October 2000.
- (2) No.
- (3) It is not necessary under the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) Guidelines - Code of Practice for the Management and Control of Asbestos in Workplaces [NOHSC:2018 (2005)], and it is not common practice, to remove asbestos materials where they do not constitute a risk to health. Accordingly, asbestos at Tumut Hospital will continue to be managed in accordance with the relevant codes and practices relating to this hazardous substance.

*0229 SCHOOL BUSES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

Are all privately owned buses used to transport students under the School Student Transport Scheme required to be registered in NSW and undergo inspection every six months?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Road and Traffic Authority is the responsible agency for the registration and the heavy vehicle inspection scheme within NSW.

The Ministry of Transport is the responsible agency for accreditation of bus operators that operate within NSW.

Under the existing bus operator accreditation system and the Passenger Transport (Bus Services) Regulation 2000, all accredited operators must ensure that the vehicles used to provide a bus service at all times meet the requirements of the law as to registration, vehicle safety and roadworthiness for the State in which they are registered.

*0230 SIGNAGE AT HORNSBY RAILWAY STATION CAR PARK—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

When will the erroneous parking signs be removed and replaced with the correct signage at the car park at Hornsby Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

While this is primarily a matter for the Minister for Roads, I am advised that RailCorp is currently working with the Roads and Traffic Authority to determine whether or not the rear to kerb parking rule is necessary.

In the meantime, RailCorp has put a moratorium on fines being issued at the George Street Car Park for not parking rear to kerb. RailCorp has also put in place arrangements with the Infringement Processing Bureau to review and refund fines which have been issued at the station for not parking rear to kerb.

*0231 PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What are the criteria for placing zigzag lines along a road leading to a pedestrian crossing?
- (2) What criteria needs to be met for any additional safety device to be added to a pedestrian crossing, eg wombat crossings, bollards etc?

Answer—

I am advised:

Zig-zag pavement markings may be provided at existing pedestrian crossings as a supplementary advance warning device at sites where sight distance is a problem.

A raised pedestrian crossing (wombat crossing) can be considered at a location where the requirements for a traffic calming device as well as a pedestrian crossing are met.

Other pedestrian safety measures such as bollards and pedestrian fencing can be considered where there is an identified need to deter pedestrians from crossing at inappropriate locations.

The speed limit, road environment, traffic volumes, vehicle travelling speeds, adjacent land use and proportion of heavy vehicles and buses are all taken into consideration on a case by case basis.

*0232 WESTLEIGH PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) Does the Roads and Traffic Authority conduct inspections of quality of paintwork on pedestrian crossings?
- (2) How often does this occur?
- (3) When will there be inspections along Duffy Avenue, Westleigh?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA inspects the roads under its responsibility at least every six months.

Duffy Avenue, Westleigh is a Local Road which is the responsibility of Hornsby Shire Council.

*0233 PRISON ASSAULTS—Mr Andrew Humpherson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) How many prisoner on prisoner and prisoner on officer assaults were reported in Mulawa Women's Prison between 1 January and 31 March 2006?
- (2) How many of the above-mentioned categories were reported for the corresponding period in 2005?
- (3) What was the nature of the assaults?
- (4) How many incidents needed medical attention? What were the reported injuries?
- (5) How many incidents required the hospitalisation of the victims?
- (6) How many charges were laid over these incidents? What was the outcome of these charges settled to date?

Answer—

The Department of Corrective Services compiles assault statistics annually for the Report on Government Services, and for the publication of annual statistics. It does not compile ad-hoc or gaol-specific statistics on a quarterly or other basis, and the resources required to do so cannot be justified.

The annual statistics do not include information on charges, which are a police matter.

*0234 LONG BAY HOSPITAL—Mr Andrew Humpherson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) What are the levels of custodial staff at the Long Bay Hospital?
- (2) What are the maximum custodial staff numbers at Long Bay Hospital on any given shift?
- (3) What is the regulated patient capacity of the Long Bay Prison Hospital?

Answer—

- (1) The current custodial staffing level at Long Bay Hospital is 121 full time positions.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (2) 31.
(3) There is no "regulated" capacity. The current operational patient capacity is 119.

*0235 BASIX—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

With regard to the BASIX scheme:

- (1) How many multi-unit dwellings have been built in line with the 20% increased energy efficiency BASIX regulation since the introduction of the scheme?
- (2) Does the Government intend to maintain its commitment to increase the energy efficient requirement for all new dwellings to 40% in July this year?
- (3) What plans does the Government have to increase energy efficiency requirements for the future?

Answer—

- (1) Since 1 October 2005, all new multi-unit residential developments have been required to comply with the BASIX scheme. I am advised that the Department is not aware of any multi-unit developments that have been built in accordance with BASIX given the length of time taken between lodging a DA, subsequent assessment, approval and construction.
- (2) The Government recently announced its commitment to increase the BASIX energy targets throughout NSW. The newly announced targets, that include regional variations allowing for climatic constraints and variations for building types, ensures that on average BASIX will deliver an overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 36% for new homes in the state.

From 1 October 2006 alterations and additions of a certain value to existing homes will also be required to comply with BASIX.

Under the new targets BASIX will save 287 billion litres of water and more than 8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide being emitted to the atmosphere over the next decade.

- (3) As part of the recent announcement the Government has committed \$300,000 for a co-generation pilot study for multi-unit buildings. I have asked the Department to review the targets in two years time, following the co-generation trial, to determine whether a further increase to the energy targets is appropriate.

*0236 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

With regard Department of Housing properties in Woolloomooloo and Millers Point:

- (1) How many residential and commercial properties does the Department of Housing own in Woolloomooloo?
- (2) How many of these properties have been vacant for more than one month in 2006?
- (3) How many properties in Woolloomooloo has the Department sold:
 - (a) In the 2005-06 financial year?
 - (b) Since March 2003?
- (4) How many of these Department of Housing properties in Woolloomooloo does the Government intend to sell:
 - (a) In the 2006-07 financial year?
 - (b) Before 30 June 2011?
- (5) How many residential and commercial properties does the Department of Housing own in Millers Point?
- (6) How many of these properties have been vacant for more than one month in 2006?
- (7) How many properties in Millers Point has the Department of Housing sold:
 - (a) In the 2005-06 financial year?
 - (b) Since March 2003?
- (8) How many of these Department of Housing properties in Millers point does the Government intend to sell:
 - (a) In the 2006-07 financial year?
 - (b) Before 30 June 2011?

Answer—

- (1) 555.
- (2) The number of properties that are vacant varies from month to month for a variety of reasons, which

can include preparing properties for reletting.

- (3) (a) Nil.
(b) Nil.
- (4) (a) & (b) and (8) (a) & (b) The Department of Housing's portfolio strategy outlines the Department's approach to the redevelopment, reconfiguration, acquisition and sale of dwellings.
- (5) 487.
- (6) The number of properties that are vacant varies from month to month for a variety of reasons, which can include preparing properties for reletting.
- (7) (a) Nil.
(b) Nil.

*0237 REDFERN INNER CITY HOME SUPPORT SERVICES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

With regard to the good neighbour outreach program to help isolated people who need support that are run by Redfern Inner City Home Support Services (RICHSS):

- (1) Will the Government provide funding to expand the successful RICHSS Outreach Program?
- (2) Will the Government fund an Outreach Program for older Russian speaking residents who form a significant population group in the inner city and have limited English?
- (3) Will the Government fund an Outreach Program for Chinese speaking residents who form a significant group in the inner city and have limited English?

Answer—

- (1) The RICHSS Outreach Program is an innovative service funded through the Home and Community Care (HACC) social support program. RICHSS receives a total of \$403,232 annually to provide social support service to frail older people and people with disabilities residing in the City of Sydney. The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care advises that this service has capacity to assist.
- (2) A total of \$30,000 recurrent HACC funds have been allocated to employ a Russian speaking Social Support Worker. These funds will be released on completion of the administrative requirements.
- (3) The Australian Chinese Community Association is funded \$147,464 recurrently through the HACC Program to provide linkage assistance for Chinese residents living in the five Local Government areas in Eastern Sydney.

*0238 ALCOHOL-RELATED CRIME—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Police—

With regard to the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research report (No 8 April 2006) that identifies a strong link between licensed premises and crime victimisation of adjacent neighbourhoods:

- (1) Are people who live close to licensed premises much more likely to be the victims of assault, property damage and anti-social behaviour?
- (2) Does it report that much higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour are associated with the highest concentration of licensed premises?
- (3) Are there cumulative crime and anti-social behaviour impacts associated with greater availability of alcohol in a particular precinct?
- (4) Does this analysis of crime suggest that the Government should restrict the number of liquor outlets in particular areas in order to prevent alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour?
- (5) Will the Government restrict the availability of alcohol in its designated 24 hour entertainment zones?
- (6) What action will the Government take to address crime and anti-social behaviour based on this crime analysis?
- (7) What action will the Government take to protect residents who live adjacent to designated 24 hour entertainment zones, particularly Kings Cross, Woolloomooloo, Darlinghurst, Surry Hills and the CBD?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me :

- (1) to (3) The report states there is limited research in Australia and NSW in particular in relation to liquor outlet density and any correlation to crime, but the indication is the more licensed premises that exist, the more potential for alcohol related harms.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

(4) and (5) As a result of National Competition Policy amendments, any application for a Liquor Licence now includes the lodgement of a Social Impact Assessment (SIA). This assesses the effect on a community of additional or varied liquor licences in a particular area.

Whilst primary responsibility lies with the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, NSW Police and the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research provide input to this process and can, if necessary, object to the final application and SIA when the matter is determined by the Liquor Administration Board.

(6) and (7) It is considered that the proper application of existing legislation in this area, and particularly Responsible Service of Alcohol and Harm Minimisation principles, provides an effective method of reducing alcohol related crime in and around licensed premises. Police use relevant intelligence to identify the relatively small number of such premises whose serving practices permit patrons to become intoxicated and which subsequently account for a large proportion of alcohol related incidents.

Policing strategies include targeted liquor licensing enforcement and walkthroughs of licensed premises, high visibility policing of hotspots and the establishment of effective Liquor Accords, such as those in Kings Cross, Surry Hills and the CBD.

*0239 CIVIL UNIONS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

Noting that the Australian Capital Territory Government has introduced legislation to provide for civil unions in that jurisdiction and that the NSW Government has stated that it "actively supports equality under the law for same sex couples":

- (1) Does the Government support NSW civil unions legislation?
- (2) Will the NSW Government introduce similar legislation in order to provide for the recognition of same sex relationships?
- (3) What action will the NSW Government take to provide for legal recognition of same sex relationships?

Answer—

The Australian Government exercises control in the area of marriage. State recognition of same sex civil unions could not have the practical and symbolic status that is granted to marriage under Federal legislation, and there is no plan to introduce or support any such legislation at a State level.

The NSW Government has actively supported equality under the law for same sex couples by securing numerous legislative amendments to extend rights, benefits and entitlements to same sex couples. The Government believes that this mechanism is appropriate and effective in achieving equality for same sex couples and that the introduction of civil union legislation in NSW would not substantively alter the rights of same sex couples under NSW law.

*0240 TRANS FAT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

Given the Australian Consumers' Association exposure of "trans fat" in processed foods and reported adverse health impacts including heart disease or sudden death from cardiac causes, diabetes, inflammatory reactions, and in-utero brain development:

- (1) Will the NSW Government push for mandatory labelling of trans fat content in all prepared foods?
- (2) Will the Government work with Foods Standards Australia New Zealand to have trans fat included in all food labelling?
- (3) How will the Government ensure that food manufacturers use processing techniques that minimise trans fat content?
- (4) What action will the Government take to ensure that education about food and nutrition in schools and health services covers trans fat?
- (5) What action will the Government take to ensure that all food sold in NSW Government outlets and for all Government contracts has minimal trans fat content and is labelled for consumer protection?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me the NSW Department of Health provides the following advice:

(1) to (5) Given the level of current knowledge concerning the health impact of trans fat and consumption levels of trans fat in Australia, at this stage the NSW Department of Health supports the conservative position by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ). This position through the ANZ food standards code requires manufacturers to provide labelling concerning trans fat on food products for

which a claim is made about the saturated fat and trans fat content of the food. However, this position does not require labelling on trans fat for all prepared food products.

Consumer concerns about trans fat will be taken into account during future deliberations of the Australian New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council which provides policy guidance to FSANZ. The NSW Minister for Health is a Member of this Council. In addition, findings from Australian research, which is in progress, and close monitoring of results of international regulatory approaches on trans fats will provide valuable information to guide the Council.

If further consideration leads the Australian New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council to enhance regulatory policy on trans fat content in food and in product labeling in the future, FSANZ would then be asked to develop appropriate new Australia and New Zealand food standards addressing trans fats. Manufacturers and importers would then be required to comply and have an increased incentive to minimize trans fat content.

The NSW Department of Health will continue to actively promote the national dietary guidelines developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council throughout the community, including school and health services.

The NSW Department of Health advises that, in population terms, if consumers follow these broad guidelines for healthy eating, they will lower the amount of trans fat in their diets through reduction of intake of foods which are high in saturated fat.

The NSW School Canteen Strategy and the development of consistent state-wide food service and nutrition standards for public hospitals are two major initiatives being undertaken by NSW Health. These initiatives support implementation of national dietary guidelines in schools and health services and in turn address reduced population trans fat consumption.

*0241 T-CARD TICKETING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

With regard to the T-card integrated ticketing for Sydney's public transport:

- (1) What trials of integrated transport ticketing has the Government conducted?
- (2) What are the outcomes of these trials?
- (3) Will the Government continue to carry out further trials of T-card?
- (4) Why are further trials required?
- (5) Given media reports of the financial difficulties faced by proposed T-card provider ERG, how will the Government ensure integrated ticketing is available for public transport users as soon as possible?
- (6) Has the Government established the Public Transport Ticketing Corporation, and if not, when will it be operating?
- (7) Has the Government considered other uses for the T-card, which may provide additional income to improve public transport, as occurs in other countries?
- (8) When will the Government introduce the long-promised T-card integrated transport ticketing for Sydney's public transport?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Transport Administration Corporation is presently conducting "legacy" trials to ensure that Tcard software does not conflict with the existing ticketing system.
- (2) The trial is not yet complete.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) A field trial is required to ensure that the Tcard system meets all necessary performance requirements.
- (5) The Transport Administration Corporation is closely monitoring the contractor's work to ensure that it is being conducted as rapidly as possible consistent with ensuring that the system will be effective and efficient when it is put into operation.
- (6) The enabling legislation for the corporation passed all stages in Parliament in April, 2006. The corporation is due to commence on 1 July 2006.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) Tcard is scheduled for rollout during 2007, provided it is demonstrated to fully meet all specified performance requirements and is fault-free.

*0242 TENANT INCENTIVE SCHEMES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

With respect to the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) report on United Kingdom Tenant Incentive Schemes that provide benefits such as rent discounts, shopping vouchers and repair services to "good" tenants:

- (1) Is the Government aware that these incentives were well received by both social housing providers and tenants?
- (2) Has providing these incentives reduced social housing provider costs, and increased staff morale?
- (3) Do these incentives increase tenant compliance with tenancy conditions and rent collection rates?
- (4) Has providing these incentives increased social housing tenants' commitment to their home and neighbourhood, and fostered a stronger sense of community?
- (5) Will the Government introduce similar schemes in NSW?
- (6) Will the Government trial similar schemes in the Bligh electorate?

Answer—

- (1) The report noted they were well received.
- (2) to (4) Please refer to the report for this information.
- (5) There is not enough evidence in the report.

*0243 CYCLING FUNDS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

With respect to sales of bicycles and motor vehicles in NSW, and bicycle use in NSW:

- (1) How many people bought bicycles and how many bought motor vehicles last year?
- (2) How does this compare with patterns for purchase of bicycles and vehicles over the past 10 years?
- (3) What is the pattern of Government expenditure on cycling for the same period?
- (4) How many households in NSW are estimated to own at least one bicycle?
- (5) How many households in the Bligh electorate and inner city are estimated to own at least one bicycle?
- (6) What proportion of NSW residents use bicycles for transport to and from work?
- (7) What proportion of Bligh residents and inner city residents use bicycles for transport to and from work?
- (8) What proportion of Government funding for cycling is directed within the Bligh electorate and the inner city?
- (9) What progress has been made on implementation of the Action for Bikes 2010 plan?
- (10) What advice have cycling representative organisations provided to the Government about priorities for Government action to support cycling?
- (11) What plans does the NSW Government have for implementing these priorities?

Answer—

I am advised:

As bicycles are not required by law to be registered, the RTA does not keep a record of the number of people who bought bicycles in NSW.

The number of new motor vehicles (motorcycles, buses, passenger vehicles, trucks etc) purchased last year is 340,307.

The results of 2001 Census of Population and Housing reveal that 0.8% of NSW residents used bicycles for transport to and from work on Census day.

Source: 2004 New South Wales Year Book

The NSW Government provides funding assistance on dollar per dollar basis to Councils for the development and implementation of local bike plans. Significant cycling works have been implemented in the Bligh electorate and in the inner city and Sydney City Council is currently developing its bike plans.

To date more than 1,100 km of off-road shared pathways are now in service across NSW for the use of cyclists and pedestrians, plus more than 2,100km of on-road dedicated cycle lanes. The completion of major cycling facilities such as the shared paths along Lawrence Hargrave Drive and the Westlink M7 significantly contribute to the expansion of the cycling networks in Sydney.

Since 1995, the NSW Government has invested more than \$265M on cycleways across NSW.

For the 2006/07 financial year, Roads and Traffic Authority funding for bicycle initiatives will be around

\$71 million.

The Government will continue to improve access and safety for cyclists by:

- Providing off-road shared paths wherever practicable, when major roads are built or upgraded
- Providing off-road shared paths at other priority locations as part of a program of delivering links in regional pathway networks
- Providing dollar-for-dollar funding for development and construction of local bike plans
- Contributing funding towards NSW Bike Week and major community cycling events that encourage more people to take up cycling and promote safer cycling
- Increasing motorists' awareness of the needs of cyclists.

*0244 SECURITY STATISTICS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

As statistics on security have not been updated on the CityRail website since the July to September 2005 quarter, what are the latest security statistics for the October to December 2005 and January to March 2006 quarters?

Answer—

I am advised:

The security statistics for the October to December 2005 and January to March 2006 quarters have been updated and are available on the CityRail website, www.cityrail.info.

*0245 WARRAWEE PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that 2006 marks the centenary of Warrawee Public School?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of (a) the total number of classrooms and (b) the number of airconditioned classrooms at Warrawee Public School?
- (3) What plans does the Minister have to introduce airconditioning to classrooms at Warrawee Public School?

Answer—

- (1) I am aware that 2006 marks the centenary of Warrawee Public School and representatives from the Department will join the school community in commemorating this special occasion later in the year.
- (2) I am advised that five of the 20 classrooms at the school are currently air conditioned. The air conditioning to these permanent classrooms and a resource room was funded by the school. I am also advised that a demountable library was air cooled by the Department as part of the 2002/03 Air Cooling Program.
- (3) Warrawee Public School does not currently qualify for the provision of air cooling in permanent facilities.

The Department's Air Cooling Program provides air cooling to schools in a way that addresses the highest heat stress locations in the State in priority order. The current Air Cooling Program is designed to ensure that permanent classrooms in schools in areas with a mean maximum January temperature above 30° Celsius are provided with air cooling.

The NSW Labor Government's decision to extend the air cooling program to schools with a mean maximum January temperature of 30°C and above, meant an additional 425 schools qualified for air-conditioning. Under the previous Liberal/National Government the mean maximum January temperature had to be above 33°C.

Warrawee Public School is listed in the Department's Asset Management System as having a mean maximum January temperature of 27° Celsius. While the school does not meet the Department's criteria for inclusion in the current Air Cooling Program, it will be considered for inclusion in future programs once schools in the hotter parts of the State have been treated.

*0246 HAWKESBURY FLOOD EVACUATION ROUTE—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

With regards to properties in Day and Mileham Streets, Windsor affected by construction of the Hawkesbury Flood Evacuation Route, what is being done to:

- (a) Suppress the serious dust problem?
- (b) Take measures to reduce vibration caused by the vibrating roller?
- (c) Improve measures to stop dirt being carried onto Mileham Street?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Answer—

I am advised:

Dust and construction vibration is being managed by Abigroup in accordance with the Conditions of Planning approval for the project. Minimisation techniques being used include:

- Covering disturbed ground with material that is less likely to generate dust;
- Keeping disturbed ground damp with the use of water carts during working hours;
- Avoiding dust generating activities during high wind days;
- Monitoring of dust levels in the air to confirm they are kept within acceptable levels
- Monitoring vibration levels to confirm they are below levels accepted for human exposure and structural damage;
- Limiting the use of vibratory rollers in close proximity to houses and other buildings;
- Limiting the intensity and duration of the use of vibrating rollers where people may be affected.

Measures being used to reduce dirt being carried onto Mileham Street include:

- The use of gravel and cattle grids to remove dirt and mud from vehicles on the exit points from the construction site to Mileham Street;
- Limiting the use of trucks on wet days;
- The use of water carts and suction brooms on a daily basis to clean Mileham Street and other nearby streets.

*0247 RTA WEBSITE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

In relation to road accident statistics:

- (1) Are you aware that the 2005 Annual Statistical Statement for Road Traffic Crashes in NSW is not available on the RTA website?
- (2) On what date will this statistical statement be made available?

Answer—

I am advised:

It is necessary to wait for the receipt of crash reports from Police, hearings and medical reports on cause of death in order to finalise the annual statistical statement (deaths from medical conditions, suicides, etc are excluded). The 2005 Annual Statistical Statement is due for publication on the RTA website by September 2006.

Statistics for 2005 are provisional and subject to change, but can be provided by the RTA on request.

*0248 MOORAL CREEK PROPERTY—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Did an officer of the Department of Fair Trading, purported to be Henry Ngui give advice to the owners of property at Moorall Creek, that if they attempted to enter the property and serve papers on a trespasser, who had taken up residence in the home upon the land owned by the registered owner, that they would be or could be arrested?
- (2) If so, on what grounds was that advice given?
- (3) If so, why was that advice given?
- (4) If not, what advice was given?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) Refer to the answer to question (1).
- (3) Refer to the answer to question (1).
- (4) After an examination of documents provided to the Office of Fair Trading it appeared that a tenancy agreement may exist between the property owners and a person living in premises on the property. Accordingly, a senior Fair Trading officer advised the property owner on his rights and obligations under the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 and the steps that should be taken under the Act to regain possession of the property.

*0249 PALLIATIVE CARE—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Does the State Government provide funds for palliative care?

- (2) If so, what are the total funds that have been provided to the Hunter/New England Health Service by the State Government from State Government funds for palliative care, in particular for the Manning-Great Lakes Region?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Hunter New England Area Health Service received \$0.45 million of State Government funding for palliative care in the 2005/06 financial year.

25 MAY 2006

(Paper No. 4)

*0250 DRIVER EDUCATION—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) How many Graduated Licensing Parent Workshops have been held in New South Wales over the last five years?
- (2) Of those workshops held how many have been held in country New South Wales?
- (3) In which country towns and cities have they been held?
- (4) Of those towns and centres what was the number held in each centre?
- (5) If workshops are not held in country New South Wales, do you intend to introduce these educational workshops into country New South Wales to help reduce the road toll?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA, in co-operation with local councils provides Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers workshops for parents and supervisors of learner drivers. From 2001 until 10 May 2006 a total of 560 workshops have been held across New South Wales.

A total of 369 workshops have been held in local government areas in regional and country New South Wales.

Workshops were held in each of the 93 local government and regional and country areas:

The RTA will continue to deliver the Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers program state-wide. The RTA also provides all New South Wales high schools with curriculum resources to support the delivery of effective driver education as part of school curriculum programs.

*0252 KELSO HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How much money was spent on setting up temporary school facilities at Kelso High School following the fire that destroyed the school in 2005?
- (2) What is the break-up of the purposes for which funds were applied?

Answer—

- (1) The final cost to Department of Education and Training of setting up temporary school facilities at Kelso High School will depend on the amount reimbursed by Treasury Managed Fund.
- (2) Funds were allocated to the following activities:

- Demolition of damaged buildings;
- Preparation of the site for demountables;
- Installation, setting up and maintenance of demountables;
- Installation of air cooling units; and
- Furniture

The best efforts were made to provide facilities that were comfortable and appropriate for staff and students to continue to their studies and work with as little disruption as possible.

*0255 ABORIGINAL STUDENT ACCOMMODATION COSTS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many Aboriginal students has the State Government assisted with accommodation costs in

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

relation to such students undertaking their studies?

- (2) What is the total amount applied to this purpose in each of the last five years?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The State Government does not contribute any funding to Aboriginal student accommodation costs in NSW. The Commonwealth Government has responsibility for providing financial support for Aboriginal secondary school students who live away from home.

*0257 DISABILITY TRANSPORT SCHEME—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How much has been spent on the Disability Transport Scheme for school students in each of the past five years?

- (2) How many students have used the Disability Transport Scheme in each of the past five years?

Answer—

- (1) 200001 - \$33,142,000
200102 - \$38,277,003
200203 - \$44,836,432
200304 - \$46,346,661
200405 - \$48,153,856
(2) 200001 - 8,059
200102 - 8,340
200203 - 8,605
200304 - 8,754
200405 - 8,516

*0260 DISMISSAL OF FREDERICK TZEEGANKOFF—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) On what basis did Sydney Water dismiss Frederick Tzeegankoff?
(2) Did Sydney Water adopt certain procurement guidelines developed by Frederick Tzeegankoff (in consultation with others at Sydney Water)?
(3) Did his raising of concerns about the failure of Sydney Water to comply with procurement guidelines form part or all of the basis for his dismissal?
(4) What are the legal costs incurred by the Government in relation to proceedings in the Industrial Relations Commission to date?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water:

- (1) Redundancy.
(2) and (3) Matters relating to the development of procurement guidelines and compliance with Sydney Water's procurement guidelines did not form any part of the basis of dismissal. These are not matters that arise in the proceedings before the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales.
(4) Sydney Water's legal costs to date are \$48,702.98.

*0261 DEFINITION OF "MOB"—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

- (1) Has the Aboriginal English Dictionary (compiled by J.M. Arthur at The Australian National Dictionary Centre Oxford University Press 1993) defined "mob" as "A group of Aboriginal people, linked by relationship and culture"?
(2) Was the Leader of the Opposition using racist language when he used the term in his speech to the Legislative Assembly at 3.17 pm on 23 May 2006?

Answer—

- (1) Unable to find reference cited but Aboriginal English: A Cultural Study by J.M. Arthur at The Australian National Dictionary Centre Oxford University Press 1996 includes the above definition

for "mob". It also advises that "the word is used widely now in Australian Englishes to mean a group of people or animals, or as an expression of number" (pp 186-187).

(2) Not according to the above definition.

*0262 MOUNT DRUITT SCHOOLS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Has the Government introduced a reduction in class sizes program to reduce average class sizes to an average of:
 - (a) 20 for kindergarten?
 - (b) 22 for year one?
 - (c) 24 for year two?
- (2) How much money has been spent on this program for schools in the Mount Druitt electorate?
- (3) What schools have benefited from the program in the Mount Druitt electorate?
- (4) What amount of money is being allocated in the upcoming budget for 2006/2007 financial year?
- (5) In what school(s) will this money be spent?

Answer—

- (1) Yes. The Class Size Reduction program began in 2004 with the reduction of Kindergarten class sizes in schools within the Priority Schools Program (PSP). By 2007, classes in all schools will be reduced to:
 - (a) a statewide average of 20 in Kindergarten
 - (b) a statewide average of 22 in Year 1, and
 - (c) a statewide average of 24 in Year 2.

(2) to (5) Funding of \$710 million over four years is to be provided for the class size reduction program. This includes \$107 million already being spent on building new classrooms during the four year implementation period and \$603 million over the next four years to employ extra teachers.

Since 2004, an additional 29.6 full-time equivalent teacher positions have been provided to schools in the Mount Druitt electorate. Twelve additional classrooms have been delivered to five schools in the Mount Druitt electorate. They are Colyton, Glendenning, Hassall Grove, Hebersham and Plumpton public schools.

Schools will be notified of their 2007 anticipated staffing entitlement as determined by their 2007 anticipated enrolment return in August 2006. Schools requiring additional classrooms are being identified during 2006.

*0263 PROSTHETICS UNIT—ALBURY—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What maintenance and occupational health and safety checks have been undertaken at the Area Health Service's Prosthetics Unit in Diggers Road, Lavington over the past ten years?
- (2) Why is it now necessary to close the unit?
- (3) Is the closure of the prosthetics unit related to the closure of the independent living unit?
- (4) If the unit is only to be closed for one week, why is it necessary for a spokesperson to advise that the public will be updated on maintenance works?
- (5) Have successive area health services adhered to Australian Council of Health Care standards in the operation of the prosthetics unit?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me the A/Chief Executive Greater Southern Area Health Service provides the following advice:

- (1) A number of changes were made to the facility in 1996 to comply with safety requirements resulting from a Workcover survey. In addition to these works the Area Health Service coordinates routine audits and maintenance of the facility including the Fire Detection System, Wormald Fire Systems, fire fighting equipment, evaporative cooling systems and plaster traps. Safety inspections of electrical equipment are currently scheduled for completion by the end of July 2006.

Other maintenance has been undertaken on an 'as needs' basis such as toilet repairs, replacement of various piping, replacement of guttering, and maintenance of flooring surfaces. An internal OH&S check for hazardous substances was conducted in February 2006 with further audits undertaken during May 2006.

- (2) The unit was closed temporarily pending the completion of necessary improvement works. On Monday 29 May 2006 the Orthotic/Prosthetic Unit was reopened for most patient clinics and services.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (3) No.
- (4) The findings and recommendations of the independent audit conducted in late May 2006 are still pending and at this stage it is unknown what maintenance and or OH&S work may be necessary at the facility. Staff and the public will continue to be advised of the situation pending receipt of the audit report.
- (5) Adherence to Australian Council of Health Care standards in the operation of the prosthetics unit is being reviewed in the external audit.

*0264 SCHOOL SECURITY FENCING—ALBURY—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Are you aware that on 24 May four youths trespassed on to the grounds of Murray High School in Albury and caused major disruption to classes?
- (2) Were staff threatened and abused during this rampage?
- (3) When will a security fence be installed at Murray High School to provide staff and students with a safe work place?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised that four youths entered the grounds of Murray High School on 24 May. One youth allegedly abused the deputy principals and threatened a head teacher. Police and the School Security Unit were contacted by the school. Police investigations are continuing.

(3) The installation of the security fence at Murray High School commenced on 13 June 2006 and is estimated to be completed by the end of July 2006.

*0265 BIODIESEL FUELS IN BUS FLEET—Mr David Barr asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

What provision is the Government making for the use of biodiesel fuels in its bus fleet?

Answer—

I am advised:

New bus contracting arrangements for Sydney mean that the NSW Government now has a direct role in the approval and funding of new buses, enabling the replacement of older diesel buses with more environmentally friendly vehicles.

Bus operators now must develop an Environmental Action Plan, aimed at reducing fuel consumption and developing a fuel efficient fleet. Bus operators are also encouraged to participate in the Commonwealth Government's Greenhouse Challenge.

These initiatives build on the existing successes of the State Transit Authority, which has achieved significant environmental benefits and cost savings over the last decade through extensive research into selecting the best environmental fuel source for its buses.

This research has resulted in State Transit purchasing a mix of modern diesel and natural gas buses over the past decade. State Transit's bus replacement program over the next 5 years will deliver 505 natural gas and diesel buses utilising the most recent advances in technology and with the lowest emissions of any mass-produced conventional commercial buses in Australia.

Significantly, no prospective suppliers have proposed bio-diesel fuels in any tenders for new buses nor has the availability of bio-diesel fuels in sufficient quantities and at a competitive price been demonstrated.

As State Transit has diversified its fuel source it can, if necessary, operate its new diesel buses on bio-diesel. Alternatively, the diesel buses can be modified to operate on natural gas.

*0266 COMMUNITY FIRE UNITS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

In relation to Community Fire Units:

- (1) Will you fund permanent full time staff to support the program?
- (2) When will such positions be appointed?
- (3) As there are 5,000 members spread across 265 units, how many staff are currently managing the program in New South Wales?
- (4) When are you planning to upgrade training materials?

Answer—

Four operational positions are designated to coordinate training material and logistical support. In addition each community fire unit is supported and trained by firefighters from its local "buddy" fire station.

All NSWFB training material is constantly developed and refined to meet changing needs. A new training manual is currently under development.

*0267 PITTWATER ROAD FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) Will the Government install a 40 km zone with flashing lights on Pittwater Road, Brookvale proximate to St Augustine's College?
- (2) If so, when?

Answer—

I am advised:

The guidelines stipulate 40 km/h School Zones be provided on all roads with an active direct access point from the school, and on all roads where an RTA School Crossing Supervisor is employed. In accordance with this Program, School Zones have been provided along Federal Parade West, Alfred Road and Gulliver Street for St Augustine's College.

*0268 NATIONAL TOURISM ACCREDITATION PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) Why has the Executive Director and General Manager of Tourism NSW not replied to the 21 February 2006 letter to him from the Executive Director of the Tourism Industry Council (ACT and Region) regarding the National Tourism Accreditation Program in NSW?
- (2) When will this letter be responded to?
- (3) Does Tourism NSW or the Department of Tourism and Sport and Recreation have any plans to participate in the National Tourism Accreditation Program?

Answer—

- (1) The Executive Director and General Manager of Tourism NSW has responded to the letter in question.
- (2) As above.
- (3) Tourism NSW along with other State tourism agencies and the Commonwealth supports the new Tourism Business and Accreditation Portal managed by Decipher Technologies Pty Ltd and funded by the Australian Government in fulfilment of its \$2 million national accreditation initiative under the Tourism White Paper.

The portal has been designed with two toolkits. One will assist industry associations to develop and market tourism accreditation and relevant products, through a single, accessible and user-friendly site and, in addition, help raise awareness of accredited products available in the marketplace. The second will provide information and assistance such as www.business.gov.au with links to key industry and government websites to enable operators to improve their business and management skills. A number of industry associations are involved and will be making their accreditation schemes available via the new portal. The associations involved include Restaurant & Catering Australia, the Australian Tourism Export Council, Eco Tourism Australia and the Caravan and Camping Industry Association.

Tourism NSW endorses industry-run accreditation and is supportive of the national accreditation portal project currently underway. It does not therefore provide direct funding assistance to industry associations to implement industry accreditation schemes.

*0269 TUMUT HOSPITAL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Was any person injured when part of the floor of the Tumut Hospital, adjacent to the Solarium, collapsed in December 2005?
- (2) If so, what was the nature of the injury?
- (3) What was the reason for the collapse of the floor?
- (4) Have any further investigations of the remainder of the building been carried out to ascertain if

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

similar conditions exist elsewhere in the building?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me the A/Chief Executive of the Greater Southern Area Health Service provides the following advice:

(1) to (4) I am advised that there has been no floor collapse at Tumut hospital. A section of flooring had however become uneven due to poor ventilation affecting the timber construction under this particular section of flooring.

The subject area was barricaded off and repairs were undertaken.

I am advised that no patients, visitors or staff members were injured as a result of this incident. The original timber structure has been replaced with a concrete section and new carpet fitted.

I am further advised that adjacent areas were inspected when the subject section of flooring was removed to determine the condition of the remaining structure and no additional unsound sections were found during this inspection.

*0270 MEDICAL IMAGING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is Greater Southern Area Health Service considering or planning to privatise medical imaging services at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital?
- (2) Is the \$300,000 ultrasound machine, ordered by Wagga Wagga Base Hospital in September 2005 and delivered several months ago being used?
- (3) If not, what is the reason for the delay in bringing this equipment into service?
- (4) Is this ultrasound machine to be operated by GSAHS staff or by a privately contracted organisation?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me the A/Chief Executive Greater Southern Area Health Service provides the following advice:

(1) No.

(2) and (3) Yes.

(4) Ultrasound services are provided on site at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital by the existing private service provider.

*0271 SCHOOL STUDENT TRANSPORT SCHEME—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In view of the recent increase in fuel prices, will you raise the School Student Transport Scheme payment, per student carried, to private bus operators to assist small rural bus routes to remain viable?

Answer—

As previously advised in correspondence to your office for six individual constituents in September 2005, to help non-commercial or school bus operators weather the price shock of recent hikes in global oil, last year I introduced a scheme that indexes payments on a quarterly basis to reflect movements in fuel costs.

The scheme provides small bus operators in country and regional areas with interim relief while new funding models, which will address problems in the existing arrangements, are being developed as part of the Government's ongoing program of bus reforms.

*0272 3801 LOCOMOTIVE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) Will you urgently approve an automatic extension of the lease to 3801 Limited, to operate and maintain the historic 3801 steam locomotive?
- (2) If not, what action will you take to ensure that this very successful tourism and historic attraction is preserved in operating condition?

Answer—

I am advised:

Please refer to my response to Parliamentary Question 0168.

*0273 HOUSING MAINTENANCE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) What was the reason why, at about 9.30am on 23 May, staff at the Department of Housing Contact Centre terminated the call for help by Ms Debbie Connolly, 76 Forest Road Tumut, regarding a dangerous maintenance problem concerning the wood heater in her property?
- (2) As the overnight temperature in the Tumut area on 23 May was about minus 3 degrees Celsius, will you explain why the contractor who was supposed to fix the only heating source in this property failed to attend the property as arranged on 24 May?
- (3) When will this problem be rectified?
- (4) Will you issue a written apology to Ms Connolly for the Department of Housing staff hanging up on her when she tried to report this dangerous defect?

Answer—

- (1) The call was not terminated, it had been completed.
- (2) The tenant had been offered a replacement heater until the heater was replaced.
- (3) and (4) Arrangements have been made for the heater to be replaced.

*0274 FEDERAL FUNDS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

What funds does New South Wales expect to receive from the Commonwealth and what does New South Wales expect to contribute under the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) 2005-2006?

Answer—

It is anticipated that the Commonwealth Government will provide New South Wales with \$195.6 million in 2005/06.

The New South Wales Government contribution is anticipated to be approximately \$923.9 million, including funding for the respite for older parent carers' initiative.

*0275 FEDERAL FUNDING TO CSTDA—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

Regarding the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) funding:

- (1) What are the details of funding from 1997-1998 the first year to the second agreement regarding the contribution from the Commonwealth and New South Wales?
- (2) What funds did New South Wales receive from the Commonwealth in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005? What funds did New South Wales contribute to meet its responsibilities under the Agreement for the same years?

Answer—

It is anticipated that the Commonwealth Government will provide New South Wales with \$195.6 million in 2005/06.

The New South Wales Government contribution is anticipated to be approximately \$923.9 million, including funding for the respite for older parent carers' initiative.

*0276 DADHC FUNDING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

What funding is provided to ageing in the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) for the following years:

- (a) 2003?
- (b) 2004?
- (c) 2005?
- (d) 2006 to date?

Answer—

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care provided funds to ageing through the Office for Ageing, Seniors Card and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing as follows:

- (a) 2003 - \$3,312,806

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (b) 2004 - \$3,664,094
- (c) 2005 - \$3,254,779 and
- (d) 2006 - \$3,269,189

The Department also funds a range of services that support older people through the Home and Community Care Program (HACC). HACC is targeted for services to older people and younger people with a disability. The total expenditure for the HACC target population is as follows:

Year	Total Program Expenditure
2002-2003	\$351,319,022
2003-2004	\$375,461,904
2004-2005	\$402,493,743

The total planned funding for the HACC program from the Annual State Plan for 2005/06 is \$444 million.

The Commonwealth Government has primary responsibility for the funding of aged care.

- *0277 COST OF REPORT INTO SCHOOL SPEED ZONES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

What was the amount paid to ARRB consultants for preparation of the report into the Evaluation of Flashing Lights at 40 km/h School Speed Zones?

Answer—

I am advised:

The total payment to ARRB Research to undertake the Evaluation of the Trial of Flashing Lights in 40km/h School Zones was \$843,850.

- *0278 REVIEW OF SYDNEY REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY 17 KURNELL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

When will the review of Sydney Regional Environmental Policy 17 Kurnell be complete?

Answer—

Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (SREP) No 17 – Kurnell will be reviewed in conjunction with the preparation of Sutherland Council's principal local environmental plan over the next five years.

- *0279 DUPLICATION OF CRONULLA RAILWAY LINE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

When will the Environmental Assessment for the duplication of the Cronulla Railway line be available for public consultation?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Review of Environmental Factors was on public exhibition for 30 days between 25 May and 23 June 2006.

- *0280 TRAFFIC LIGHTS—GYMEA—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

What is the cost of the new traffic lights at the intersection of President Avenue and Sylvania Road, Gymea?

Answer—

I am advised \$400,000 was allocated and that the actual cost for design and construction of the traffic signals was \$390,000.

- *0281 UPGRADE OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

When will the traffic lights at the intersection of The Kingsway and Port Hacking Road South be

upgraded with right turn arrows?

Answer—

I am advised work has been completed on a traffic signal upgrade at the intersection of The Kingsway and Port Hacking Road South, Caringbah.

The works provided a "red arrow hold" protection for pedestrians and the provision of an additional "mast arm" to increase lantern display.

*0282 CAPTAIN COOK'S LANDING PLACE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

(1) What works have taken place at Captain Cook's Landing Place since March 2003?

(2) What is the cost of these works?

Answer—

Since 2003, an extensive range of works have either been completed or are currently in progress at Captain Cook's Landing Place. These include:

- the completion of a master plan for the site.
- the planning, design and construction of road and car park improvements and new toilet facilities for the main visitor area.
- the installation of power supply to the festival area to facilitate ceremonies, festivals and special events.
- picnic area enhancements, including tables, recycling stations, traffic management and access improvements.
- the research and publication of a detailed history of Botany Bay National Park.
- a heritage value assessment of all monuments, buildings, the flagpole, middens and rock art sites.
- an inventory, cataloguing, condition assessment and conservation treatment of all artefacts and historic items.
- vegetation survey, and research into landscape change and mapping of the vegetation communities that would have been encountered by Banks and Solander in 1770.
- the preparation of a definitive list of plant specimens collected by Banks and Solander through analysis of collections of the British Museum and the NSW National Herbarium.
- stage one works for the restoration of Cook's Stream and associated vegetation, including weed control, planting and seed collection for an ongoing revegetation program.
- the restoration of an Endeavour cannon in preparation for its return to display.
- a condition assessment and report for the shelter shed at the old ferry wharf, which is one of the earliest structures on the site.
- stage one of an oral history and community interview project to develop material that will be used in the interpretation of the site, such as audio-visual, images, park brochures, talks and tours.
- a feasibility analysis on the establishment of a catering outlet and meeting facilities in Alpha Farm and/or Discovery Centre.
- comprehensive project and contract management and community and stakeholder consultation.

In summary, total expenditure since March 2003 is \$1,938,000.

*0283 DETACHED PERSONS—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

(1) How many detached persons are there at Sutherland Hospital?

(2) How long have each of these been on the detached persons list?

(3) What is planned for the future of these people?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra Area Health Service provides the following advice:

(1) to (3) There is no such thing as a 'detached' person. There may be displaced persons at an Area level from time to time.

Displaced employees are provided with meaningful work and duties in accordance with the NSW Health "Managing Displaced Employees" Policy.

*0284 MEDICAL MISTAKES—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (1) How many medical mistakes occurred at Sutherland Hospital in 2005?
- (2) How many of these resulted in:
 - (a) Disability?
 - (b) Death?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

A similar question was asked in relation to Hornsby Hospital.

The Honourable Member is referred to the response provided to Question No. 0186.

- *0285 STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT—SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What current development applications within the Sutherland Shire are matters of "State Significance"?

Answer—

The Department of Planning advises me that as of this moment, within the Sutherland Shire, the following proposals are being assessed as "Major Projects" under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979:

- The Kurnell Desalination Plant
- The Caltex Refinery Performance Improvement Program
- The Kurnell Treated Sewage Effluent Recycling Plant
- A residential flat development at 18-20 Coast Avenue, Cronulla

- *0286 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION PLACES—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) How many supported accommodation places have been created or planned across the whole Riverina region (including Wagga Wagga and Tumbarumba) in 2005?
- (2) How many supported accommodation places have been created or planned across the whole Riverina region (including Wagga Wagga and Tumbarumba) in 2006?
- (3) How many requests have been received from the Riverina region?
- (4) How many placements were achieved?
- (5) What proportion of these requests and placements related to young adults?

Answer—

(1) and (2) In 2005/06, there have been four new in-home support places, through the High Need Pool, in the region.

The Government has recently released its ten-year plan for disability services, Stronger Together. This plan represents a \$1 billion commitment in additional funding over the next five years.

Across the State, by 2010/11 the Government will spend an additional \$540 million on accommodation options for people with disabilities. This will include:

- 990 places for specialist support places;
- 40 new flexible community support packages; and
- 320 intensive in-home support places.

(3) There have been 33 requests for supported accommodation across the Riverina Area in 2005/06.

(4) In 2005/06 four people have been placed in supported accommodation options in the Riverina Area, and there have been four new in-home support places.

(5) The individuals identified as the highest priority for these placements were above 25 years.

- *0287 MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS LINE—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

Following complaints from people who use the Mental Health Access Line, what action have you taken to ensure the Mental Health Access Line is available to people who need it and that they will not be confronted by a recorded message?

Answer—

The NSW Department of Health provides the following advice:

The following initiatives have been implemented to enhance telephone access for mental health clients:

- All Area Health Services are required to provide 24/7 access to emergency mental health care.
- In 2005 the Department of Health accepted all recommendations from the Auditor-General's Report: Performance Audit - Emergency Mental Health Services. This included the need to establish minimum standards for emergency mental health telephone services.
- Funding has been allocated to the Mental Health Emergency Care Program to ensure mental health services meet the Auditor General's recommendations, including minimum standards regarding the use of voicemail, time to answer calls, messaging or abandonment rates.
- The NSW Premier recently released the NSW: A New Direction for Mental Health report. This includes an allocation of \$2.7M (\$26.3M over 5 years) to establish a 24-hour seven-days-a-week mental health triage and referral service for NSW, with a single contact number. This single number will provide a dedicated professional service and will be linked to the National Health Call Centre as agreed by the Council of Australian Governments.

*0288 WATER SHARING PLAN FOR SHOALHAVEN—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) When will the Government sign off on the Water Sharing Plan for the Shoalhaven?
- (2) Will the Water Sharing Plan guarantee a secure water supply for the Shoalhaven?
- (3) What impact will this Water Sharing Plan have on water extractions for Sydney from the Shoalhaven?

Answer—

Questions regarding the development of Water Sharing Plans should be directed to the Hon Ian Macdonald, MLC, Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources.

*0289 SOLITARY ISLAND MARINE PARK—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What is the basis for the claim that the Solitary Island Marine Park has resulted in a \$3M boost to the Coffs Harbour economy?
- (2) What documentation can you provide to support this claim?

Answer—

The \$3 million figure for values associated with the Solitary Islands Marine Park was reported in a study by G Hart, who estimated the annual economic value accruing to people carrying out recreational, commercial fishing and commercial tourism activities within the boundaries of the marine park.

Hart's study, and the \$3 million figure, were subsequently cited in a 2001 report on the economic value and regional economic impact of the marine park, produced by Dr (now Associate Professor) Derrin Davis of Southern Cross University and commissioned by the Marine Parks Authority. This 2001 report found that the annual economic value associated with the marine park is around \$6 million.

The Davis report was publicly available during the consultation phase leading to the development of a zoning plan for the park. The Marine Parks Authority would be happy to provide copies of that report on request.

*0290 PROFESSOR JONATHAN WEST—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) When was Professor Jonathan West appointed?
- (2) How long is his appointment?
- (3) How much will Professor West be paid for his role?
- (4) What staff resources, at what salary levels, will be allocated to Professor West?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Jonathan West has been appointed for a 12 month term commencing 1 April 2006.
- (3) Professor West's remuneration is in line with commercial standards for persons of his experience and expertise.
- (4) Administrative and professional staff are being made available as required by the project.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- *0291 REVENUE—"PLANFIRST" LEVY—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What is the total revenue to date collected by councils on behalf of the State Government, via the "PlanFirst" Levy originally initiated by former Planning Minister Andrew Refshauge?

Answer—

Financial Year	Amount
2002-2003	8.4m
2003-2004	15.4m
2004-2005	14.4m
2005-2006 (until April 2006)	9.9m
Total	48.1m

The funds are being used to assist local government in the delivery of new local plans and local strategies and to support key strategic projects, such as the Metropolitan Strategy and coastal regional strategies.

- *0292 PICTON RAILWAY STATION—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

What is the timetable for the provision of easy access at Picton Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Iemma Government is spending a total of \$49.2 million on the Easy Access Program this year.

By the end of last year more than \$375 million had been spent on Easy Access upgrades, making 80 stations or more than a quarter of CityRail stations, independently accessible for all members of the community.

- *0293 BOWRAL POLICE STATION—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Minister for Police—

What is the timetable for the redevelopment of the Bowral Police Station?

Answer—

The Ministry for Police has advised me that a program is currently underway to replace or refurbish a number of police properties across the State. Various locations, including Bowral, are in the preliminary planning stage. The outcome of these investigations will determine the scope and timeframe for the Bowral police station project.

- *0294 LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What is the expected date for the achievement of the reduction in the number of LEPs to "about 200" as outlined in the Government's response to the February 2000 audit of New South Wales finances?

Answer—

Through the reforms to the NSW planning system, Councils will have up to five years to review their current plans and produce a new principal LEP. By 2011, the number of LEPs will be reduced to less than 200.

- *0295 HUNTER NEW ENGLAND AREA HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITALS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many hospitals in the Hunter New England Area Health Service have operating theatres and are performing surgery?
- (2) With reference to (1) above, which hospitals, by name, and indicate how many operations were performed in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

Improving access to hospital care for patients in need is a very high priority for NSW Health. In 2005/06 the State Budget provided an additional \$227 million to address bed capacity and \$35 million per year for additional surgery.

Since 1994/95 public hospitals in NSW have increased the number of procedures performed by approximately 36% - from 1.78 million to 2.43 million in 2004/05.

The NSW Department of Health and each of the respective Area Health Services publish information regarding public hospital activity levels in their respective Annual Reports.

*0296 SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY AREA HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITALS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many hospitals in the South Western Sydney Area Health Service have operating theatres and are performing surgery?
- (2) With reference to (1) above, which hospitals, by name, and indicate how many operations were performed in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

Improving access to hospital care for patients in need is a very high priority for NSW Health. In 2005/06 the State Budget provided an additional \$227 million to address bed capacity and \$35 million per year for additional surgery.

Since 1994/95 public hospitals in NSW have increased the number of procedures performed by approximately 36% - from 1.78 million to 2.43 million in 2004/05.

The NSW Department of Health and each of the respective Area Health Services publish information regarding public hospital activity levels in their respective Annual Reports.

*0297 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITALS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many hospitals in the Greater Southern Area Health Service have operating theatres and are performing surgery?
- (2) With reference to (1) above, which hospitals, by name, and indicate how many operations were performed in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

Improving access to hospital care for patients in need is a very high priority for NSW Health. In 2005/06 the State Budget provided an additional \$227 million to address bed capacity and \$35 million per year for additional surgery.

Since 1994/95 public hospitals in NSW have increased the number of procedures performed by approximately 36% - from 1.78 million to 2.43 million in 2004/05.

The NSW Department of Health and each of the respective Area Health Services publish information regarding public hospital activity levels in their respective Annual Reports.

*0298 ESL POSITIONS IN SCHOOLS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many ESL positions are there in primary schools in New South Wales?
- (2) How many ESL positions are there in secondary schools in New South Wales?

Answer—

- (1) In 2006 there are 611.6 ESL teaching positions in government primary schools in New South Wales.
- (2) In 2006 there are 264.4 ESL teaching positions in government secondary schools in New South Wales.

6 JUNE 2006

(Paper No. 5)

*0299 ALSTONVILLE BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) How long does the existing Ministerial approval for the Alstonville Bypass remain current?
- (2) What conditions need to be met to keep the Ministerial approval current?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

(3) Under what circumstances would it be necessary to do a new EIS because of delays in construction?

Answer—

I am advised:

There is no sunset clause on the Minister for Planning's approval dated 27 February 2003.

Before deciding to proceed with construction it will be necessary to review whether the environment has changed or the project has changed to any extent that would affect the Ministerial approval.

*0300 OMBUDSMAN'S REPORTS INTO COMPLAINTS—Mr Donald Page asked the Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Citizenship—

(1) When will the Ombudsman's Report(s) into complaints handling at the University of NSW be published?

(2) Will the report deal with:

(a) The Bruce Hall matter?

(b) The Educational Testing Centre (ETC)?

(c) The retirement of Dr John Carmody (elected member of UNSW Council) as a consequence of making comments about the Bruce Hall matter and the appointment of Dr Stan Bowen-James to the position of General Manager of the ETC?

(3) Why has there been such a long delay in the publication of the final report, given the draft Ombudsman's report was circulated in May 2005?

(4) Is the UNSW being co-operative with the Ombudsman's office in bringing these matters to a conclusion?

(5) Can the Premier request from the UNSW (possibly via the Ombudsman) what the bill for legal advice (both in house and external lawyers) is for the UNSW in defending UNSW employees and ex-employees?

(6) Have any NSW Government agencies been involved in defending or assisting present or past UNSW employees in relation to the issues arising from the draft Ombudsman's report?

Answer—

The Ombudsman is an independent office created by statute and is responsible directly to Parliament. Accordingly, it is inappropriate for the Government to answer questions on behalf of the Ombudsman. These questions regarding the Ombudsman's activities should be asked directly of the Ombudsman.

I am advised that no NSW Government agencies have been involved in defending or assisting present or past University of NSW employees in relation to the issues arising from the draft Ombudsman's report.

*0301 DOG WALKING RESTRICTION—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

(1) Are you aware the Operational and Zoning Plans for the Cape Byron Marine Park restrict the dog exercise area at Brunswick Heads to a mere 500 meters along the beach south of the Surf Lifesaving Club?

(2) Does this reduction of this area from one kilometre to 500 meters constitute an unreasonable restriction given the popularity of walking dogs on the beach?

(3) What is the rationale for reducing this dog exercise area so significantly?

(4) How does this reduction of the area where dogs can be exercised improve the plight of the Grey Nurse shark?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) No. The reduction represents a loss of approximately 6% of the total length of beaches available for owners to walk their dogs within the Marine Park.

(3) Dogs are not permitted within Tyagarah Nature Reserve adjacent to the marine park and consequently, are not permitted in the intertidal zone of the Marine Park adjacent to the Nature Reserve.

(4) N/A

*0302 DETNAC STAFF—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Education and Training—

(1) Has the New South Wales Department of Education and Training been successful in retaining the Federal Government's New Apprenticeship Centre contract?

(2) If the Department of Education and Training has not been successful, why was the contract lost?

- (3) What are the implications for Department of Education and Training New Apprenticeship Centre (DETNAC) staff if the contract were to be lost?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The Department of Education and Training New Apprenticeship Centre (DETNAC) has operated under contract to the Commonwealth since 1998. In that time the DETNAC became the largest and most effective NAC in NSW. It is also the only NAC to meet all of the Commonwealth's own quality and performance criteria across NSW. In addition, the DETNAC is the only NAC to have delivered a comprehensive strategy for Aboriginal people to successfully participate in apprenticeships and traineeships. This strategy resulted in a growth of Aboriginal participation of over 230% in just 18 months. The Commonwealth's decision not to award DETNAC a further contract is very disappointing and I have indicated this to the responsible Minister, the Hon Gary Hardgrave MP.

DETNAC staff who hold permanent positions in the NSW public service are being offered redeployment or voluntary redundancy. DETNAC staff who are temporary officers have been offered separation payments.

- *0303 LAND TAX—Mr Donald Page asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Why does the Government require business owners whose business is located on the same property as their principal place of residence to pay land tax?
- (2) Does application of the land tax system to small businesses operating from homes in New South Wales act as an extra impost on struggling small businesses, especially in coastal areas where property values are high and well above the threshold?
- (3) Will you reform the land tax system to exempt businesses run from a principal place of residence from land tax liability?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Where business is conducted from a room of a principal place of residence, such as for a home office, the portion of the land used for the business is not liable for land tax if the commercial activity is limited to one room in the house and the business is primarily conducted elsewhere.

Where businesses are run solely from a home, the land owner receives the full benefit of the \$352,000 land tax threshold in respect of the proportion of their residential property used for taxable purposes.

The current arrangements ensure businesses are treated consistently in regard to land tax, regardless of whether or not they occupy land associated with a principal place of residence.

- *0304 SWIFT MT 799 CERTIFICATES—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Does the NSW Treasury have a policy on the issuing of SWIFT MT 799 certificates?
- (2) If so, what is the policy?
- (3) Have any such certificates been issued in the past?
- (4) If so, for what sort of projects and what approximate value?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Westpac, contract banker for the Treasury Banking System, has advised Treasury officers that SWIFT is a global organisation that allows all participating financial institutions such as banks to communicate with each other.

Westpac have further advised that they have not heard of a 'SWIFT MT 799 Certificate'.

Accordingly parts (2), (3) and (4) of your question are not relevant.

- *0305 INFORMATION CENTRES—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) What is the function of New South Wales State and Public Information Centres?
- (2) Where are they located and at what addresses?
- (3) How many staff are involved in these centres?
- (4) What are the annual staff costs of these services?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (5) What is the cost of set up of these services?
(6) What was the cost of office refit and information technology installation?

Answer—

- (1) Tourism New South Wales does not operate a State or Public Information Centres.

There are 175 accredited Visitor Information Centres in NSW – they are funded by local Councils.

Gateway Information Centres - The Carr Government committed \$2 million over 4 years to the development of 6 Gateway Tourist Information Centres in regional NSW. The Eden Tenterfield, Lithgow and Tweed Gateway Centres are open. The Central Coast and Bulli centres are progressing. The Government commitment to allocate \$2 million in funding has been satisfied. Gateways are run by the Council in most cases of the Tourist Association (in the case of Tenterfield and probably Bulli Tops). In the case of Central Coast it will be run by the RTO.

Sydney Visitor Centres – The Rocks and Darling Harbour are operated by SHFA and the Sydney Visitor Centre at Sydney Airport is operated by TNSW – it is more of a travel centre than a visitor information centre.

- (2) n/a
(3) n/a
(4) n/a
(5) n/a
(6) n/a

- *0306 SICK LEAVE—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

How many days of sick leave have been taken by employees of the Department of Planning from:

- (a) 1 September 2005 to 31 December 2005; and
(b) 1 January 2006 to 30 April 2006?

Answer—

- (a) During the period 1 September 2005 to 31 December 2005, staff took an average of 1.5 days sick leave per person.
(b) During the period 1 January 2006 to 30 April 2006, staff took an average of 1.44 days sick leave per person.

- *0307 SICK LEAVE—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

How many days of sick leave have been taken by employees of Sydney Water in the period 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2005?

Answer—

Sick leave is provided in accordance with the NSW Industrial Relations Act 1994 and the Sydney Water Award 1994. Full time employees are entitled to 20 days sick leave on full pay in a year.

The number of sick days taken by Sydney Water employees for the period in question is, on average, 4.2.

- *0308 CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) When will the promised Clinical Services Plan be released for public consultation?
(2) When will the consultants on the draft plan inspect the 1000 responses to the local health survey?
(3) What is the cost of the consultancy work on the production of the draft Clinical Services Plan?
(4) What is being done to ensure that one renal dialysis chair will be operational at Bowral Hospital before the end of the year?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me NSW Health provides the following advice:

- (1) When it is approved for consultation.
(2) and (3) No consultants have been employed to produce the draft Area Healthcare Services Plan.

(4) A location for a renal dialysis chair at Bowral Hospital has been identified. Some remedial work is required prior to installation of the chair. This is in addition to associated hydraulic services to be installed as part of the process.

*0309 BOWRAL HOSPITAL STAFF CONSULTATION—Ms Peta Seaton asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why did senior area health officials forbid the conduct of a survey of Bowral Hospital medical and nursing staff's opinions about health service priorities?
- (2) Will you overturn this ruling and allow the member for Southern Highlands to circulate such a survey, as requested by staff?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me, NSW Health has provided the following advice:

The Sydney South West Area Health Service has appropriate processes in place to ensure that the views of the community, including staff of the Bowral and District Hospital, are taken into account in the development of services and facilities within the Wingecarribee local Government area.

*0310 ANTI CIGARETTE BUTT LITTERING—Ms Pam Allan asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

What is the current attitude of the Department of Environment and Conservation to sponsorship by the tobacco industry of programs which target cigarette butt littering?

Answer—

The Department of Environment and Conservation has been liaising with the three major cigarette manufacturers on behalf of the Minister for the Environment and the Extended Producer Responsibility Expert Reference Group for some time.

The principles of Extended Producer Responsibility provide that manufacturers should continue to take responsibility for their products throughout their entire lifecycle, and in particular from the point that they enter the waste stream.

In the case of the tobacco industry this will require an active contribution to programs to reduce cigarette butt littering and to manage collected waste. The NSW Government considers that the industry's involvement must extend beyond sponsorship, or funding for education and research programs. An acceptable scheme will therefore incorporate funding for consistent, statewide waste management actions, including the provision of infrastructure such as ashtrays in public places.

The Department of Environment and Conservation will be monitoring the effectiveness of programs implemented over the next twelve months for their ability to deliver widespread and sustained reduction in butt litter.

The NSW Government will not endorse programs that do not have the capacity to deliver on litter reduction. It was for this reason that NSW did not endorse the Federal Government's proposal for a "No Butts" day sponsored by the tobacco industry at the last Environment Protection and Heritage Council meeting in June.

*0311 INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION IMPACT ON WHALE WATCHING—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) What representations have you made to your Federal counterpart concerning the possibility of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) dismantling the laws that protect whales and preparing the way for the full resumption of commercial whaling?
- (2) What impacts will the resumption of commercial whaling have on this State's whale watching industry?

Answer—

- (1) Federal representations concerning the possibility of the International Whaling Commission dismantling laws that protect whales leading to the full resumption of commercial whaling fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage. I have highlighted my concerns over the potential detriment that commercial whaling may have on the NSW whale watching industry and tourism industry in my correspondence to both the Minister for Environment and Heritage and my Federal counterpart, the Minister for Small Business and Tourism.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (2) The impacts of the resumption of commercial whaling on NSW's whale watching industry cannot be foreshadowed as this would largely depend on the level of commercial activities undertaken, the regions where commercial whaling takes place and over what period of time these commercial activities are carried out.

*0312 TOONGAGAL CLAN—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

What efforts can your Department make to recognise the legacy of the Toongagal Clan in the electorate of Wentworthville?

Answer—

We all recognise that the Toongagal Clan of the Dharug Aboriginal Nation were the original inhabitants of Toongabbie and surrounds, which is now in the NSW State Electorate of Wentworthville.

This Government's Aboriginal Affairs Plan, Two Ways Together, is coordinating work in Aboriginal language revitalisation, education and appreciation, including Dharug. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs has recently provided funding to Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation to revitalise the Dharug language by creating a dictionary, grammar workbook and audio recordings.

Furthermore, I am advised that Dharug language is being taught in two Western Sydney schools: Chifley College Dunheved Campus and Tregear Public School.

*0313 HERITAGE REGISTER—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Has Braidwood become the first town on the east coast of Australia to be listed on the State Heritage Register?
- (2) What other towns in Australia are on the Heritage Register or list?
- (3) What is the process for a town to apply for Heritage Listing?
- (4) Are there other applications from communities to have a town listed on the Register in New South Wales?
- (5) If so, what towns are being considered?

Answer—

- (1) Braidwood was the first town in NSW to be listed on the State Heritage Register by the Minister under the NSW Heritage Act on the 3rd April 2006.
- (2) The State Heritage Register is a list of places of significance to the people of NSW. The Register's jurisdiction covers NSW only. No other towns in NSW are listed on the State Heritage Register. In terms of the rest of Australia, other States have towns listed on their respective heritage registers: ACT 1 - village, South Australia - 17 towns or precincts, and Western Australia - 4 towns or precincts.
- (3) A nomination form needs to be completed demonstrating how the town is of State heritage significance, meeting the Heritage Council's assessment criteria. Further information on the listing process can be found at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au.
- (4) and (5) Yes. I am advised that the Heritage Office has received for the listing of Boyd Town, Millthorpe, Catherine Hill Bay, Berrima, Exeter and Glenmore Village.

*0314 WATTLE GROVE SCHOOL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Are there any plans to build a new high school at Wattle Grove?
- (2) If so, what are they?
- (3) Are there any plans to purchase land on Anzac Road in Holsworthy from the Department of Defence to build a new school?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The Department of Education and Training has no plans to build a new high school at Wattle Grove.

*0315 WATER SAVING MEASURES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Which toilets in public schools in Goulburn have had their cisterns modified to dual flush to assist with the implementation of Goulburn Mulwaree Council's level five water restrictions?
- (2) What other water saving measures has the NSW Department of Education and Training implemented

in Goulburn?

Answer—

- (1) Toilets have been modified to dual flush at Wollondilly Public School and Goulburn TAFE. In addition, toilets at Goulburn TAFE use the Desert Cube waterless urinal system.
- (2) Government schools and TAFE colleges across the State adhere to local water restrictions and are encouraged to continue implementation of waterwise strategies.

The Department of Education and Training maintains facilities to ensure that water consumption is minimised. Facilities maintenance contractors provide a service which ensures that leaking or faulty fixtures are repaired and returned to working order within 24 hours of the fault being reported.

In addition, construction standards for new education facilities minimise water consumption while achieving a functional, healthy environment. This same standard is applied to any upgrades of existing facilities.

*0316 GIRL SAVVY PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) Is the NSW Office for Women still funding the "Girl Savvy" one-day workshops at NSW high schools?
- (2) If so, when will the next workshops be held in Goulburn, Yass, Boorowa, Crookwell, Gundagai, Bowral, Tumut, Young, Cootamundra, Harden, Cowra and Grenfell?

Answer—

- (1) The Office for Women (OFW) has held 87 GirlSavvy workshops in NSW High Schools throughout NSW between October 2002 and May 2006 and continues to fund 6 GirlSavvy workshops per school term.
- (2) In planning GirlSavvy workshops, OFW aims to provide a balance between workshops in Sydney and rural areas and regional centres, and to continue to offer the program to towns that have not yet had a GirlSavvy workshop, while also meeting requests for repeat workshops.

Table 1 below provides details of workshops held and currently planned in the towns enquired about. To date GirlSavvy workshops have been held in Goulburn, Yass, Gundagai and Tumut. Girls from Boorowa and Crookwell High Schools participated in the 2005 Yass workshop. No GirlSavvy workshops have been held in Cootamundra, Harden, Cowra or Grenfell.

Table 1

GirlSavvy Workshops held or currently planned for towns or schools in the areas between Bowral, Grenfell and Tumut

Location	Date	Venue	Participating Schools	No of students from each school
Goulburn	26/06/03	Goulburn Soldiers Club	Mulwaree HS	60
Goulburn	27/06/03	Trappers Motel & Conference Centre	Goulburn HS	46
Yass	28/11/02	Yass Golf Club Ltd	Yass HS	47
Yass	02/03/05	Yass Golf Club	Yass HS Boorowa HS Crookwell HS Mt Carmel Catholic School	19 26 20 15
Gundagai	15/10/03	Gundagai District Services Club	Gundagai HS	45
Tumut	12/11/04	Tumut Golf Club	Tumut HS Batlow Technology School McAuley Catholic Central School	32 8 6
Southern Highlands	20/6/06	Moss Vale Services Club	Moss Vale HS Bowral HS	TBC

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Young	27/6/06	Young Services Club	Young HS	TBC
-------	---------	---------------------	----------	-----

*0317 GSAHS HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Have you replaced Dr Bob Byrne following his resignation as head of the GSAHS Advisory Council?
- (2) If so, who is his replacement?
- (3) What actions have you taken to address the reasons for Dr Byrne's resignation, which include large workload and frustration at the slow pace of progress in improving clinical services and fixing the service's financial problems?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) to (3) Dr Byrne resigned from the Greater Southern Area Health Advisory Council effective from 6th May 2006. His stated reasons for resigning included the workload associated with being Chair of the Council but also the increased workload in his own medical practice and other personal reasons. Dr Byrne's comments about the workload associated with being Chair have been noted and this issue will be reviewed in meetings scheduled for July and August 2006. In the interim, appropriate arrangements have been put in place to ensure the Advisory Council continues its functions pending the appointment of a suitable replacement Chairperson.

*0318 ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training—

When will the security fencing at Asquith Boys High School be completed along the length of Jersey Street?

Answer—

Since 1996, the NSW Labor Government has installed more than 400 security fences in schools across the state at a cost of approximately \$40.6 million. In 2006/07, a further 67 fences will be constructed.

It is worth noting that prior to 1996, none of the state's public schools had security fencing.

Asquith Boys High School has been identified by the Department of Education and Training for the provision of security fencing.

The installation of a security fence at the school will be dependent upon the competing priorities that exist at other schools throughout the state.

Asquith Boys High School has been provided with security measures which include:

- A back to base electronic alarm system that is monitored and maintained by the Department's Safety and Security Directorate.
- The continued deployment of security guard services in response to alarm activations.
- Random security patrols and static guard services, as required.
- When needed, the provision of additional security patrol services during school vacation periods, such as during the upcoming July school vacation period.

The Department will continue to monitor security trends at Asquith Boys High School and assist with the implementation of proven risk management strategies.

*0319 WEED AND PEST PROGRAMS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) Does Berowra Valley Regional Park have:
 - (a) proper weed programs?
 - (b) pest control programs?
- (2) Does Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park have:
 - (a) proper weed programs?
 - (b) pest control programs?

Answer—

Both questions relate to operational matters associated with National Parks and should be referred the

Minister for Environment, the Hon Bob Debus MP.

*0320 ALLERGY TRAINING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Have all the teachers and staff in primary and secondary public schools in the Hornsby electorate had training in allergies and anaphylaxis?
- (2) If not, which schools have not had training?
- (3) When will these schools be provided with this education?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health service:

- (1) to (3) I refer the Member to the Minister for Education and Training.

*0321 SNOWY HYDRO SALE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

How much money has the Government spent to date on the now cancelled Snowy Hydro Limited sale?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The final costs of the sale have not yet been determined. I am therefore unable to answer this question.

*0322 LINE DUPLICATION MEETINGS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) How many public meetings have been held concerning the duplication of Cronulla Railway line?
- (2) How many people attended each of these meetings?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Eight public information sessions have been held since April 2005.
- (2) Approximately 200 people.

*0323 MIRANDA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police—

How many additional police will be located in the Miranda Local Area Command between 6 June 2006 and 30 August 2006?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

10 additional officers have recently been allocated to Miranda Local Area Command. These officers are now in place. However, NSW Police is unaware of the significance of the period, 6 June to 30 August 2006, nominated by the Honourable Member and advises no change in police numbers is planned for the Command during this period.

*0324 SPEED SIGNS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

Why won't the RTA erect 40 km signs and impose a 40 km speed limit on the Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills outside Our Lady of Lourdes School?

Answer—

The State Government is committed to providing a safe road environment for school children.

I am advised:

40 km/h School zones have been provided on all roads with an active direct access point from a school, including multi-lane and high-speed roads. School zones are intended for close proximity to school accesses where school children's activities along the road are in higher concentrations. School zones are not intended for routes to school.

In accordance with this program, 40 km/h School zones have been provided on Oakland Avenue and Canyon Street for Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Baulkham Hills.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Windsor Road does not have an active direct access point from the school, and pedestrians who need to cross Windsor Road at any time of day may use the nearby signalised traffic-controlled site.

The RTA has contacted Our Lady of Lourdes School directly to set up a meeting to review and discuss their road safety concerns. This will occur during the first week of the new school term in July 2006.

*0325 CLASS SIZES—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Has the Government introduced a reduction in class sizes program to reduce class sizes to an average of:
 - (a) 20 for kindergarten?
 - (b) 22 for year one?
 - (c) 24 for year two?
- (2) How much money has been spent on this program for schools in Baulkham Hills electorate?
- (3) What schools have benefited from the program in the Baulkham Hills electorate?
- (4) What money was allocated in the 2006-07 financial year?
- (5) On what school(s) will this money be spent?

Answer—

(1) to (5) Yes. The Class Size Reduction program began in 2004 with the reduction of Kindergarten class sizes in schools within the Priority Schools Funding Program.

By 2007, classes in all schools will be reduced to:

- a statewide average of 20 in Kindergarten
- a statewide average of 22 in Year 1, and
- a statewide average of 24 in Year 2.

Funding of \$710 million over four years is being provided for the Class Size Reduction program. This includes \$107 million for providing additional classrooms and \$603 million for appointing additional teachers.

Since 2005, an additional 15.556 full-time equivalent teacher positions have been provided to schools in the Baulkham Hills electorate. Nine additional classrooms have been delivered to six schools in the Baulkham Hills electorate. They are Carlingford West, Jasper Road, Matthew Pearce, North Rocks, Baulkham Hills North and Excelsior Public Schools.

Schools will be notified of their 2007 anticipated staffing entitlement as determined by their anticipated enrolment returns for 2007 to be lodged by schools in August 2006. Schools requiring additional classrooms are being identified during 2006.

*0326 CRESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) What steps are being taken to upgrade the Crestwood Public School toilets?
- (2) Is this work included in the recent budget allocations?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Department of Education and Training has identified the need for an upgrade of the toilet facilities at Crestwood Public School. The project will continue to be considered for funding in the context of future state and regional capital works priorities.

*0327 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

With regard to Department of Housing properties in Woolloomooloo and Millers Point:

- (1) How many residential and commercial properties does the Department of Housing own in Woolloomooloo?
- (2) How many of these properties have been vacant for more than one month in 2006?
- (3) How many properties in Woolloomooloo has the Department of Housing sold:
 - (a) In the July 2005 to June 2006 financial year?
 - (b) Since March 2003?
- (4) How many of these Department of Housing properties in Woolloomooloo does the Government intend to sell:
 - (a) In the July 2006 to June 2007 financial year?
 - (b) Before 30 June, 2011?

- (5) How many residential and commercial properties does the Department of Housing own in Millers Point?
- (6) How many of these properties have been vacant for more than one month in 2006?
- (7) How many properties in Millers Point has the Department of Housing sold:
 - (a) In the July 2005 to June 2006 financial year?
 - (b) Since March 2003?
- (8) How many of these Department of Housing properties in Millers Point does the Government intend to sell:
 - (a) In the July 2006 to June 2007 financial year?
 - (b) Before 30 June, 2011?

Answer—

- (1) 555.
- (2) The number of properties that are vacant varies from month to month for a variety of reasons, which can include preparing properties for reletting.
- (3) (a) Nil.
(b) Nil.
- (4) (a) & (b) and (8) (a) & (b) The Department of Housing's portfolio strategy outlines the Department's approach to the redevelopment, reconfiguration, acquisition and sale of dwellings.
- (5) 487.
- (6) The number of properties that are vacant varies from month to month for a variety of reasons, which can include preparing properties for reletting.
- (7) (a) Nil.
(b) Nil.

*0328 NATURAL GAS BUSES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

With regard to the social, economic and environmental comparisons between natural gas and diesel powered buses:

- (1) Is the Government aware that natural gas offers a net 20 percent advantage over diesel in terms of greenhouse gas emissions?
- (2) Is the Government aware that natural gas generates significantly less fine particle pollution than diesel?
- (3) Is the Government aware that diesel generates more pollutants such as hydrocarbon residues and nitrogen oxides than natural gas?
- (4) What action has the Government taken about noise pollution from diesel buses, following the Waverley Council study that showed diesel buses are considerably louder than natural gas buses?
- (5) What impact does the Government expect on the cost of diesel buses as a result of the increased cost of crude oil from US\$30 a barrel to US\$50 a barrel over a short period, and the expected continued increases in the cost of oil?
- (6) What is the comparable impact on the price of natural gas buses, given that gas prices have only increased at about the same rate as the CPI?
- (7) What research has the Government undertaken to look at the medium and long-term economic impacts of limited supply and import parity pricing of crude oil on the cost of diesel buses, and what does this research show?
- (8) Will the Government review the social, economic and environmental impacts of natural gas compared to diesel buses for the medium to long-term?
- (9) How does the Government consider comparative environmental factors such as greenhouse gas emissions, fine particle pollution, nitrous oxides emissions, hydrocarbon residues, and noise pollution associated with diesel and natural gas when making purchasing decisions for buses?
- (10) Will the Government purchase diesel or natural gas buses in future?

Answer—

I am advised:

Currently State Transit's fleet consists of 1,915 buses composed of 1,511 diesel and 404 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Buses. The emissions performance of the existing diesel fleet has markedly improved with the introduction and use of Ultra Low Sulphur Fuel.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

State Transit has entered into the Roads and Traffic Authority's Clean Fleet Program in which emissions performance of the fleet is to be maintained by meeting clean fuel, engine setting, maintenance schedules and fault identification and repair criteria.

On 2 April, 2006 the Premier and I announced a \$250 million plan to replace more than a quarter of State Transit's bus fleet - the biggest ever investment in new buses in NSW history.

The 505 bus contract with Smithfield-based Custom Coaches is the biggest single capital investment by any one operator in Australian history. An estimated 330 new jobs will be created over the life of the contract, including 50 apprenticeships, 80 direct jobs at the factory and 200 more positions at suppliers.

The bus replacement program will see 255 natural gas powered buses and 250 diesel buses purchased for Sydney and Newcastle. Every bus will be:

- a low-floored, fully accessible vehicle;
- air-conditioned;
- designed to meet the highest safety standards for drivers and passengers; and
- environmentally-friendly, generating the lowest emissions of any mass-produced conventional commercial buses in Australia.

The chassis will be sourced from top international manufacturers, with Daimler-Chrysler supplying the 255 CNG buses and Volvo supplying the 250 new diesel buses, which will meet the tough new EURO 5 emission standard.

Environmental factors were a key issue considered in the purchase of the new buses. The option we've selected gives the greatest benefit both environmentally and operationally. Under current negotiations, NSW is likely to be one of first jurisdictions in the world to begin running the brand new advanced Euro 5 diesel engine which is the latest in environmental technology.

The NSW Government is working hard to improve the reliability, comfort and safety of our public transport network. The first of the 505 new buses is expected to be in operation by the end of the year.

With regard to noise levels, I am advised that diesel buses comply with regulations relating to vehicle noise.

State Transit will invite submissions from suppliers of both gas and diesel technologies in the future. Decisions on bus purchases will then be based on a range of environmental, health, performance, service, regulatory and cost criteria.

*0329 MANAGEMENT OF FERAL ANIMALS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

With respect to feral animals on public lands:

- (1) Is the Government aware of the Western Shield Programme implemented in Western Australia in 1996?
- (2) Is the Government aware that Western Australia is the only area in the world where three mammals the tammar wallaby, the quenda and the woylie have been taken off the endangered fauna list because of successful scientific management action?
- (3) What measures has the New South Wales Government taken to assess the relevance of a similar programme to assist in the control of feral animal populations?
- (4) What research has the New South Wales Government carried out or commissioned on humane control of feral animals?
- (5) Will the Government assess more humane control measures for feral animals on public lands such as the use of the naturally occurring poison 1080?

Answer—

- (1) Yes
- (2) The Government is aware of the success attributed to the Western Shield Programme.
- (3) While aerial application of fox baits on the scale of Western Shield is not appropriate in eastern Australia due to the smaller property sizes and the extent of privately owned land, I am advised that aerial application of fox baits is undertaken in some extensive areas of NSW.

In addition to large-scale coordinated baiting programs undertaken on agricultural land, coordinated fox baiting under the Fox Threat Abatement program is also undertaken on private and public lands where foxes pose the greatest threat to native species.

- (4) The New South Wales Government is a key partner in the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre. The CRC is undertaking research into fertility control and other management options for pest animals. The NSW DPI Vertebrate Pest Research Unit also has an enviable record of research on humane vertebrate pest management and recently led the development of new Australian standards for the humane control of vertebrate pests. The VPRU is committed to ongoing research into cost effective humane pest control.
- (5) I note the Member's support for the use of 1080, which remains the primary feral animal control agent and has proven over many years to be an effective and important part of an integrated approach to managing feral animals. Also see also answer to Question 4.

*0330 LANE COVE NATIONAL PARK AREA OFFICE—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Is the Lane Cove National Park Area office to be relocated from existing buildings to within Jenkins Hall?
- (2) Were staff currently located in the existing Area Office previously moved out of accommodation in Jenkins Hall? If so, in what year?
- (3) Is the estimated budget associated with the move of these staff back into Jenkins Hall in excess of \$300,000? If not, what are the total costs?
- (4) Is the staff's union opposed to the move? If so, will NPWS press ahead with these plans in the face of staff and union opposition?
- (5) Were those volunteer groups previously operating the bat and bush display, herbarium and information display in Jenkins Hall told they would be provided with accommodation within the Hall when renovations were completed?
- (6) Is it now proposed these volunteer groups be relocated to the offices currently occupied by the area staff?
- (7) If this relocation of volunteer groups proceeds, does NPWS intend to provide any funds to assist in meeting the day to day operating costs associated with these offices? If not, why not?

Answer—

It is proposed to relocate the NPWS Area Office back into Jenkins Hall following extensive refurbishment of the building. Jenkins Hall will provide visitor information, meeting space and provision for the future installation of a kiosk or café.

Staff were moved out of Jenkins Hall in 1997 due to the poor condition of the building, which included significant structural problems.

The cost for refurbishment of the office and the provision of information facilities is expected to be \$238,000. The Public Service Association's concerns have been addressed.

Locating the office in Jenkins Hall will significantly improve public access to park information and services. Display space will be provided in both Jenkins Hall and the historic Jenkins Kitchen building to several volunteer groups who are based in Lane Cove National Park. These buildings will be linked with a paved plaza and will provide a focal point for visitors.

It is proposed that the Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service volunteers will be relocated into the current Area Office.

The Department of Environment and Conservation will continue to provide rent-free accommodation to volunteer groups at Lane Cove, in accordance with volunteer agreements.

*0331 TARBAN CREEK TESTING—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

How many water quality tests have been conducted by the EPA at Tarban Creek, Hunters Hill, by year, for the years 1995-2006, inclusive?

Answer—

The Harbourwatch Program was established in November 1994 to monitor and report on water quality in the harbour, bay and estuarine swimming areas of Sydney. The program monitors and reports on water quality at 59 swimming sites within nine catchment areas: Pittwater, Port Jackson, North Harbour, Middle Harbour, lower Lane Cove River, lower Parramatta River, lower Georges River, Botany Bay and Port Hacking.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

The Harbourwatch Program monitors sites that have been endorsed as swimming locations by local council. As there are no endorsed swimming locations in Tarban Creek, no testing is conducted under this program.

*0332 LANE COVE RIVER TESTING—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

How many water quality tests have been conducted by the EPA at the Lane Cove River for the years 1995-2006 inclusive?

Answer—

The Harbourwatch Program was established in November 1994 to monitor and report on water quality in the harbour, bay and estuarine swimming areas of Sydney. The program monitors and reports on water quality at 59 swimming sites within nine catchment areas: Pittwater, Port Jackson, North Harbour, Middle Harbour, lower Lane Cove River, lower Parramatta River, lower Georges River, Botany Bay and Port Hacking.

The Harbourwatch Program tests water quality every six days at three swimming locations in the lower Lane Cove River; Woodford Bay, Woolwich Baths and Tambourine Bay. Since 1995, 738 tests have been conducted at each of the three locations resulting in a total of 2214 water quality tests.

*0333 TUNNEL FILTRATION COST—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What is the Government's cost estimate to filter the Lane Cove tunnel?
- (2) How was this cost figure arrived at?

Answer—

I refer the member to my answer of 11 May 2006.

*0334 NEONATAL COTS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many neonatal intensive care and special care cots are there in NSW hospitals?
- (2) (a) Does the Department of Health maintain records of the number of neonatal intensive care cots and ventilator neonatal intensive care cots in each NSW public hospital?
(b) If not, why not?
- (3) (a) Are data kept about how many are and are not being utilised?
(b) If not, why not?
- (4) If so, which NSW public hospital facilities were equipped with neonatal intensive care cots and how many as at 30 June in each year commencing 1995 and up to and including 2005?
- (5) Which public hospital facilities were equipped with ventilator neonatal intensive care cots as at 30 June in each year commencing 1995 and up to and including 2005?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) As at June 2006, there are 115 neonatal intensive care cots; plus 4 neonatal intensive care cots, which are also able to be used for paediatric intensive care; and approximately 390 special care cots (level 3 and 4) in NSW public hospitals.
- (2) The Department of Health has a record of the number of neonatal intensive care cots in the nine neonatal intensive care units in NSW.
- (3) The occupancy of neonatal intensive care cots fluctuates on a regular basis according to clinical demand and patient needs. NSW Health has an online bed identification system that assists clinicians manage this demand.
- (4) There are nine neonatal intensive care units in NSW located at the following facilities: Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, John Hunter Hospital, Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney Children's Hospital, Royal Women's Hospital, Liverpool Hospital, Nepean Hospital, Westmead Hospital and Children's Hospital Westmead. Between 1995 and 2002 there were 107 neonatal intensive care cots, increasing to 108 in 2003/04. In 2004/05 there were 108 intensive care cots and 4 neonatal intensive care cots, which were also able to be used for paediatric intensive care.
- (5) The public hospitals with ventilator intensive care cots in the period 1995-2005 are the same as those

facilities listed in response to Question 4 above.

*0335 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

(1) With respect to Budget Paper No. 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at pages 74, 75 and 76 where the following entries appear:

Department of Commerce:

Government Radio Network - various
Information System Enhancements - various

Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care:

Asset Rationalisation - various
Group Homes for Children - various
Group Homes for New Clients - various
Modification of Group Homes (Safety and Compliance) - various
Upgrade of Respite Centres - various

What is the amount for each heading that will be allocated to the electorate of Myall Lakes?

(2) With reference to Budget Paper No. 4 at page 76 where there is reference to a minor works program for the Home Care Service of New South Wales and Motor Accident Authority:

What are the amounts in the minor works program that will be allocated to the Myall Lakes electorate under each heading?

Answer—

In relation to the Department of Commerce:

(1) The Government Radio Network currently service approximately one third of New South Wales. Currently the network does not cover the electorate of Myall Lakes.

Expenditure on programs listed as information system enhancements various, on page 74 of Budget Paper No. 4 encompasses a variety of administrative, human resource, and information technology systems within the Department of Commerce.

Enhancement of these systems will improve efficiency and resource allocation within Commerce and assist the Department to meet its key objective of supporting the NSW Government in delivering a stronger NSW economy and more efficient and economical public services for the benefit of all residents of NSW.

In relation to the Department of Disability, Ageing and Home Care:

(1) With respect to Budget Paper No. 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at pages 74, 75 and 76 where the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care appears, there are no funds allocated for these purposes to the electorate of Myall Lakes.

(2) With reference to Budget Paper No. 4 at page 76 where there is reference to a minor works program for the Home Care Service of New South Wales, there are no funds allocated to the electorate of Myall Lakes.

In relation to the Motor Accident Authority:

(2) of \$195,000 referred to on page 76 of Budget Paper No. 4 refers to the MAA Minor Works Program which is for the upgrade of computer hardware within the Motor Accidents Authority, there are no funds allocated to Myall Lakes (or any other) electorate.

*0336 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) With respect to Budget Paper No. 4 of 2006-2007 State Budget where at page 77 the following entry appears:

Caseworker Accommodation - various:

What is the amount that will be allocated to the Myall Lakes electorate under this entry?

(2) With reference to the following entry which appears on the same page:

The following agencies have a minor works program only.

Office for Children and NSWBusinesslink

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

How much is allocated under the minor works program mentioned above to the electorate of Myall Lakes?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Community Services' (DoCS) office accommodation refurbishment program is an ongoing project to expand and refurbish all DoCS front line Community Services Centre outlets over a five year period. This is to meet the accommodation needs of additional caseworkers and support staff provided under the Government's \$1.2 billion reform program for DoCS.

In 2006/07 this program includes the upgrading of the Community Services Centre at Taree at a planned cost of \$1.24 million.

- (2) Nil.

*0337 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

In Budget Papers No. 4 of the 2006/2007 State Budget at page 67, the following entries appear:

- Establish Newly Acquired Parks - various
- Infrastructure Improvement in National Parks - various
- Land Acquisition - Open Spaces - various
- Land Purchases - Funded by Grants and Donations - various
- New Parks in Hunter Valley - various
- Pest, Weed and Animal Control - various

What is the amount for each heading that will be allocated to the electorate of Myall Lakes?

Answer—

Much of the Myall Lakes electorate is contained within the Department's Hunter Region. The 2006/07 operating budget for the Hunter Region is approximately \$2.2 million. Key items include:

Feral animal and weed control	more than \$250,000
Maintenance of roads and fire trails	more than \$350,000

The 2006/07 budget for the Department's Hunter Region also includes more than \$1.52 million in funding for a range of major infrastructure projects within national parks. These generally relate to the provision of roads, parking, signage, toilets, shelters and other visitor facilities.

The Department's budget for land purchases is allocated according to conservation priorities, rather than on a regional basis.

*0338 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING—ORANGE—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) How many properties are owned by the Department of Housing in Orange?
- (2) What is the gross annual rental on all the Department of Housing properties in Orange?
- (3) What is the annual maintenance budget on these properties for:
 - (a) 2005-06;
 - (b) 2004-05;
 - (c) 2003-04?
- (4) How many tenants were evicted from Department of Housing properties in Orange in:
 - (a) 2005;
 - (b) 2004;
 - (c) 2003?
- (5) How many have been evicted or have been given notice to leave in 2006?

Answer—

- (1) 1,142
- (2) The gross annual rent collected depends on a number of factors, including such matters as rental subsidies for tenants in a particular location, the local real estate market conditions, demand and supply. The Department's net rental income is reported in its Annual Report.
- (3) Repairs and planned maintenance expenditure varies from month to month depending on demand. The Department's maintenance expenditure is contained in its Annual Report.
- (4) and (5) The Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT) is responsible for determining the Department of Housing's application to evict a tenant. The Department has taken action in the CTTT in the past, and is presently taking action in relation to a number of tenancies in the CTTT.

*0339 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES-ORANGE—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) How many properties are owned by the Department of Housing in Orange?
- (2) How many properties owned by the Department of Housing in Orange were vacant as at 31 May 2006?
- (3) Of those vacancies, how many have been vacant for one month or longer?
- (4) How many vacant blocks does the Department of Housing own in Orange?
- (5) Were all those vacant blocks previously occupied by a home owned by the Department of Housing?
- (6) If not, how many homes in Orange have been burnt or otherwise damaged and declared uninhabitable in the past 10 years?
- (7) Does the Department of Housing continue to have a policy of selling housing stock to private owners?
- (8) If yes, how many homes were sold in 2005?

Answer—

- (1) 1,142.
- (2) to (4) The number of properties that are vacant varies from month to month, for a variety of reasons including because properties are in the process of being prepared for reletting to applicants on the public housing register, or they may have been identified for either sale or redevelopment into more suitable accommodation.
- (5) No.
- (6) 19.
- (7) Details of this policy are available on the Department's website.
- (8) This information is contained in the Department's Annual Report.

*0340 GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM MAP LAYER—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) Has the State a completed Global Information System (GIS) map layer showing all the farm boundaries and the contact details for the individual people responsible for those farms that would be vital to help manage the State's emergency response to a disease outbreak e.g. bird flu?
- (2) If not, when will such a map be available?
- (3) What percentage of the State's farms can be identified by PICs (Property Identification Code)?
- (4) Has the State a completed GIS map layer showing all the PIC farm boundaries and the contact details for the individual people responsible for those PIC farms that would be vital to help manage the State's emergency response to a disease outbreak e.g. BSE?
- (5) If not, when will such a map be available?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) I am advised that information of this kind including Property Identification Code information will be available from the new Rural Lands Protection Board lands information technology system, which is currently being rolled out. The data would be available to assist with emergency management.
- (3) I am advised that not all properties have PICs but nearly 100% of commercial cattle, sheep and pig farms do.
- (4) No.
- (5) See answer to question (2).

7 JUNE 2006

(Paper No. 6)

*0341 HOME CARE—Ms Pam Allan asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What are your ultimate aims and targets for Home Care New South Wales?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

(2) How do you propose to achieve these?

Answer—

- (1) The Home Care Service is planning to deliver 3.7 million hours of service to people in New South Wales in 2006/07. These hours include basic maintenance and support services under the Home and Community Care Program, the High Need Pool for people requiring high levels of personal care and hours delivered under a diverse range of programs such as Veterans Home Care. The aim is to ensure that these services are delivered in a cost efficient way with a strong focus on quality service.
- (2) These targets will be achieved by a statewide network of 41 Home Care Branches managed by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

*0342 TOONGAGAL CLAN—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

What is the legacy of the language of the Toongagal Clan as evidenced by street names in the electorate of Wentworthville and surrounding suburbs?

Answer—

We all recognise that the Toongagal Clan of the Dharug Aboriginal Nation were the original inhabitants of Toongabbie and surrounds, including Wentworthville.

There are several streets in and around Wentworthville those names are derived from the Dharug language. These include Binalong Road, Warra Street, Bogalara Road, Burrabogee Road, Binya Street, Caloola Road, Boonah Road and Parrabianga Reserve.

The NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Plan, Two Ways Together, is coordinating the work of agencies and community groups involved in Aboriginal language revitalisation and education. An important aspect of this work is recognition of Aboriginal cultural heritage associated with localities through the dual naming of places and through the activities of local government.

In light of this, this question would be better directed to Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Lands who has primary responsibility for the naming of geographical features and street names through the Geographical Naming Board and the NSW Dual Naming Policy.

*0343 SOCCER PARTICIPATION—Ms Pam Allan asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) What is the general participation of young girls in soccer across the Sydney metropolitan area?
- (2) Are there significant variations of participation according to district or region?

Answer—

(1) Figures from Soccer NSW do not provide a breakdown of participation by young girls. However, women's and girl's football (nee soccer) across metropolitan Sydney over the past two years has increased by over 20 percent. Canterbury District has had the highest growth of over 109% or 486 (in 2004) to 1,017 (in 2005) women and girls playing football.

(2) Participation rates can fluctuate from year to year. Soccer NSW advises that of the thirty-three district football associations affiliated to Soccer NSW, only seven have experienced decreases in women and girls participation over the past two years. The sport is confident that the recent World Cup success of the Socceroos and continued success of the Women's National Team, the Matildas, will contribute to further increases in participation by women and girls in football.

*0344 TAFE COURSES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Does TAFE provide training for the sustaining of traditional skills to assist in the preservation of historic buildings and machinery?
- (2) If so, what skills are the subject of these courses by TAFE?
- (3) Are such training skills provided in the private sector?
- (4) If so, what does TAFE do to work with these organisations to preserve traditional or obsolete skills?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) I am advised that the following TAFE NSW courses have a skills training and underpinning knowledge which enable the student to undertake future work involving conservation and restoration of historic buildings: Certificate III trade qualifications in Bricklaying; Carpentry; Painting and Decorating; Stonemasonry; Wall and Floor Tiling; Wall and Ceiling Lining (Fibrous Plastering and Plasterboard); Solid Plastering; Roof Tiling and Signcraft (Signwriting Trade).

In addition, both the Diploma and Certificate IV level courses in Architectural Technology have a component of heritage drafting, and the Certificate III in Engineering (Fabrication) has a group of Blacksmithing/Forging competencies which are included as a specialisation.

The Certificate III in Engineering (Watchmaking) has a stream of watchmaking competencies included as a specialisation.

- (3) TAFE NSW is unaware of the delivery of accredited courses or specific national units of competency offered as short courses which provide a formal qualification in the private sector.

However, the various Associations such as the Master Painters' Association and the National Trust of Australia (NSW) holds workshops and seminars on traditional skills.

The NSW Blacksmithing Association offers a range of commercial and "hobby" workshops. The NSW Horological Society has also performed some work in the area of repairing and restoring old and antique clocks.

- (4) I am advised that TAFE NSW maintains links with stakeholder organisations such as the NSW Master Painters Association and the National Trust of Australia (NSW) by assisting the co-ordination and organisation of building conservation workshops and seminars.

- *0345 IPTAAS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the Isolated Patients' Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) for chronically ill and cancer patients:

- (1) When the IPTAAS distance criterion is reduced from 1 July 2006, what opportunity will cancer patients have to access the most appropriate specialist for their condition rather than the requirement to attend the nearest specialist?
(2) If there is such an opportunity, what if any conditions apply?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) and (2) The opportunity to access the most appropriate specialist and relevant conditions remain unchanged. I refer the member to the NSW Health website.

- *0346 PATIENT TRANSPORT PROGRAMS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

With respect to the Premier's announcement on 17 March 2006 that the Isolated Patients' Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme's five existing NSW Health-funded patient transport programs will be amalgamated into one scheme (effective 1 July 2006):

- (1) What are these five programs?
(2) What are the criteria for access to the newly amalgamated transport program?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) and (2) I refer the Member to the NSW Health website.

- *0347 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 103 and 104 the following entries appear:

Department of Natural Resources:

Page 103 - Work-in-Progress

Acquisition of Spatial Data - various

Flood Warning Program - various

Gauging Stations for Unregulated Rivers - various

IT Equipment Replacement - various

Planning and Natural Resources Information Integration Environment - various

Replacement of Core Server Infrastructure - various

Water Information System - various

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Water Management Monitoring and Information System - various

Department of Primary Industries:

Page 103 - New Works

Capital Funding for New Marine Parks - various

Information and Communication Technology Rationalisation and Replacement - various

Page 104 - New Works

Marine Parks Capital Replacement - various

Redevelop Fisheries Compliance Facilities - various

Work-in-Progress

Marine Craft Replacement - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour electorate?

(2) At page 104 of the same Budget Paper there is a reference to a Minor Works Program for the Rural Assistance Authority and for the Catchment Management Authority.

What is/are the amounts in the Minor Works Program for each authority that will be allocated to the Myall Lakes electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour electorate?

(3) In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 132 the following entries appear:

Page 132

Plantation Establishment - Hardwood Growing Stock - various

Plantation Establishment - Softwoods (Roads) - various

Plantation Establishment - Softwoods Growing Stock - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour electorate?

Answer—

NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Natural Resources do not allocate expenditure based on electorate. Departmental expenditure is determined through a rigorous budgetary process that aligns expenditure to Departmental needs and stakeholder requirements.

*0348 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

(1) In the Budget paper No 4 of the 2006/07 State Budget at page 100 and 101 the following entries appear:

NSW Fire Brigades:

Page 100 - Work-in-Progress

Replacement of Fire Pumper Appliances various

Replacement of Special Appliances - various

Station Communications - various

State Emergency Services:

Page 100 - New Works

Motorised Hydraulic Cutters - various

Rescue Equipment - various

Page 100 - Work-in-Progress

Communication Equipment - various

Paging Equipment - various

Department of Lands:

Page 101 - Work-in-Progress

Building Refurbishments - various

Dams Remediation - various

Land and Property Information New South Wales:

Page 101 - Work in Progress

Upgrade Electronic Data Processing Equipment - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour Electorate?

(2) At page 101 of the same Budget Paper there is a reference to a Minor Works Program for the

Department of Rural Fire Service.

What is/are the amounts in the Minor Works Program that will be allocated to the Myall Lakes Electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour Electorate?

Answer—

- (1) There are no fire pumper appliances or specialist appliances scheduled for delivery to the Coffs Harbour or Myall Lakes electorates in 2006/07. New appliances have been delivered to all fire stations in these electorates over the last six years.

State Emergency Service Motorised hydraulic cutters:

This is the first year of a four year program to replace equipment in accredited land rescue units. The units that will receive the equipment in this financial year are yet to be finalised.

All other communication projects for the NSW Fire Brigades and the State Emergency Service are state-wide programs. It is not possible to attribute planned expenditure on an electorate basis.

There are no specific Budget allocations from the Department of Lands to the Coffs Harbour or Myall Lakes electorates.

- (2) NSW Rural Fire Service minor works allocations are made to Councils on the basis of their bids on the Rural Fire Fighting Fund. The final allocations for 2006/07 have yet to be approved.

*0349 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 140 the following entries appear:

Rail Infrastructure Corporation

New Works

Bridge Renewals - various

Work-in-Progress

Signalling and Train Control Systems - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

Rail lines in the Myall Lakes and Coffs Harbour electorates are leased and maintained by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC).

*0350 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 105 the following entry appears:

General land acquisition (5-year rolling program) various

What is the amount allocated under this entry to the Myall Lakes electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour electorate?

Answer—

Land acquisitions within this allocation are for purposes including the provision of public open space, roads and foreshore areas.

Specific acquisitions are determined according to these priorities, and not by electorate.

*0351 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 142 the following entries appear:

Fish Passage Works - various

Maintenance at Dams - various

River Structures - various

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Systems - various

Total Asset Management Plan - various

Water Quality Projects - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate and separately to the Coffs

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Harbour electorate?

Answer—

I am advised by State Water that it does not manage or operate any structures or programs in either the Myall Lakes or Coffs Harbour electorates.

*0352 TUMUT HOSPITAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many members are there on the Tumut Health Service Advisory Committee?
- (2) How many members of the former Tumut Hospital Planning Steering Committee have been appointed to the Tumut Health Service Advisory Committee?
- (3) How many members of the Tumut Health Service Advisory Committee are employees of the Department of Health or the Greater Southern Area Health Service?
- (4) How many members of the Tumut Health Service Advisory Committee represent groups that receive funding from, or provide services to, the Department of Health or the Greater Southern Area Health Service?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from the Greater Southern Area Health Service:

- (1) There are nine members on the Tumut Local Health Service Advisory Committee.
- (2) Two members of the former Tumut Hospital Planning Steering Committee have been appointed to the Tumut Local Health Service Advisory Committee.
- (3) One member of the Tumut Local Health Service Advisory Committee is an employee of the Greater Southern Area Health Service.
- (4) None. The community representatives appointed to the Tumut Local Health Service Advisory Committee represent a diverse range of community groups including local Non Government Organisations, Women's Auxiliaries and registered charities. These organisations work collaboratively with local health services to form an integrated community alliance to improve the health and wellbeing in the Tumut Shire.

*0353 MAJOR EVENTS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) Of the 50 event proposals that were being reviewed by the Major Events and Venues Unit at the end of 2004-05 how many have been secured for NSW?
- (2) What are the events that were secured for NSW and when will they be held?
- (3) Of the 50 event proposals that were being reviewed by the Major Events and Venues Unit at the end of 2004-05 how many were secured by Victoria?
- (4) Of the 50 event proposals that were being reviewed by the Major Events and Venues Unit at the end of 2004-05 how many were secured by other countries or States or Territories of Australia, excluding Victoria?

Answer—

- (1) 12
- (2) A1 Grand Prix of Nations was held from 4-6 November 2005
 - Football - Asian Cup qualifier Australia v Kuwait on 16 August 2006
 - Football - Asian Cup qualifier Australia v Bahrain on 11 October 2006
 - Football - Powerade Cup international in 2007
 - Football - one other major international in 2007
 - Football - preliminary round World Cup qualifier in 2008
 - Football - Powerade Cup international in 2008
 - World Youth Day from 14-20 July 2008
 - Football - Powerade Cup international in 2009
 - Football - a final round World Cup qualifier in 2009 (subject to satisfactory terms being reached with venues and the Socceroos qualifying through the preliminary rounds in 2008)

Rotary International Convention 2014

Cricket World Cup 2015

(3) None.

Football Federation Australia has allocated four Socceroos matches to Victoria over 2006-2009 whereas NSW has secured eight.

It is assumed that matches in Cricket World Cup 2015 will be played around Australia as happened in 1992.

(4) The bid by Scouts Australia and the Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau for the 2011 World Scout Jamboree, Conference and Youth Forum was unsuccessful.

The World Scout Conference awarded the jamboree to Sweden and the conference/youth forum to Brazil.

*0354 BOOROWA MEALS ON WHEELS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

(1) What was the rationale for the fee increase, over a two-year period, for the provision of a hot midday meal through meals on wheels from \$3.00 to \$6.50?

(2) As the cost for a fortnight's 'meals on wheels' is now \$91.00 and the sole income of most recipients in the Boorowa area is the age pension, have you considered the introduction of a subsidy to make what is the only healthy meal which many of these clients receive, more affordable?

Answer—

(1) Boorowa Meals on Wheels is administered through Boorowa Hospital, Greater Southern Area Health Service. The meals are prepared at Boorowa Hospital and are costed by this organisation.

The cost of meals are offset by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care's recurrent grant to Greater Southern Area Health Service in line with available funds to the region for this service type each financial year. The Department is committed to driving greater efficiencies in food services with Greater Southern Area Health Service.

(2) The Department acknowledges the issues relating to the cost of meal provision to individuals in the Home and Community Care target group and is currently involved in two food services development projects aimed at strengthening the capacity of food services (formerly known as Meals on Wheels).

Firstly, the Strategic Sourcing Project Proposal for Meals on Wheels, is a benchmarking exercise that aims to identify methods of reducing costs in the food services sector.

Secondly, the Southern Highlands Food Services Business Plan, is focussing on the medium to long-term needs of Food Services in the Southern Region.

As mentioned above, the cost of meals are offset by the Department's recurrent grant to Greater Southern Area Health Service, and the Department will review the level of this grant in line with available funds in 2006/07.

The Department maintains a strong commitment to working with the sector to develop a sustainable and innovative food service system.

*0355 EIS FUNDING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

(1) Of the \$2 million for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed M2 - F3 link, how much of the funding is federal and how much is NSW state money?

(2) Is one or both amounts included in the overall portfolio spending?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is available in 2006/07 Budget Paper 4.

*0356 F3 FUNDING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

(1) Regarding the widening of the F3 between Mount Colah and Cowan from two to three lanes, how much of the 2006-07 Budget estimate of total cost of \$132 million is federal money and how much is New South Wales funding?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

(2) Of 2006-07 expenditure of \$40 million how much is federal funding and how much is state funding?

Answer—

I am advised:

The AusLink Bilateral Agreement sets out the funding arrangements for NSW roads recognised by the Australian Government to be part of the National road network. Roads in the AusLink agreement include the F3, Hume Highway. The Pacific Highway was declared part of the National network in 2005. Roads not considered part of the AusLink network are the Princess Highway, the Oxley Highway, Gwydir Highway and the Golden Highway.

Under the AusLink Bilateral Agreement the widening of the F3 between Mount Colah and Cowan will be 80 percent funded by the Australian Government and 20 percent funded by the New South Wales Government.

The \$40 million budgeted for 2006-07 on the National road – the F3 – is drawn from the Australian Government's allocation.

*0357 MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SPECIALITIES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What medical and surgical specialities are included in Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) What specialities have been lost over the past five years?
- (3) Where have these specialities gone?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health service:

- (1) Hornsby Hospital provides specialty rosters in anaesthetics, cardiology, emergency medicine, ear nose and throat, intensive care, general medicine, general surgery, mental health, neurology/ stroke, obstetrics and gynaecology, orthopaedics, paediatrics, radiology, rehabilitation and aged care, respiratory medicine and urology.
- (2) and (3) No specialties have been "lost". In fact, over the past five years specialty rosters have been established in cardiology, neurology/stroke and respiratory medicine.

Ophthalmology services were reconfigured in April 2006, with the development of a single area-wide ophthalmological network, based at Royal North Shore, to assist in minimising waiting times for cataract and simple ophthalmology services through an increase in the volume and efficiency of service delivery, at the same time as ensuring best practice and improvement in patient outcomes.

*0358 LONG BAY HOSPITAL—Mr Andrew Humpherson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) What are the levels of custodial staff at the Long Bay Hospital?
- (2) What are the maximum custodial staff numbers at Long Bay Hospital on any given shift?
- (3) What is the regulated patient capacity of the Long Bay Prison Hospital?

Answer—

I draw the member's attention to an identical question asked on 25 May 2006, the answer to which has already been provided.

*0359 CLASS SIZES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Has the Government introduced a reduction in class sizes program to reduce class sizes to an average of:
 - (a) 20 for kindergarten?
 - (b) 22 for year one?
 - (c) 24 for year two?
- (2) How much money has been spent on this program for schools in Cronulla electorate?
- (3) What schools have benefited from the program in the Cronulla electorate?
- (4) What money was allocated in the 2006-07 financial year?
- (5) On what school(s) will this money be spent?

Answer—

(1) Yes, the Class Size Reduction program began in 2004 with the reduction of Kindergarten class sizes in schools within the Priority Schools Funding Program.

By 2007, classes in all schools will be reduced to:

- a statewide average of 20 in Kindergarten;
- a statewide average of 22 in Year 1; and
- a statewide average of 24 in Year 2.

(2) to (5) All government primary schools in the Cronulla electorate benefit from this program.

Funding of \$710 million over four years is being provided for the Class Size Reduction program. This includes \$107 million for providing additional classrooms and \$603 million for additional teachers.

Since 2004, an additional 11.452 full-time equivalent teacher positions have been provided to schools in the Cronulla electorate. Two additional classrooms have been delivered to two schools in the Cronulla electorate. They are Burraneer Bay and Miranda North public schools.

Schools will be notified of their 2007 anticipated staffing entitlement as determined by their 2007 anticipated enrolment return in August 2006. Schools requiring additional classrooms are being identified during 2006.

*0360 AHS AMALGAMATIONS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How much money has been saved by Area Health Service amalgamations of GSAHS and GMAHS?
- (2) How much has been redirected into clinical services from savings of the amalgamation of the Area Health Services?
- (3) How many staff have accepted redundancies under the amalgamation plan:
 - (a) Administration?
 - (b) Clinicians?
 - (c) Allied Health?

Answer—

The Minister for Health informs me that NSW Health provides the following advice:

- (1) The total amalgamation benefit for the Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) for 2005/06 is \$1.5 million.
- (2) All amalgamation benefits are directed to clinical frontline services.
- (3) At 31 May 2006, 39.7 full time equivalent staff who held corporate/administration type positions, and were affected by the amalgamation process, accepted voluntary redundancy across the GSAHS.

*0361 GLENMORE ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Education and Training—

With respect to the Glenmore Road Public School:

- (1) Has the school community been raising concerns with the Department of Education and Training about safe access for several years?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that parents and students with limited mobility or with prams can only access the school via Gurner Lane, putting them in conflict with motor vehicles in this narrow road?
- (3) Has the lower or western gate been locked due to longstanding maintenance concerns?
- (4) What action has the Government taken to fast track addressing of these safety and maintenance concerns?
- (5) What action has the Government taken to improve safety at the Gurner Lane entrance?
- (6) When will parents and students be provided with proper safe access to this school?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) With regard to the provision of access along Gurner Lane, which has restricted footpath provisions, the Department of Education and Training suggests, and would support, the school submitting an application to Waverly Council to have Gurner Lane re-zoned to become a "Shared Zone".

As a Shared Zone, the speed limit would be 10km/hour and pedestrians would have right of way against cars.

In addition, the Department will seek Council approval to widen the path along the lane.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

The western gate has been locked for approximately 1.5 months. It was locked to prevent members of the school community accessing the area as the timber stairs had deteriorated and were therefore deemed unsafe for use. Works to repair the stairs are currently under way and nearing completion. Pedestrian access is still available via the eastern gate.

*0362 HOME WARRANTY INSURANCE—HIH AND STRATEGIC CLAIMS SOLUTIONS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

With respect to the outstanding claims on building insurance resulting from the collapse of HIH:

- (1) How many claims were referred to Strategic Claims Solutions (SCS) for resolution, and how many of these have been resolved?
- (2) What is the average time for resolution of these claims, and does the Government believe that this is acceptable?
- (3) Is it true that complaints against SCS are simply referred to SCS, and how has the Government ensured that complaints have been addressed independently and resolved properly?
- (4) What reform of home warranty insurance has the Government carried out to ensure that future home owners are protected?
- (5) How long has the claim from the TriBeCa building at 82 Abercrombie Street, Chippendale been under investigation, and is it true that this has been nearly 5 and half years?
- (6) Is it true that additional water damage is occurring to this building because the original claim is still outstanding, and defects remain?
- (7) Is the Government aware of the financial and amenity impacts on residents of this building during this drawn-out period?
- (8) What action has the Government taken to resolve this claim and ensure that apartment owners have a safe building without defects?
- (9) When does the Government expect that the TriBeCa claim will be resolved and residents will be able to get on with their lives?

Answer—

- (1) 3242 have been referred, with 2841 finalised.
- (2) The Building Insurers Guarantee Corporation does not record these statistics.
- (3) Complaints against Strategic Claims Solutions are referred to the Building Insurers Guarantee Corporation. If the complaint is about corrupt activities it is referred to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. If it relates to poor management of a claim the Corporation takes control of the claim.
- (4) As a result of the Grellman inquiry into the home warranty insurance industry the Government established the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme Board with the mandate to constantly review the home warranty insurance market.
- (5) The claim was lodged with HIH in March 2001 and after protracted negotiations the Building Insurers Guarantee Corporation accepted liability in April 2005.
- (6) In July 2004 the owners were advised to mitigate their losses and repair this aspect of alleged defective work. The owners corporation has had the work repaired and their claim for expenses is being assessed.
- (7) Financial and amenity impacts are to be expected in a matter such as this although I am advised that the Building Insurers Guarantee Corporation has received no advice of specific impacts of this nature.
- (8) Since the Building Insurers Guarantee Corporation accepted liability in 2005 steps have been taken to complete the scope of works, an engineer was engaged to review external cracking and tenders will be called for soon.
- (9) This is an ongoing project. As rectification work has yet to begin I am not able to give a finalisation date at this stage. The Government is committed to ensuring that the remedial work that has been recommended will correct all the defects identified so far.

*0363 NATIONAL ART SCHOOL—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Education and Training—

With respect to the future management of the National Art School in Darlinghurst:

- (1) How will the NSW Government ensure that the National Art School's unique studio-based learning model remains operating and strong irrespective of the School's management structure?
- (2) How will the Government ensure that the National Art School remains a leading institution for training new artists?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The NSW Government is committed to the National Art School retaining and growing its valuable role in the Australian Art and Education Community. The Expression of Interest process, adopted for the transfer of the National Art School to a University and which is subject to a rigorous probity audit process, is evidence of this commitment. The negotiation process includes the requirement for:

- The preservation of the National Art School's unique identity;
- Maintenance of the School's artistic and educational philosophy, including the Atelier model based on the philosophy of one-to-one instruction and mentoring;
- Retention of existing staff;
- Enabling current National Art School students to complete their courses under current conditions;
- Retention of the National Art School on the Old Darlinghurst Gaol site in Sydney.

The move to university management will allow the National Art School to continue its proud tradition, expand its course offerings and will provide a range of new opportunities for its students.

*0364 CLASS SIZES—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Has the Government introduced a reduction in the class sizes program to reduce average class sizes to an average of:
- (a) 20 for kindergarten?
 - (b) 22 for year one?
 - (c) 24 for year two?
- (2) How much money has been spent on this program for schools in the Lane Cove electorate?
- (3) Which schools in the Lane Cove electorate have been included in this program for the 2006-07 financial year?

Answer—

(1) Yes, the Class Size Reduction program began in 2004 with the reduction of Kindergarten class sizes in schools within the Priority Schools Funding Program (PSFP).

By 2007, classes in all schools will be reduced to:

- a statewide average of 20 in Kindergarten;
- a statewide average of 22 in Year 1; and
- a statewide average of 24 in Year 2.

(2) and (3) All government primary schools in the Lane Cove electorate benefit from this program.

Funding of \$710 million over four years is being provided for the Class Size Reduction program. This includes \$107 million for providing additional classrooms and \$603 million for appointing additional teachers.

Since 2004 an additional 14,946 full-time equivalent teacher positions have been provided to schools in the Lane Cove electorate. Nine additional classrooms have been delivered to five schools in the Lane Cove electorate. They are Artarmon, Boronia Park, Hunters Hill, Greenwich and Lane Cove public schools.

Schools will be notified of their 2007 anticipated staffing entitlement as determined by their 2007 anticipated enrolment return in August 2006. Schools requiring additional classrooms are being identified during 2006.

*0365 CENTENNIAL AVENUE SPEED CAMERA—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

What has been the total amount of revenue raised by the speed camera located on Centennial Avenue, Lane Cove, since its placement?

Answer—

I'm advised as at 31 May 2006, the total revenue raised by the speed camera located on Centennial Avenue, Lane Cove, since its commission on 30 June 2001 is \$6,646,429.

*0366 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL PRACTICES—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Local Government—

In relation to local government financial practices:

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (1) Is a council policy which prevents scrutiny by councillors of cheque warrants which detail expenditure of council funds by the mayor, general manager and other council staff, in accordance with recommended best practice?
- (2) Is a council policy which encourages payment of councillors' expenses via the general manager's credit card in accordance with recommended best practice?
- (3) Would such policies be sufficient cause for an audit by the Department of Local Government of a council's financial management practices?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) The expenditure of money within a budget approved by council is considered to be a day-to-day management function, which section 335 of the Local Government Act 1993 specifically reserves for the General Manager.

Councillors may ask questions regarding the cheque warrant and regarding expenditure. However, in the view of the Department of Local Government, having regard to the respective roles of councillors and the general manager and having regard to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, it is not appropriate for councillors to receive a copy of the cheque warrant. Further details on this issue are contained in the Department's Circular to Councils 04-51, which is available on the Department's website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au.

- (2) The use of credit cards to pay for councillors' expenses via the general manager's credit card is a matter for each council. It will often be convenient for councils to meet routine expenditure by use of credit cards. Councils should establish clear and transparent processes, which allow for the easy audit of these accounts. The Department of Local Government has set out guidance on this issue in Circular to Councils 04-04. While the payment of routine expenses via credit card is best practice, using the general manager's credit card for substantial councillor expenses is not encouraged.
- (3) The department encourages councils to undertake on-going reviews of policies. The role of policy formulation and audits of those policies lies with the elected body. I encourage councils to have systems of internal auditing of policies that ensure compliance. Councils are autonomous bodies. The review and audit of policies are a matter for council.

*0367 FREQUENT FLYER POINTS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Local Government—

What are your department's guidelines regarding the use of frequent flyer points accrued by councillors who travel on council business?

Answer—

The Department of Local Government have been preparing Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors for Local Councils in NSW. The Guidelines will be released in the near future.

*0368 MINOR WORKS PROGRAM—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Local Government—

In Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 102 there is a reference to a Minor Works Program for the Department of Local Government:

What is that Minor Works Program and how is it broken down?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

The Department of Local Government is provided ongoing funding of \$150,000 per annum for the IT capital replacement program.

This is to fund all IT capital purchases, including hardware, major software acquisitions and replacement programs.

*0369 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at pages 89, 90, 91, 92, 93 and 94 the following entries appear:

Page 89

Ambulance Rural Radio Network - various
Computer-aided Dispatch System - various

E-Business and Internet Booking System - various
 Medical Equipment and Maintenance - various
 Integrated Medical Imaging - Planning - various

Page 90

Breast Screening - Minor Works - various
 Breast Screening - New Facilities - various

Page 91

Information Management and Technology
 Infrastructure Strategy - various
 Patient Administration System - various

Page 92

Information Management and Technology
 Patient and Clinical Systems - various
 Patient and Clinical Systems Phase 2 - various
 Point of Care Clinical Information System Pilot - various
 State Electronic Health Record - various

Page 93

Mental Health Stage 3A - various

Page 94

Rural Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory Strategy - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour electorate?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice:

The Department of Health does not budget on the basis of electorates.

The capital projects indicated in the question are components of the following statewide programs:

- Ambulance Capital Enhancement Program
- Information Management & Technology
- Breast Screening (Minor Works & New Facilities)
- Mental Health Stage 3A
- Rural Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory Strategy

These programs represent initiatives aimed at improving services and infrastructure across the whole of the health system.

*0370 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

(1) In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 115 the following entries occur:

Road Development Minor works - \$160,338,000
 Infrastructure Maintenance Improvement Works - \$166,987,000
 Road Safety, Licensing and Vehicle Management - \$27,832,000
 Traffic and Transport - \$55,662,000

Maintenance and other works:

Road Network Infrastructure - \$752,680,000
 Road Safety, Licensing and Vehicle Management - \$214,262,000
 Traffic and Transport - \$247,138,000

What amounts for each entry will be allocated to the Myall Lakes electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour electorate?

(2) In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 111 the following entry appears:

Pacific Highway Accelerated Projects - various

What is the amount allocated under this entry to the Myall Lakes electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

The following budget allocations have been made to the Myall Lakes electorate for 2006/07:

Minor Asset Acquisition Program

- Infrastructure maintenance improvement works - \$82,000
- Road safety, licensing and vehicle management - \$410,000

Maintenance and Other Works

- Road network infrastructure - \$16,471,364
- Road safety, licensing and vehicle management - \$198,638
- Traffic and transport - \$326,880

The following budget allocations have been made to the Coffs Harbour electorate for 2006/07:

Minor Asset Acquisition Program

- Infrastructure maintenance improvement works - \$64,640
- Road safety, licensing and vehicle management - \$48,000

Maintenance and Other Works

- Road network infrastructure - \$5,161,840
- Road safety, licensing and vehicle management - \$78,801
- Traffic and transport - \$349,520

For Pacific Highway projects, please refer to Budget Paper 4.

8 JUNE 2006

(Paper No. 7)

*0371 COURTS—PRISONERS VIA VIDEO LINK—Mr Richard Amery asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) Does the Department of Corrective Services facilitate the process of prisoners appearing before Courts via video link?
- (2) In which correctional centres does this technology exist?
- (3) Over the past eighteen months, how many cases were there when a prisoner's appearance at Court was done by video link?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Long Bay Complex (2 studios), Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre (4 studios), Parklea Correctional Centre (3 studios), Goulburn Correctional Centre (2 studios), and Mulawa, Parramatta, Dillwynia, John Morony, Emu Plains, Grafton, Mid North Coast (Kempsey), Cessnock, Bathurst, Lithgow, Junee, Kariong and Broken Hill Correctional Centres (1 studio each). An additional 10 smaller studios used to facilitate legal visits have been established in Parklea, Parramatta, Dillwynia, Emu Plains, Mid North Coast, Lithgow, Goulburn, Junee, Kariong and Broken Hill Correctional Centres.
- (3) From 1 October 2004 to 31 March 2006: 24,782.

*0372 DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES COMPLAINTS—ELECTRICITY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Are electricity supply companies signing up consumers via door-to-door sales techniques?
- (2) Has this resulted in an increase in the number of complaints to the Department of Fair Trading?
- (3) If so, how many complaints have been lodged over the past 12 months?
- (4) How does this figure compare to the previous twelve month period? Is there any evidence to suggest that elderly people are being targeted by these companies to sign electricity supply contracts?
- (5) Which companies have been the subject of the complaints referred to in (3) above?
- (6) What has been the result of investigation by the Department of Fair Trading into these complaints?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Only marginally, complaints about door-to-door sales represent approximately 0.001% of all complaints received by the Office of Fair Trading

- (3) Seven.
- (4) The previous twelve month figure was two.
Whilst there is no evidence to suggest that elderly people are being particularly targeted, between 1 June 2005 and 31 May 2006 three of the seven complainants indicated they were elderly.
- (5) Section 86A of the Fair Trading Act 1987 restrains me from commenting on the conduct of individual traders unless those details are already in the public domain.
- (6) After intervention by Fair Trading four of the matters resulted in the contract being cancelled and one was referred to the Electricity and Water Ombudsman. Of the remaining, the trader concerned investigated one matter as an internal staffing issue and the complainant could not be contacted in the other.

*0373 NEW ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

- (1) During the years 2004 and 2005, how many customers were connected to the electricity supply in New South Wales?
- (2) How many of these connections related to business customers?
- (3) How many were for private customers?
- (4) During the same periods, how many persons were removed from electricity supply in New South Wales?
- (5) What has been the increase in new connections?

Answer—

I am advised by my Department that electricity networks and retailers report to the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (Minister for Energy) on these matters. The OFT is not able to offer any response and the question should be directed to the Minister for Energy.

*0374 AMBULANCE SERVICE—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of community concern in early 2005 about the withdrawal or downgrading of ambulance access to the Mount Druitt Hospital?
- (2) How many people were taken to the Mount Druitt Hospital by ambulance in the first five months of 2006?
- (3) How does this figure compare with the same period for 2005?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from the Chief Executive of the Ambulance Service of NSW:

- (1) There has been no withdrawal or downgrading of ambulance access to Mount Druitt Hospital.
- (2) 2455 people were taken to Mount Druitt hospital by ambulance during the first five months of 2006.
- (3) 2457 people were taken to Mount Druitt Hospital by ambulance during the same period in 2005.

*0375 INTEGRAL ENERGY FACILITY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform—

- (1) Did the Minister officially open an Integral Energy facility in Glendenning Road, Plumpton during May 2006?
- (2) Are there two facilities at this location?
- (3) Are these facilities owned by Integral Energy?
- (4) What was the completion date for both facilities?
- (5) How much did each cost to build? How many persons are employed at each facility?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (5) Integral Energy has advised me:

The \$9 million Central Logistics Facility began operations in May 2004 and accommodates 33 staff. The \$12.28 million Glendenning Field Services Centre began operations in May 2005 and accommodates 200 staff.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

*0376 COMPUTER COMPATIBILITY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

When purchasing computers on Government contract, does the Department ensure that all products are compatible with those currently in use?

Answer—

Computers purchased on Government contract and the key components that they are comprised of are required to adhere to Government-supplied specifications.

This ensures that computers purchased on Government contract are compatible not only with products currently in use, but also with new products that may co-exist with or replace current products.

*0377 FUNDING FOR HEALTH ALBURY-WODONGA—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Given your stated commitment to progressing the cross-border health agreement which expires in early July 2006, why was no specific funding allocated to this project in the 2006-07 budget?
- (2) Has the head of Health Albury Wodonga called for a minimum \$1.5 million to fund a transition period for the integration of the border's health services?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) As in previous years, administrative costs in progressing the Albury-Wodonga cross border health agreement are met from existing budgets.
- (2) To-date, there is no body/institution called 'Health Albury Wodonga'.

*0378 HENTY GRAIN LINE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) Are you aware that the heavy gauge rails for repair and upgrade of the Henty Silo spur line have been lying alongside the light gauge line for several years?
- (2) Given the allocation of \$60 million in the 2006-07 budget to upgrade grain lines will you ensure that this long-delayed project at Henty is completed to prevent further derailments and costly delays?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Henty siding has been the responsibility of the Australian Rail Track Corporation since mid 2004.

*0379 EMERGENCY SERVICES IN ALBURY—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) Given the lack of specific funding in the 2006-07 budget to construct the new Lavington Fire Station when will this urgently needed facility be built?
- (2) What progress has been made on the establishment of the emergency services centre at Albury Airport?

Answer—

- (1) I have asked the Commissioner of the NSW Fire Brigades to advise me whether there is any opportunity to reallocate funds for this purpose.
- (2) This project is being managed by Albury City Council. Commitments of funding support for the project have been given by the NSW Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service.

*0380 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) As at 31 May 2006 how many Department of Housing properties are vacant as a result of fire?
- (2) What number of these properties will be:
 - (a) restored for tenancy;
 - (b) rebuilt; and
 - (c) sold?
- (3) What measures are being taken to reduce the incidence of arson in department properties?

Answer—

- (1) 78
- (2) (a) to (c) The Department will assess each of these dwellings to determine their continuing cost-effectiveness, viability, long-term benefits and whether the dwellings meet the current and projected future needs of clients.
- (3) All Department owned dwellings have been fitted with smoke detectors. The Department works with the NSW Police, NSW Fire Brigades, tenants and the local community to identify those who have caused damage to Departmental property. Details concerning the Department's Fire Safety Upgrading Program are contained in the Department's 2004/05 Annual Report.

*0381 CHATSWOOD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

After having established a working group to determine the future of community based mental health services in Chatswood more than 18 months ago:

- (1) When will you restore mental health services to Hercules Street, Chatswood?
- (2) Will you undertake to maintain community based mental health facilities generally?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) Mental health services are currently provided from Hercules Street, Chatswood.
- (2) The Iemma Government remains committed to the provision of community based care for people who suffer from a mental illness.

For the first time in NSW history, new spending for community based care will exceed spending on hospital based services.

Over the next five years the Iemma Government will invest more than \$338 million in new funding for mental health programs, \$279 million will be dedicated towards community based mental health services.

*0382 PRE-SCHOOL FUNDING—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

In relation to the \$8 million in funding for pre-schools which you announced would be distributed and received by 30 June 2006:

- (1) Which pre-schools will be receiving funding and how much will each pre-school receive?
- (2) What process was involved in determining which pre-schools would receive funding?
- (3) What criteria will be used to determine the recipients of the \$8.8 million in 2006-07?

Answer—

Emergency funding of approximately \$8 million was provided to approximately 400 preschools that were assessed as facing critical viability issues that threatened the service continuity, under the following criteria:

- Where funding was required to prevent service reduction, fee increase or closure within the current calendar year;
- Where funding was required to ensure service compliance with the Children's Services Regulation;
- Where funding was required to prevent service closure because of threatened loss of premises;
- Where funding was required to redress unfunded liabilities; and
- Where funding was required to support transition to an expanded or more viable service model.

Initial allocations were made on the basis of Department of Community Services' assessment of all preschool services against the above criteria. Services were then provided with the opportunity to apply for further emergency funding if they believed they met the above criteria and had not received an allocation.

The criteria and process for allocation of the \$8.8 million funding in 2006/07 will be developed in consultation with the sector.

Further information for service providers and parents is available on the Department of Community Services website.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

*0383 PRINCES HIGHWAY—BROGO PASS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) Are there alternative Princes Highway route options around Brogo Pass?
- (2) What planned works are expected at Brogo Pass?
- (3) What are the costings for such work?
- (4) When will this work commence?
- (5) Are you aware of environmental concerns at Brogo Pass?

Answer—

I am advised:

There is no alternative route around Brogo Pass being considered for this section of the Highway at this time.

Works at Brogo Pass will involve widening the cuttings and the road pavement and shoulders to allow improvement of drainage, stabilisation of the slopes which are subject to rock fall and replacement of the chain wire fencing with guardrail.

The RTA is currently finalising an environmental assessment of the project.

\$1.6M has been allocated to the project in 2006/07.

It is anticipated that works on site will commence in 2007.

*0384 MERINGO HAZARD BURN—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

Will you commit to a hazard reduction burn and trail enhancement around the community of Meringo on the South Coast?

Answer—

I refer to my answer to Question on Notice number 78. The additional inspection to determine whether additional hazard reduction work is required will be done shortly and the Department of Environment and Conservation will involve the Rural Fire Service. This will enable an informed decision to be made about the need for a hazard reduction burn.

*0385 LITTLE YUIN PRE-SCHOOL—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the plight of the Little Yuin Aboriginal Pre-School at Wallaga Lake?
- (2) What funding will be made available to rectify this situation?

Answer—

(1) Little Yuin has been and continues to be a licensed Preschool Centre. The NSW Department of Community Services funds the Centre \$48,716 per annum under its Children's Services Program. Funds have been temporarily withheld whilst governance and financial management matters are reviewed. The Department of Community Services awaits formal notification of the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations' intended action.

(2) The Department of Community Services will continue to work with the Preschool's Management Committee and other agencies as it believes the best outcome is for a service to continue to operate within the Wallaga Lake community.

*0386 MERIMBULA TOURISM INFORMATION OFFICE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

Will you agree to provide funding to the Merimbula Tourism Information Office who are facing massive funding shortfalls whilst continuing to promote information from your department?

Answer—

Tourism New South Wales' support of Visitor Information Centres is through a State-wide accreditation and marketing program. Funding for individual Centres is the responsibility of local councils.

*0387 LICENCES—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

Will you consider requiring tradespeople to include their current licence number when advertising in

newspapers and on radio?

Answer—

This is already a requirement under current legislation.

*0388 CHRIS YOUNG—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Will you investigate the matter raised in a private member's statement regarding Chris Young of Young's Joinery and the Kiola Campus of ANU?
- (2) What will the Minister do to assist the small businesses affected?

Answer—

I am advised that the firm in question may not have taken advantage of the substantial rights created by the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payments Act which enables firms in the construction industry to obtain payment by a fast and effective adjudication.

It would appear that the matter is now subject to Commonwealth law given that the head contractor is now in liquidation.

It is of great concern that small businesses have been adversely affected by the liquidation of a larger contractor. Under NSW Government construction contracts, such eventualities are minimised by financial checks of prospective contractors, and the requirement that contractors declare with each progress claim that they have paid their sub-contractors.

The Department of Commerce has distributed information on the Security of Payments Legislation widely through the building industry and information is available on its website. The Department also has a direct contact point for enquiries.

*0389 CAN ASSIST—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Are you aware of the concerns and campaign of Can Assist in relation to IPTAAS?
- (2) What are you doing to address these concerns?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) and (2) Can Assist provide valuable assistance to cancer patients. I refer the Member to the organisation's recent newsletter which outlined the Government's recent reforms to the scheme and also acknowledged the work of the organisation in contributing to them.

*0390 ABALONE INDUSTRY INQUIRY—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

Will you establish an independent inquiry into the abalone industry?

Answer—

An independent Taskforce, chaired by Dr John Keniry, has already undertaken a review and made recommendations on future directions of the NSW abalone fishery. The report was released in December 2005 and is available on the website of NSW Department of Primary Industries.

*0391 LILLIAN SMITH—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

What are you doing to address Lillian Smith's concerns about her family and DOCS support?

Answer—

The Question and Answer paper is not an appropriate forum to discuss the particulars of the case of a child under the parental responsibility of the Minister.

Information regarding specific cases is more appropriately sought through written correspondence from the Member to the Minister.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

*0392 ASBESTOS CONTAMINATION—BUNNINGS—WORKCOVER—Mr Paul Crittenden asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Was a telephone complaint made to WorkCover on 18 February 2005 that the Bunnings Erina North employees were working in a friable asbestos contaminated warehouse, including gutters and downpipes in the yard area?
- (2) Was WorkCover advised in the telephone call of 18 February 2005 that on 3 February 2005 an Environmental Hygienist, who was called in after a massive hailstorm hit the Bunnings Erina warehouse roof on 2 February 2005, had wrongly identified the warehouse as a bonded asbestos site and not a friable site?
- (3) Has WorkCover ascertained whether there has been any air monitoring or samples taken in the Bunnings Erina North warehouse yard area?
- (4) Was WorkCover advised on 18 February 2005 that an asbestos removal company had been called in, and the store was closed down for 8 days to clean up and for the repair of the roof?
- (5) Did the company, which undertook this asbestos removal work, have the relevant licence to remove friable asbestos?
- (6) Was WorkCover advised in the phone call of 18 February 2005 that Bunnings staff was still working in a potentially contaminated area as the manager had advised staff at a meeting on 11 February 2005, that WorkCover had signed off and cleared the site?
- (7) Had WorkCover cleared the site for reoccupation and commercial activity as of 11 February 2005?
- (8) Did a WorkCover inspector visit the site on 21 February 2005 and was he shown around the warehouse by Bunnings management? Did the WorkCover inspector seek out an employee or union representative to accompany him on the inspection of the warehouse? Did the WorkCover inspector inspect the yard area? If not, why not?

Answer—

In relation to this matter WorkCover has provided me with the following response;

(1) to (8) WorkCover was contacted on Friday 18 February 2006 regarding alleged inadequate asbestos removal at the Bunnings Erina North facility, following hail damage. WorkCover records indicate that the basis of the complaint was dust contamination on product shelves in the premises and asbestos dust resulting in airborne exposure to staff and customers.

WorkCover inspected the site in the presence of Bunnings management on Monday 21 February 2005, at which point it was shown air monitoring reports and a clearance certificate confirming that the inspected areas inside the facility were clear of asbestos contamination. At this time, the yard area of the facility was not inspected as the complaint had specifically referred to alleged asbestos dust contamination on product shelves in the premises.

An employee representative did not accompany WorkCover as the inspection was conducted late in the afternoon when there was only one sales assistant present, making the employee representative's involvement impractical. Further, it was not possible for the inspector to contact the complainant, as the complaint received by WorkCover was anonymous.

WorkCover subsequently attended the site on 28 February 2005, 7 April 2005 and 22 April 2005, which involved discussion of this matter with, amongst others, the Bunnings Area Manager, at least four employee representatives (including the employee-representative OHS Committee member), representatives of the Shop Assistants & Warehouse Employees Federation, the Bunnings National Facilities Manager, occupational hygienists and an insurance loss adjuster.

With regard to some of the specific aspects of the investigation, WorkCover advises that its investigation revealed the following:

- The company engaged to undertake the original asbestos removal work was licensed for the removal of bonded asbestos, and was contracted to remove bonded asbestos roofing. It was not licensed for the removal of friable asbestos.
- WorkCover's second inspection of 28 February 2005 was conducted outside the store following concerns raised by an employee that the outside area was contaminated.
- ESP Environmental and Safety Professionals undertook testing in the yard area on 3 March 2005, and that there are no indications that any testing was carried out previously.
- At no stage on or prior to 18 February 2006 did WorkCover indicate that the site was free of asbestos contamination or give clearance for the resumption of regular activities at the facility.

*0393 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—MYALL LAKES AND COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Police—

In the Budget paper No 4 of the 2006/07 State Budget at pages 107 and 108 the following entries appear:

Page 107

Alcohol Related Crime Information Exchange - various
Automated Demand Based Rostering System - various
Marine Fleet Replacement - various

Page 108

Police Motor Vehicle Fleet Enhancements - various
Portable Electronic Fingerprinting devices - various.

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour Electorate?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

Expenditure for the projects and systems listed in the Honourable Member's question is allocated and managed on a statewide basis, not by Electorate or by Local Area Command.

*0394 MANLY HOSPITAL BUDGET—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What was the total budget for Manly Hospital for the financial years ending 30 June 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006?
- (2) What were the actual funds expended at Manly Hospital for each of the financial years ending 30 June 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006?
- (3) What was the total deficit and/or supplementation in each of the the financial years ending 30 June 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from the Department of Health:

- (1) to (3) Area Health Services generally manage their financial year accounts on a whole of Area basis for the hospitals under their control. As such, figures for the former Northern Sydney Area Health Service, now the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service, are reported annually in the Area's Annual Report. Figures for the financial year ending 30 June 2006 will not be determined until the 2005/06 financial year accounts are completed.

*0395 MANLY HOSPITAL MRI—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) When did Manly Hospital's MRI first breakdown?
- (2) Over the last three years how many MRI examinations have been undertaken at Manly Hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) and (2) No MRI's have ever been undertaken at Manly Hospital as the Hospital has never had an MRI machine.

*0396 MANLY HOSPITAL MRI REPAIRS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

When did the medical staff at Manly Hospital cease using the MRI at the hospital due to it requiring repairs?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service:

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to his Question on Notice number 0395.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

*0397 MANLY HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

What has been the total cost of provision of disposable cups, cutlery and plates in Manly District Hospital in 2005-06?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service:

Cups, cutlery and plates are not disposed of, they are recycled. The cost of provision of recyclable cups, cutlery and plates in Manly Hospital from the date of commencement of this method of service delivery on 17 October 2005 to 30 June 2006 is \$121,000. As a result of implementation of recyclables, savings over this period are estimated at \$215,000.

*0398 AGENCY NURSES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many full time equivalent nursing positions have been filled by agency nurses in Manly Hospital over the year 2005-06?
- (2) What is the total amount of Manly Hospital's budget applied to employment of nurses in 2005-06?
- (3) What amount was paid in 2005-06 to nursing agencies for employment of agency nurses at Manly Hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) to (3) Figures for the 2005/06 financial year will not be available until the close of the financial year.

*0399 BEACON HILL HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Education and Training—

In relation to Beacon Hill High School:

- (1) What meetings have you held with the community, when were they held and what was the level of support for the closure decision? What consideration has been given to the geographical distribution of junior high schools in relation to Beacon Hill High School? What consideration has been given to the shared use of schools and spare capacity outlined in The Futures Project?
- (2) Why is there no detailed response to issues raised in submissions from the Retain Beacon Hill High School Committee Inc?
- (3) Has consideration been given to retaining Beacon Hill High School as part of new State Government initiatives?
- (4) Has the Department of Education and Training reviewed its current policies and procedures for the joint use of public school facilities with the objective of achieving greater shared use of school facilities (as recommended in the Standing Committee on Public Works Report No 53/54 December 2004)?
- (5) Have you considered relevant recommendations, findings and comments in the report in relation to Beacon Hill High School?

Answer—

(1) to (5) I have not met the Beacon Hill Community about the closure of Beacon Hill High School as the school has been closed since 2003. The formal announcement of the closure was made in June 2001, with discussions about the future of the school dating back to 1999, and significant community consultation occurring in June 2000.

In April 2003, students at the school moved to the Freshwater Campus of the Northern Beaches Secondary College. More than \$19 million has been invested in this state-of-the-art education facility.

The six secondary schools around Beacon Hill (i.e. the five campuses of the Northern Beaches Secondary College and The Forest High School) have the capacity to accommodate some 5,780 students whilst current enrolments total only 4,294 students, representing 74 per cent capacity and an ability to easily accommodate an additional 1,486 students.

It is quite common for school sites to change their use once they are no longer required for educational purposes, like Beacon Hill. When a school closes and land is sold, the proceeds do not end up in

consolidated funds. Instead, the money is used to build new schools where they are actually needed, and fund the maintenance of existing ones.

The Department of Education and Training carefully considered all aspects of the Retain Beacon Hill High School Committee's submission. The Beacon Hill site remains surplus to the Department's requirements for educational purposes. The school ovals will be retained for public use.

*0400 NSW EDUCATION BUDGET—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How much of the funding for the following items noted for various locations in the 2006-07 Budget will be spent, and in what locations, in the Burrinjuck Electorate?
 - (a) Information Technology New Projects
 - (b) School Halls Program 2006-07
 - (c) State-Wide Compliance and Upgrade 2006-07
 - (d) State-Wide Demountable Replacement Program 2006-07
 - (e) Trade Schools
 - (f) Behaviour Units Accommodation at Various Schools 04/05
 - (g) Behaviour Units 05/06 Stage 2
 - (h) Behaviour Units 05/06 Specialist Facilities
 - (i) Class Size Reduction Program Provision of New Accommodation
 - (j) Information and Communication Technology Projects 03/04
 - (k) Information and Communication Technology Projects 04/05
 - (l) Information and Communication Technology Projects 05/06
 - (m) State-wide Upgrade and Compliance Program 05/06
 - (n) State-wide Compliance Project Various TAFE Colleges
- (2) How much of the Minor Miscellaneous Services Budget will be spent, and in what locations, in the Burrinjuck Electorate?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The 2006-07 State Budget provides for a record \$10.7 billion investment in education and training - an increase of \$518 million. As a result of this unprecedented investment in NSW public education, public schools in Burrinjuck electorate will receive an estimated \$73.9 million in recurrent funding over the coming financial year.

Since 1995 the current NSW Government has boosted annual funding to the local Burrinjuck electorate public schools by approximately 70 per cent.

In addition to this record recurrent funding for schools, the 2006-07 education and training budget will also fund the following local capital works projects. New projects: The Crescent School will receive a security fence; Wollondilly Public School will receive a security fence and Goulburn North Public School will receive a toilet upgrade.

Statewide budget highlights include: over \$485 million to build and enhance school facilities for 2006-07 - part of a \$1.4 billion schools improvement package over four years; more than \$87 million in TAFE capital works in 2006-07; and over \$255 million on maintenance across schools and TAFE in 2006-07 (including an additional \$30 million for school maintenance).

The formulation of a number of 2006-07 Infrastructure Programs, including the Information Technology and Minor Miscellaneous Works Program, are being finalised and advice on projects included in these programs is scheduled to be available during term three, this year.

*0401 TOURISM BUDGET—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) Will you provide me with a detailed breakdown of the \$35,318,000 'Other Operating Expenses' in the 2006-07 Budget?
- (2) What is the reason for the significant drop in 'depreciation and amortisation' between the 2005-06 and the 2006-07 Budgets?
- (3) How many of the 180 EFT staff noted in the 2006-07 Budget have been employed by Tourism NSW or the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation for (a) less than 12 months or (b) between 12 and 24 months?

Answer—

- (1) Other operating expenses include both Tourism NSW and the Major Events Board and are utilised for such items as marketing, fees and licences, lease payments, travel, postage and telephone,

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

cleaning, printing, computer system expenses, legal expenses, minor equipment, motor vehicles, electricity and gas, insurance, auditor's remuneration and the like. Budgets are established in the early part of the financial year and are subject to review and variation depending on priorities throughout the year.

- (2) Tourism NSW's assets relate primarily to computer systems and equipment. The decrease is because the majority of these assets were fully depreciated in the 2005-06 period.
- (3) The 180 EFT figure that appears in the Budget Papers is an estimated number of the average Equivalent Full Time employees the Tourism program will employ in 2006-07.

*0402 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the total funding that will be provided to the Greater Southern Area Health Service from the 2006-07 Budget?
- (2) What was the total funding that was provided to the Greater Southern Area Health Service in the 2005-06 Budget?
- (3) Was any additional funding provided to the Greater Southern Area Health Service during 2005-06?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) to (3) As outlined in the Minister for Health's press release of 6 June 2006, the initial budget allocation for the Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) in 2006/07 is \$514.6 million representing a \$46.7 million or 10% increase on last year.

During any given year Health Services will receive supplementation and adjustments to initial budget allocations to provide for a range of matters including funding of increases in staff awards and specific Government initiatives.

The Statement of Financial Performance for GSAHS, including all sources of funding and revenues will be presented in the 2005/06 GSAHS Annual Report to be published later this year.

*0403 HORNSBY SCHOOLS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training—

Of the four new classrooms and 17 new teachers employed in the Hornsby area (part of the class size reduction program), which schools received the classrooms and teachers?

Answer—

Since 2004, the impact of the Class Size Reduction Program has contributed approximately 17 full-time equivalent teachers towards the increase in classroom teacher entitlement at schools in the Hornsby electorate.

Berowra Public School, Hornsby North Public School, Normanhurst Public School and Normanhurst West Public School in the Hornsby electorate have each received a demountable classroom as a result of the Government's Class Size Reduction Program.

*0404 SCHOOL SECURITY FENCING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the future plans and dates for placement of security fencing for all schools not already so fenced in the Hornsby electorate?

Answer—

I am advised that during the next 12 months, Risk Management Officers from the Department of Education and Training's Safety and Security Directorate will be conducting risk assessments for each school in the Hornsby Electorate. Depending on the outcomes of these risk assessments, schools may then be recommended for the provision of security fences during the 2007/2008 financial year.

It is important to note that the Department provides schools in the Hornsby Electorate with a range of security measures which include: back to base electronic alarm systems that are monitored and maintained by the Safety and Security Directorate; the continued deployment of security guard services in response to alarm activations; random security patrols and static guard services, as required and when needed, the provision of additional security patrol services during school vacation periods.

The Safety and Security Directorate will continue to monitor the security trends at schools located within the Hornsby Electorate and will assist with the implementation of proven risk management strategies.

*0405 BICYCLE PARKING—BEROWRA RAILWAY STATION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) Why has there been no response since November 2005 to Tony Prescott's representation regarding a lack of push bike parking/racks at Berowra Railway Station?
- (2) When will a response be expected?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Ministry of Transport has no record of representations from Mr Tony Prescott.

*0406 BURWOOD RAILWAY STATION—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

What is being done to improve easy access at Burwood Railway Station for people with a disability, the frail and the elderly?

Answer—

I am advised:

Providing equitable access to public transport services is a key Government objective. To meet this objective, barriers to access are being progressively removed to meet the travelling needs of people with disabilities.

As part of that process of removing barriers, CityRail is progressively undertaking easy access upgrades of its rail stations. Priority for easy access upgrading is based on a number of factors including station patronage, access to educational and medical centres, parking, bus services, shopping, tourism and whether the station is a rail interchange.

The design, planning and construction of \$49.2 million in Easy Access upgrades in 2006/07 includes Burwood as well as:

- Belmore;
- Bowral;
- Carlton;
- Eastwood
- Newtown;
- Seven Hills; and
- Turramurra.

Easy Access projects are also continuing at:

- Auburn;
- Helensburgh;
- Bulli;
- Lakemba;
- Meadowbank;
- Merrylands;
- North Wollongong;
- Penshurst;
- Werrington; and
- Mortdale.

Broadmeadow Station will also receive \$500,000 to progress work on an Easy Access upgrade as part of a \$20 million package to improve rail services and related infrastructure in Newcastle.

*0407 INTERMODAL FACILITY AT ENFIELD—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

With respect to representations made by the Member for Strathfield advising about concerns of local residents about the current proposal by Sydney Ports Authority to establish an intermodal facility at Enfield in the electorate of Bankstown, when will the report on the potential impacts of this proposal be completed?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

The proposal is currently under consideration by the Department of Planning. The Director-General of Planning will provide a recommendation after considering the advice of the Independent Panel of Experts appointed to assess the project, as well as public submissions received during the exhibition period.

I am aware that the Member for Strathfield has made strong representations to the Government regarding the proposed intermodal. These representations on behalf of local residents will be borne in mind in consideration of the application.

- *0408 RAILWAY PARADE INTERSECTION—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

What is being done to improve the intersection on Railway Parade between Conder Street and Wynne Avenue in the Strathfield electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

Railway Parade is a Regional Road under the responsibility of Burwood Council.

Council proposes to install new traffic lights at the intersection of Railway Parade and Conder Street to replace the existing roundabout.

The RTA received the traffic signal plans and has provided comments. The RTA has asked Council to provide additional information including a SCATES (Scats Computer Aided Traffic Engineering System) model and traffic data.

- *0409 CYCLEWAYS—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

What is being done to improve cycleways in the Strathfield electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

The State Government offers joint funding to NSW Councils for the development and implementation of their local bicycle networks.

The 2006/07 State budget allocated \$70,000 in the Strathfield electorate for local cycleways.

- *0410 STRATHFIELD ROADS—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

How has the 2006 State Budget addressed the issues of pot hole repair and patching on Strathfield roads?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA directly maintains 33km of roads in the Strathfield Electorate and provides funding contributions to local councils for a further 14km.

The 06/07 State Budget allocated \$750,000 for specific pavement rehabilitation on Frederick Street and additional funding of over \$700,000 for Regional Road maintenance in Strathfield.

- *0411 CROYDON PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Minister for Education and Training—

What is being done to improve security at Croydon Public School?

Answer—

The NSW Government is committed to strengthening school security through its Safer Schools Plan, of which the expansion of the security fencing program is a key element. Croydon Public School is one of 200 schools, at a cost of more than \$20 million, to benefit from this commitment.

I am pleased to advise that Croydon Public School will receive a security fence during the 2006/2007 financial year.

The Department's Safety and Security Directorate will continue to monitor security trends at Croydon Public School and will liaise with the school community to assist in the ongoing minimisation of security risks at the school.

*0412 STRATHFIELD SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Minister for Education and Training—

What is being done to improve amenities at Strathfield South High School?

Answer—

A toilet upgrade at Strathfield South High School will be undertaken as part of the 2006/07 Minor Capital Works Program.

The Department of Education and Training will keep the Principal informed of developments in relation to these works.

Since 1995, over \$870,000 has been spent on capital works projects at Strathfield South High School, including a multi-staged integration project to improve accessibility at the school, lift access and accessible toilet facilities.

*0413 NEW POLICE STATION—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Minister for Police—

What are the details of services available at the new Police Station to be upgraded at Burwood?

Answer—

The Ministry for Police has advised me :

The proposed new Burwood station will accommodate a total of 159 staff and provide approximately 2307 square meters of floor space over 4 floors, including a basement car park. The new multi-level facility is expected to provide:

- Public enquiry and waiting areas;
- Disabled access;
- Conference and training facilities;
- Interview rooms;
- Accommodation for General Duties Police, Highway Patrol, Crime Management Unit and Detectives;
- Office accommodation for the Local Area Command;
- Task Force accommodation;
- Van dock and charging area;
- Prisoner handling and custody management facilities;
- Exhibit and records storage areas;
- Communications room;
- Staff and visitor amenities; and
- On site parking for Police vehicles.

*0414 DISABILITY ACCESS—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Minister for Police—

Will the upgrading of Burwood Police Station provide better disability access?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to her Question on Notice No. 0413 regarding services available at the new Burwood police station.

*0415 CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) Are you aware of the loss incurred by Sutherland Shire council in the conduct of citizenship ceremonies?
- (2) What assistance can be given to Sutherland Shire Council to relieve this financial burden?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) I am not aware of any losses incurred by Sutherland Shire Council in conducting citizenship ceremonies. I note, however, that citizenship ceremonies are generally the responsibility of local governments and are conducted by them at times and venues of their choice.
- (2) As citizenship is a Commonwealth Government matter, the Council may wish to approach the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs to seek financial assistance toward the cost of conducting citizenship ceremonies.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

There are no discretionary funds available in my local government portfolio. All grant funding administered by the Department of Local Government is in the form of general purpose Financial Assistance Grants to councils.

*0416 PERSONAL LIABILITY—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) Will voluntary trustees of public lands be held personally liable for any breach of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 or Regulation 2001?
- (2) What is the Minister doing to exempt voluntary trustees from any such liability?

Answer—

- (1) Responsibility for the provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and its associated Regulations rests with the Minister for Commerce. In the circumstances you may wish to redirect your question to my colleague, the Hon Diane Beamer MP.
- (2) I am advised that the Minister for Commerce has recognised the onerous provisions of the current legislation on volunteers and is proposing changes under a new Bill, the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2006, to address this issue

*0417 CARAVAN REGISTRATION COSTS—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What is the cost of registering a caravan in New South Wales?
- (2) Is the cost of registering a caravan in New South Wales the highest of all states in Australia?
- (3) Why does the New south Wales Government charge New South Wales caravan owners, who are most often retirees, more than any other Australian State to register a caravan?

Answer—

I am advised:

The annual cost of renewing the registration of a caravan in NSW ranges from \$136 for a lightweight caravan to \$363 for a large caravan.

The cost for an average sized caravan, weighing 1500 kilograms, is \$254.

The cost of caravan registration renewal is made up of the registration fee (currently \$49) and motor vehicle weight tax. The weight tax reflects the damage that vehicles cause to the road network. Caravans pay the same rate of weight tax as other vehicles.

Eligible pensioners are exempt from having to pay motor vehicle tax on one vehicle registration, including caravan registration. The exemption applies to both the registration fee and the weight tax.

*0418 OLD NORTHERN ROAD OVERTAKING LANES—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

Noting the growing levels of traffic, particularly sand mining trucks, will the Minister urgently provide overtaking lanes on Old Northern Road between Glenorie and Wiseman's Ferry?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and Baulkham Hills Shire Council are upgrading this section of Old Northern Road with Section 94 funds paid by the Maroota Sand Quarries. This program is due to be completed in December 2006. An overtaking lane is to be provided on Old Northern Road under the next Section 94 5-year program. Investigations are underway to identify the best location for the overtaking lane.

*0419 BELLS LINE OF ROAD—NORTH RICHMOND-BILPIN—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

Noting the dangerous state of Bells Line of Road will the Minister arrange to:

- (a) Trim/remove dead and overhanging trees?
- (b) Re-seal the road in the vicinity of Cut Rock, Kurrajong Heights?
- (c) Seal the road shoulders outstanding between North Richmond and Bilpin?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA aims to have the overgrowth on the Bells Line of Road removed by the end of July 2006, weather permitting.

Heavy road patching will be undertaken in 2006/07 in the region of Kurrajong Heights.

The RTA conducts a weekly inspection of the road between North Richmond and Bilpin. There are no proposals to seal the road shoulders there at this time.

- *0420 SCHOOL BUS ROAD SIGNS—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

When will school bus route signs be provided on Bells Line of Road between Kurrajong Heights and Berrambing?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has contacted the school bus service provider in relation to the provision of signage in the most appropriate locations for the school bus route.

- *0421 TANK SUBSIDY FOR RURAL AREAS—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Noting the continuing drought and the need to encourage individual property owners to increase the storage capacity of their tanks, will the water tank subsidy be extended to properties in Sydney that do not have access to a mains water supply?

Answer—

The purpose of the Rainwater Tank Rebate is to encourage customers connected to the mains water system to install rainwater tanks in order to reduce demand for potable water.

- *0422 PITT TOWN ROAD AND WINDSOR ROAD INTERSECTION—MCGRATHS HILL—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

When will the RTA examine the line marking setbacks at the intersection of Pitt Town Road and Windsor Road, McGraths Hill, to improve safety for turning traffic?

Answer—

I am advised:

An inspection of the site was undertaken by the RTA and arrangements have been made to reinstate a missing line marking in the right turn lane from Pitt Town Road into Windsor Road westbound.

- *0423 STANDARD LEP FORMATS—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What is the progress of the program to implement standard format and terminology for Council LEPs?

Answer—

The Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006 was gazetted on 31 March 2006. The Order prescribes a standard format, content and terminology for principal local environmental plans.

Draft principal LEPs are now required to be prepared in accordance with the standard instrument. Councils will have up to 5 years to prepare a new principal LEP for their area.

- *0424 TRAFFIC LIGHTS CORNER OLD NORTHERN AND HASTINGS ROADS CASTLE HILL—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

When will traffic lights be installed at the corner of Old Northern and Hastings Roads?

Answer—

I am advised:

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is developing concept design plans and preparing an estimate of cost for the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Old Northern and Hastings Roads.

*0425 WINDSOR POLICE STATION—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Police—

When will the existing Windsor Police Station be upgraded or a new police station be established at another location in the Hawkesbury?

Answer—

The Ministry for Police has advised me :

It is proposed to build a new multi-level police station to replace the current Windsor station. The preferred location is a site owned by NSW Police which is centrally located in Hawkesbury Local Area Command, with potential for a new Court House to be co-located on the site.

*0426 AGNES BANKS AND THREE TOWNS SEWERAGE SCHEME—Mr Steven Pringle asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

When will construction commence on the proposed sewerage schemes for:

- (a) Agnes Banks?
- (b) Freeman's Reach?
- (c) Glossodia?
- (d) Galston?
- (e) Wilberforce?

Answer—

Sydney Water's obligations in relation to the Priority Sewerage Program are contained in the 2005-2010 Operating Licence, available on Sydney Water's website.

*0427 WASTE TO LANDFILL—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

How many tonnes of commercial and industrial waste does the Government estimate will be sent to landfill from the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Area (including Wollongong, the Hunter and the Shoalhaven) in the following years:

- 2005/06?
- 2006/07?
- 2007/08?
- 2008/09?

Answer—

The most up to date figures available show that, in 2004-05, 2.47 million tones of commercial and industrial waste was sent to landfill in the Greater Sydney region.

The Government's waste strategy - which includes a range of regulatory tools, incentives for industry and educative programs - is delivering significant waste reduction achievements. It is expected that this trend will continue.

The key plan for managing the State's waste is the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy, which was released in 2003. The Strategy's areas for action include avoiding waste and increasing re-use and recycling.

*0428 MUNICIPAL WASTE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

How many tonnes of municipal waste does the Government estimate will be sent to landfill from the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Area (including Wollongong, the Hunter and the Shoalhaven) in the following years:

- 2005/06?
- 2006/07?
- 2007/08?
- 2008/09?
- 2009/10?

Answer—

Since 1995, the amount of municipal waste disposed of in the Sydney region has fallen by nearly 28 percent - from 430 kg/person/year to just over 300 kg/person/year now. Over the same period, recycling has increased by a massive 65 percent.

The Government's waste strategy - which includes a range of regulatory tools, incentives for industry and educative programs - is delivering significant waste reduction achievements. It is expected that this trend will continue.

The key plan for managing the State's waste is the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy, which was released in 2003. The Strategy's areas for action include avoiding waste and increasing re-use and recycling.

*0429 CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

How many tonnes of construction and industrial waste does the Government estimate will be sent to landfill from the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Area (including Wollongong, the Hunter and the Shoalhaven) in the following years:

2005/06?

2006/07?

2007/08?

2008/09?

2009/10?

Answer—

The most up to date figures available show that, in 2004-05, around 1.58 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste was disposed of to landfill in the Greater Sydney Region. Industrial waste is covered in my answer to another question.

The Government's waste strategy - which includes a range of regulatory tools, incentives for industry and educative programs - is delivering significant waste reduction achievements. It is expected that this trend will continue.

The key plan for managing the State's waste is the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy, which was released in 2003. The Strategy's areas for action include avoiding waste and increasing re-use and recycling.

*0430 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 115 the following entries occur:

Road Development Minor works - \$160,338,000

Infrastructure Maintenance Improvement Works - \$166,987,000

Road Safety, Licensing and Vehicle Management - \$27,832,000

Traffic and Transport - \$55,662,000

Maintenance and other works:

Road Network Infrastructure - \$752,680,000

Road Safety, Licensing and Vehicle Management - \$214,262,000

Traffic and Transport - \$2476,138,000

- (1) What amounts for each entry are allocated to the Upper Hunter electorate?
- (2) What are the specific projects by location, description of works and amount allocated in the Upper Hunter electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The following allocations have been made to Upper Hunter Electorate for 2006/07:

Major Asset Acquisition Program

- Road development major works - \$16,000,000

Minor Asset Acquisition Program

- Infrastructure maintenance improvement works - \$9,312,920

Maintenance and Other Works

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- Road network infrastructure - \$22,922,040
- Road safety, licensing and vehicle management - \$33,068
- Traffic and transport - \$796,430

(2) Planned projects in Upper Hunter (2006/07) - from Major Asset Acquisition Program, Minor Asset Acquisition Program and Maintenance and other works Program:

Road network development

- New England Highway, realignment at Halcombe Hill (\$15,000,000)
- Newell Highway, Wallumburrawang deviation (\$1,000,000)

Road network maintenance

- Castlereagh Highway Black Bull Hill pavement reconstruction (\$1,100,000)
- Gulgong Wellington Road Yamble Bridge widening (\$550,000)
- Other infrastructure maintenance (\$30,610,505)

Road safety

- Other road safety projects (\$33,068)

Traffic and Transport Projects

- Cycleway - Horseley St, Coonabarabran (\$40,000)
- Regional Road Block Grant, Traffic Facilities - Mid Western (\$88,000)
- Regional Road Block Grant, Traffic Facilities - Upper Hunter (\$57,000)
- Regional Road Block Grant, Traffic Facilities - Liverpool Plains (\$55,000)
- Regional Road Block Grant, Traffic Facilities Warrumbungle (\$47,840)
- Regional Road Block Grant, Traffic Facilities Muswellbrook (\$34,000)
- Regional Road Block Grant, Traffic Facilities Singleton (\$24,610)
- Regional Road Block Grant, Traffic Facilities Gunnedah (\$21,000)
- Regional Road Block Grant, Traffic Facilities Wellington (\$2,600)
- Other traffic management projects (\$426,380)

*0431 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

(1) With respect to Budget Paper No. 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at pages 74, 75 and 76 where the following entries appear:

Department of Commerce:

- Government Radio Network - various
- Information System Enhancements - various

Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care:

- Asset Rationalisation - various
- Group Homes for Children - various
- Group Homes for New Clients - various
- Modification of Group Homes (Safety and Compliance) - various
- Upgrade of Respite Centres - various:

What is the amount for each heading that will be allocated to the electorate of Oxley?

(2) With reference to Budget Paper No. 4 at page 76 where there is reference to a minor works program for the Home Care Service of New South Wales and Motor Accident Authority:

What are the amounts in the minor works program that will be allocated to the Oxley electorate under each heading?

Answer—

In relation to the Department of Commerce:

(1) The Government Radio Network currently service approximately one third of New South Wales. Currently the network does not cover the electorate of Oxley.

Expenditure on programs listed as information system enhancements various, on page 74 of Budget Paper No. 4 encompasses a variety of administrative, human resource, and information technology systems within the Department of Commerce.

Enhancement of these systems will improve efficiency and resource allocation within Commerce and assist the Department to meet its key objective of supporting the NSW Government in delivering a stronger NSW economy and more efficient and economical public services for the benefit of all residents of NSW.

In relation to the Department of Disability, Ageing and Home Care:

With respect to Budget Paper No. 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at pages 74, 75 and 76 where the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care appears, I present the following information:

1. Asset Rationalisation Program Modifications to a recently purchased property in Kempsey in the region of \$250,000.
2. Upgrade of a group home at Wauchope in the region of \$100,000.

There are no funds allocated for the other purposes to the electorate of Oxley.

(2) With reference to Budget Paper No. 4 at page 76 where there is reference to a minor works program for the Home Care Service of New South Wales, there are no funds allocated to the electorate of Oxley.

In relation to the Motor Accident Authority:

(2) The funding of \$195,000 referred to on page 76 of Budget Paper No. 4 refers to the MAA Minor Works Program which is for the upgrade of computer hardware within the Motor Accidents Authority, there are no funds allocated to Oxley (or any other) electorate.

*0432 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) With respect to Budget Paper No. 4 of 2006-2007 State Budget where at page 77 the following entry appears:

Caseworker Accommodation - various:

What is the amount that will be allocated to the Oxley electorate under this entry?

(2) With reference to the following entry which appears on the same page:

The following agencies have a minor works program only:

Office for Children and NSWBusinesslink:

How much is allocated under the minor works program mentioned above to the electorate of Oxley?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Community Services (DoCS) office accommodation refurbishment program is an ongoing project to expand and refurbish all DoCS front line Community Services Centre outlets over a five year period. This is to meet the accommodation needs of additional caseworkers and support staff provided under the Government's \$1.2 billion reform program for DoCS. In 2007/08, this program includes the upgrade of the Community Services Centre in Kempsey at a planned cost of \$1.25 million.

(2) Nil.

*0433 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

In Budget Papers No. 4 of the 2006/2007 State Budget at page 67, the following entries appear:

Establish Newly Acquired Parks - various
Infrastructure Improvements in National Parks - various
Land Acquisition - Open Spaces - various
Land Purchases - Funded by Grants and Donations - various
Pest, Weed and Animal Control - various

What is the amount for each heading that will be allocated to the electorate of Oxley?

Answer—

Much of the Oxley electorate is contained within the Department's Mid North Coast Region. The 2006/07 budget for the Mid North Coast Region is approximately \$1.5 million. Key items include:

Feral animal and weed control	\$183,000
Maintenance of roads, fire trails, walking tracks and park facilities	more than \$740,000
New amenity block for an Aboriginal Cultural Camp in Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve	\$10,000

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

The Department's budget for land purchases is allocated according to conservation priorities, rather than on a regional basis.

*0434 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Police—

In Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at pages 107 and 108 the following entries appear:

Page 107:

Alcohol Related Crime Information Exchange - various
Automated Demand Based Rostering System - various
Marine Fleet Replacement - various

Page 108:

Police Motor Vehicle Fleet Enhancements - various
Portable Electronic Fingerprinting Devices - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

Expenditure for the projects and systems listed in the Honourable Member's question is allocated and managed on a statewide basis, not by Electorate or by Local Area Command.

*0435 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 105 the following entry appears:

General Land Acquisition (5-year rolling program) - various

What is the amount allocated under this entry to the electorate of Oxley?

Answer—

Land acquisitions within this allocation are for purposes including the provision of public open space, roads and foreshore areas.

Specific acquisitions are determined according to these priorities, and not by electorate.

*0436 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 142 the following entries appear:

Fish Passage Works - various
Maintenance at Dams - various
River Structures - various
Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Systems - various
Total Asset Management Plan - various
Water Quality Projects - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

Answer—

I am advised by State Water that it does not manage or operate any structures or programs in the Oxley electorate.

*0437 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 140 the following entries appear:

Rail Infrastructure Corporation
New Works
Bridge Renewals - various
Work-in-Progress
Signalling and Train Control Systems - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

Answer—

I am advised:

The only active rail lines in the Oxley electorate are leased and maintained by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC). Therefore, the figures referred to in Budget Paper No. 4 for 2006/2007 do not include expenditure on rail lines within this electorate.

*0438 BUDGET ALLOCATION—MYALL LAKES AND COFFS HARBOUR—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

(1) In the Budget paper No 4 of the 2006/07 State Budget at page 130 and 131 the following entries appear:

Page 130

New Works

Administrative Assets - Information Technology Projects - various
Community Housing - various
Community Housing Asset Improvement - various
Crisis Accommodation- various
Crisis Accommodation Asset Improvement - various
Office Accommodation and Administrative Assets - various

Page 131

New Works

Public Housing - various
Public Housing Asset Improvement - various

Page 131

Work in Progress

Community Housing - various
Public Housing - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour electorate?

(2) In the Budget paper No 4 of the 2006/07 State Budget at page 97 the following entries appear:

New Works - Additional Housing - various
Work in Progress - Additional Housing - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour Electorate?

Answer—

(1) A complete break down of the budget items listed in Budget Paper Number 4 has not been done for each electorate. In the 2006/2007 State Budget the amount allocated to public housing in the Myall Lakes electorate is \$9.039 million, and for the Coffs Harbour electorate an amount of \$4.331 million has been allocated to public housing.

(2) The Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) has not yet allocated its total budget by electorate. Many of the programs managed by the AHO also involve Commonwealth funding, and as such require the approval of the Commonwealth Government before they can proceed. Many of the 2006/2007 programs have yet to receive Commonwealth approval.

*0439 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—MYALL LAKES AND COFFS HARBOUR—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Education and Training—

In the budget paper No 4 of the 2006/07 State Budget at pages 78, 79, 81, 82, 83 and 85 the following entries appear:

Page 78

Information Technology - New Projects 06/07 - various

Page 79

School Halls Program 2006/07 - New Halls/Gymnasiums at Various Schools - various
State-wide Compliance and Upgrades 2006/07 - Various Schools - various
Behaviour Units - Accommodation at Various Schools 04/05 - various
Behaviour Units 05/06 Stage 2 - various
Behaviour Units 05/06 Specialist Facilities - various

Page 81

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Information and Communication Technology Projects 03/04 - various
Information and Communication Technology Projects 04/05 - various
Information and Communication Technology Projects 05/06 - various

Page 82

State-wide Demountable Replacement Program 04/05 - various
State-wide Upgrade and Compliance Program 05/06 - various

Page 83

State-wide Compliance Projects - Various Colleges - various

Page 85

TAFE Online Project Stage 2 - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate and separately to the Coffs Harbour Electorate?

Answer—

The 2006-07 State Budget provides for a record \$10.7 billion investment in education and training an increase of \$518 million.

As a result of this unprecedented investment in NSW public education, public schools in Coffs Harbour electorate will receive an estimated \$90.5 million and public schools in the Myall Lakes electorate will receive an estimated \$90.9 million in recurrent funding over the coming financial year.

Since 1995 the current NSW Government has boosted annual funding to the local Coffs Harbour electorate public schools by approximately 75% and to the local Myall Lakes electorate public schools by approximately 90%.

In addition to this record recurrent funding for schools, the 2006-07 education and training budget will also fund the following local capital works projects:

New projects - Coffs Harbour Electorate

- A major works project for new Automotive, Health and Sport and Recreation facilities at the Coffs Harbour Education Centre; and
- Kororo Public School will receive a toilet upgrade.

Continuing Projects - Myall Lakes Electorate

- Bulahdelah Central School: works will continue to complete the stage one facilities upgrade project at an estimated total cost of \$4.9 million. Work will also commence in 2006-07 on the stage two upgrade project at the school.

Statewide Budget highlights include: over \$485 million to build and enhance school facilities for 2006-07 - part of a \$1.4 billion schools improvement package over four years; more than \$87 million in TAFE capital works in 2006-07; and over \$255 million on maintenance across schools and TAFE in 2006-07, including an additional \$30 million for school maintenance.

The formulation of a number of 2006-07 Infrastructure Programs, including the Information Technology and Minor Miscellaneous Works Program, are being finalised and advice on projects included in these programs is scheduled to be available during Term 3 this year.

*0440 NSW AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER—Mr John Turner asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Will the position of NSW Audience Development Officer cease at the end of July 2006?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) If so, will there be another similar position created?
- (4) If so, what will that position be? If a similar position will not be created, why not?
- (5) Did the Audience Development Officer conduct skill development workshops in regional areas?
- (6) If so, what provision will be made for such activities after July 2006?
- (7) If provision is to be made to conduct such activities after July 2006, who will conduct such activities?
- (8) How will such activities be financed?
- (9) If it is not proposed to undertake such activities after July 2006, why won't they be undertaken?

Answer—

The NSW Audience Development Officer position is funded by the Australia Council which is a Commonwealth Government agency.

The Member for Myall Lakes should refer this matter to the Australia Council as the Commonwealth agency responsible for funding the position.

*0441 ORANGE BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) When will the new Orange Base Hospital planned to be established on a site alongside Bloomfield Hospital be commenced?
- (2) When will the new Orange Base Hospital be completed and ready for occupation?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

- (1) Approval has been given to progress this project using a Public Private Partnership funding model. Commencement of the development is subject to the awarding of a contract.
- (2) The State Infrastructure Strategy forecasts completion of the project by 2010/11.

9 JUNE 2006

(Paper No. 8)

*0442 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) With respect to Budget Paper No. 4 of the 2006-07 Budget at pages 74, 75 and 76 where the following entries appear:

Department of Commerce

Government Radio Network - Various
Information System Enhancements - Various

Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

Asset Rationalisation - Various
Group Homes for Children - Various
Group Home for New Clients - Various
Modification of Group Homes (Safety and Compliance) - Various
Upgrade of Respite Centres - Various

What is the amount for each heading that will be allocated to the electorate of Coffs Harbour?

- (2) With reference to Budget Paper No. 4 at page 76, where there is a reference to a minor works program for the Home Care Service of New South Wales and the Motor Accident Authority, what are the amounts in the minor works program that will be allocated to the electorate of Coffs Harbour under each heading?

Answer—

(1)

In relation to the Department of Commerce:

The Government Radio Network currently service approximately one third of New South Wales. Currently the network does not cover the electorate of Coffs Harbour.

Expenditure on programs listed as information system enhancements various, on page 74 of Budget Paper No. 4 encompasses a variety of administrative, human resource, and information technology systems within the Department of Commerce.

Enhancement of these systems will improve efficiency and resource allocation within Commerce and assist the Department to meet its key objective of supporting the NSW Government in delivering a stronger NSW economy and more efficient and economical public services for the benefit of all residents of NSW.

With respect to Budget Paper No. 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at pages 74, 75 and 76 where the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care appears, I present the following information:

Asset Rationalisation - modifications to a recently purchased group home in Bonville in the region of \$230,000.

There are no funds allocated for other purposes to the electorate of Coffs Harbour.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

(2)

With reference to Budget Paper No. 4 at page 76 where there is reference to a minor works program for the Home Care Service of New South Wales:

There are no funds allocated to the electorate of Coffs Harbour.

In relation to the Motor Accident Authority:

The funding of \$195,000 referred to on page 76 of Budget Paper No. 4 refers to the MAA Minor Works Program which is for the upgrade of computer hardware within the Motor Accidents Authority, there are no funds allocated to Coffs Harbour (or any other) electorate.

*0443 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) With respect to Budget Paper No. 4 of 2006-2007 State Budget where at page 77 the following entry appears:

Caseworker Accommodation - various

What is the amount that will be allocated to the Coffs Harbour electorate under this entry?

(2) With reference to the following entry which appears on the same page:

The following agencies have a minor works program only:

Office for Children and NSWBusinesslink

How much is allocated under the minor works program mentioned above to the electorate of Coffs Harbour?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Community Services' (DoCS) office accommodation refurbishment program is an ongoing project to expand and refurbish all DoCS front line Community Services Centre outlets over a five year period. This is to meet the accommodation needs of additional caseworkers and support staff provided under the Government's \$1.2 billion reform program for DoCS. DoCS outlets in Coffs Harbour were expanded and completely upgraded under this program in 2004/05 and 2005/06 at a cost of over \$1.4 million, requiring no further investment for this purpose in 2006/07.

(2) Nil.

*0444 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

In Budget Papers No. 4 of the 2006/2007 State Budget at page 67, the following entries appear:

Establish Newly Acquired Parks - various

Infrastructure Improvement in National Parks - various

Land Acquisition - Open Spaces - various

Land Purchases - Funded by Grants and Donations - various

Pest, Weed and Animal Control - various

What is the amount for each heading that will be allocated to the electorate of Coffs Harbour?

Answer—

Much of the Coffs Harbour electorate is contained within the Department's North Coast Region. The 2006/07 operating budget for the North Coast Region is approximately \$2.3 million. Key items include:

Feral animal and weed control	More than \$382,000
Maintenance of roads and fire trails	\$264,000

The 2006/07 budget for the Department's North Coast Region also includes more than \$230,000 in funding for a range of major infrastructure projects within national parks. These generally relate to the provision of roads, parking, signage, toilets, shelters and other visitor facilities.

The Department's budget for land purchases is allocated according to conservation priorities, rather than on a regional basis.

*0445 WAITARA STATION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

In relation to the problems of hundreds of school children exiting and entering Waitara Station, when will your office address these problems?

Answer—

I am advised:

Under the conditions of the School Student Transport Scheme subsidised travel may only be granted to eligible students for travel between the transport pickup point nearest to their home and the drop off point nearest to their school.

Barker College is located between Waitara and Hornsby Stations, being slightly closer in walking distance to Waitara Station. As a result rail passes issued to Barker College students were approved to/from Waitara Station.

Barker College requested that students be given the option of either Waitara or Hornsby Station as the closest transport point to the school.

The Ministry of Transport investigated the school's request and given the minimal difference in distance between the two stations and the school's concern regarding pedestrian facilities between the school and Waitara Station, approval was granted for students to travel to either Waitara or Hornsby Stations.

Barker College will determine which students will have their passes altered to Hornsby Station. It is anticipated that replacement passes will be issued to the relevant students by the commencement of School Term 3.

It is expected the new arrangements will alleviate the congestion at Waitara Station.

*0446 RTA LAND LEASE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) Why has there been no response since October 2005 to Lara Tattersall's representation regarding her request to lease RTA land?
- (2) When will a response be expected?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 1 June 2006 the Parliamentary Secretary for Roads wrote to Mrs Hopwood, on my behalf.

I am advised the subject property is not available for lease. The RTA has been negotiating with the local Council for its use as a bushfire control centre. In the interim, the RTA and its contractor are using the site as a temporary works and storage compound for the F3 widening project.

*0447 PREMIER'S BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Citizenship—

With respect to the Premier's Business Roundtable, as outlined in the Government's February Economic and Financial Statement:

- (1) Who has been invited to this group and what are their areas of business expertise?
- (2) How are interests of small businesses represented at the Roundtable?
- (3) Has the Premier met with this group and if so, what has been discussed?
- (4) Considering the "in camera" nature of these discussions, how will the Parliament, other business groups, and the community be able to understand and assess the merit of the Roundtable?
- (5) Will the Business Roundtable negotiate any contracts or business deals with the Government?
- (6) Will any contracts negotiated as part of this Business Roundtable fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of State and Regional Development?
- (7) Will the Premier disclose the relevant information from any contracts negotiated between the Premier and the Roundtable to the public as per the NSW Premier's Department memo (M2000-11) 'Disclosure on Information on Government Contracts with the Private Sector'?

Answer—

(1) Details of the membership and their positions are below. Each of the members has a broad range of experience in managing companies at the highest levels. As a group, they represent a cross section of industry sectors.

Mr Kirby Adams	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer	Bluescope Steel Limited
Mr David Baffsky	Chairman	Accor Asia Pacific
Mr John Casella	Managing Director	Casella Wines Pty Ltd
Mr Geoff Dixon	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer	Qantas Airways Limited

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

Dr Eileen Doyle	Chairman	Port Waratah Coal Services
Mr David Gonski AO	Chairman	Coca-Cola Amatil Limited
Ms Cathy Harris PSM	Executive Director	Harris Farm Markets Pty Ltd
Mr Peter Joseph OAM	Chairman	GPT Group
Mrs Gail Kelly	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer	St George Bank Limited
Mr Steven Lowy	Group Managing Director	Westfield Group
Dr Ken Moss	Chairman	Boral Limited
Mr Ralph Norris	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer	Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Ms Lynn Scott	Managing Director	Creative by Design
Ms Lynn Scott	Chair	Small Business Development Corp of NSW
Mr Tony Shepherd	Chairman	Transfield Services Limited

(2) Ms Lynn Scott, Chair of the Small Business Development Corporation of NSW is a member of the Roundtable.

(3) The Premier has met with the Roundtable on two occasions, 3 April and 13 June 2006. The discussions focussed on issues relevant to the State economy from a business perspective.

(4) The Roundtable is a forum for discussion. The Government will take the views of participants into consideration, as it does with all other parts of the community, as one input to the formulation of policy and new initiatives.

(5) No.

(6) Not applicable.

(7) Not applicable.

*0448 NSW HEALTHY AGEING FRAMEWORK—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

Given that the NSW Healthy Ageing Framework (1998-2003) has expired:

(1) What evaluation has the NSW Government carried out of the Strategy's outcomes and success, including older people's experience of ageing and quality of life?

(2) How well did this Strategy meet the aims identified by the Government within the key action areas of:

- Attitudes to ageing and older people;
- Participation in community life;
- Making your own decisions;
- Supportive neighbourhoods and communities;
- Health, accommodation, care and support; and
- Making the best use of resources?

(3) When will the Government develop a new Strategy on positive ageing?

(4) How will older people be involved in developing a new Strategy?

(5) How will the Government ensure that positive healthy ageing is a central aim of any new Strategy?

(6) What action has the NSW Government taken to lobby the Commonwealth Government for a stronger focus on healthy and positive ageing?

(7) What action has the Government taken to ensure that early intervention, health promotion, and community building activities for older people will be achieved in all NSW Government programs?

Answer—

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care has regularly monitored the implementation of the Healthy Ageing Framework. The Department reviewed the framework during 2004, with detailed feedback being provided by all agencies in identifying the achievements for older people across the key action areas of the framework.

A Forum on Ageing was convened by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care in September 2004, to discuss how to enhance the role of older people in the community and to inform Government on issues relating to the ageing of our population.

In the lead up to the Forum, community consultations were held in three locations and 280 submissions were received in response to the Government's call for public submissions on issues of importance in meeting the needs of older people in NSW. The outcomes from these consultations are informing future directions in ageing policy and programs.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing provides information and advice to the Government based on the knowledge and experience of Committee members and the consultations conducted by the Committee over a number of years. This information and advice also informs ageing policy, programs and services in NSW.

The Office for Ageing in the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care has worked closely with Government Departments in setting directions and priorities to respond to the needs and interests of older people and the ageing of the population. NSW Government agencies are maintaining a commitment to responding to the needs of older people and continuing to implement strategies commenced under the Healthy Ageing Framework.

A new document setting out this information and the lessons learned from the Healthy Ageing Framework, entitled 'Action on Ageing' has been prepared. It is expected that this document and supporting evidence will be incorporated into consultations surrounding the Government's recently announced 10 year Plan.

The Government's 2006-07 Budget Papers addressed the challenges for NSW of the ageing of the population and the long-term impact of demographic change on State Government Services. Budget Paper No. 6 specifically projected the long-term fiscal position of NSW over a 40 year horizon.

The NSW Government is a party to the February 2006 Council of Australian Government's agreement to a National Reform Agenda, which recognises that steps need to be taken to offset the likely economic and financial burden of an ageing population.

*0449 POSITIVE AGEING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

Given that the number of NSW residents over 65 is expected to double by 2044, and this will place major pressure on health and welfare costs:

- (1) What initiatives has the Government taken to reduce the pressure of population ageing on Government health and welfare services?
- (2) What funds does the NSW Government provide for prevention and early intervention services that engage older people in community participation, education and learning, and health promotion like gentle exercise?
- (3) What proportion of these funds is allocated for programs targeting women?
- (4) How does this level of funds compare with NSW Government funds provided for programs such as Home and Community Care (HACC), that support older people who are already ill, frail, isolated or unable to live independently?
- (5) What organisations and services for healthy older people are funded through these NSW Government programs in:
 - Education and Training;
 - Health; and
 - Community Services?
- (6) What action has the Government taken to increase resources for early intervention, health promotion, and community building activities for older people?

Answer—

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care has regularly monitored the implementation of the Healthy Ageing Framework. The Department reviewed the framework during 2004, with detailed feedback being provided by all agencies in identifying the achievements for older people across the key action areas of the framework.

A Forum on Ageing was convened by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care in September 2004, to discuss how to enhance the role of older people in the community and to inform Government on issues relating to the ageing of our population.

In the lead up to the Forum, community consultations were held in three locations and 280 submissions were received in response to the Government's call for public submissions on issues of importance in

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

meeting the needs of older people in NSW. The outcomes from these consultations are informing future directions in ageing policy and programs.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing provides information and advice to the Government based on the knowledge and experience of Committee members and the consultations conducted by the Committee over a number of years. This information and advice also informs ageing policy, programs and services in NSW.

The Office for Ageing in the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care has worked closely with Government Departments in setting directions and priorities to respond to the needs and interests of older people and the ageing of the population. NSW Government agencies are maintaining a commitment to responding to the needs of older people and continuing to implement strategies commenced under the Healthy Ageing Framework.

A new document setting out this information and the lessons learned from the Healthy Ageing Framework, entitled 'Action on Ageing' has been prepared. It is expected that this document and supporting evidence will be incorporated into consultations surrounding the Government's recently announced 10 year Plan.

The Government's 2006-07 Budget Papers addressed the challenges for NSW of the ageing of the population and the long-term impact of demographic change on State Government Services. Budget Paper No. 6 specifically projected the long-term fiscal position of NSW over a 40 year horizon.

The NSW Government is a party to the February 2006 Council of Australian Government's agreement to a National Reform Agenda, which recognises that steps need to be taken to offset the likely economic and financial burden of an ageing population.

*0450 HEROIN TREATMENT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

With respect to the research study "Incidence of heroin use in Zurich, Switzerland: a treatment case register analysis" published in The Lancet Vol 367 of 3 June:

- (1) Does research show that the number of new heroin injectors dropped from over 800 a year in the early 1990s to 80 a year a decade later?
- (2) Does research show that medicalisation of heroin use appears to result in it becoming less attractive for young people, defining heroin as a "loser drug"?
- (3) Does the study show that the prevalence of heroin dependence dropped after the Swiss Government put increased emphasis on treatment and harm reduction strategies?
- (4) How will the NSW Government use this research to identify successful strategies to tackle drug dependence?
- (5) Does this study provide a model for assessing the success of varying drug treatment programs in NSW?
- (6) Will the Government carry out local research based on this model?
- (7) What action will the NSW Government take in response to this new evidence?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has provided me with the following advice from NSW Health:

(1) to (3) I refer the Member to the publication.

(4) to (7) The NSW Government takes an evidence based approach to drug policy and treatment approaches - an approach driven by the findings and recommendations of the 1999 NSW Drug Summit which drew on the expertise and experience of broad range of community representatives, researchers, parliamentarians, parents, Police and other experts.

Building on this evidence base a coordinated drug strategy has been implemented across the areas of prevention, education, treatment and law enforcement. This continues to be informed by evaluation, monitoring and research. Independent advice is also provided by the Government's Expert Advisory Group on Drugs and Alcohol.

This approach - designed to deal with the particular issues and needs of NSW - is having an impact in reducing heroin availability and use as well as the harm caused by this dangerous drug:

- An increase in treatment - as at 31 May 2006, there are 16,269 patients on the Opioid Treatment Program.

- A significant drop in the number of heroin dependent individuals since the Drug Summit. In 2004, the National Drug and Alcohol Research centre (NDARC) reported that the number of regular heroin users in New South Wales had dropped by about 58% from 48,200 in 1999 to 19,900 in 2002.
- Opiate overdose deaths decreased from 481 in 1999 to 117 in 2005, a 66% reduction since 1999.
- Ambulance call outs to suspected opiate overdoses decreased from 3,694 in 2000 to 1413 in 2005 - a 62% fall since 2000
- Emergency department opiate presentations decreased from 1,854 in 2000 to about 291 in 2005 an 84% fall since 2000.
- The number of needles and syringes distributed decreased 28% from about 12.6 million in 2000 to about 8.6 million in 2006 - a 32% fall since 2000.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey has also reported that the use of heroin in New South Wales is down from 0.2% in 2001 to 0.1% in 2004. This continues the drop in heroin use since 1998 when it was 0.6%.

Further, the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has reported a fall in property crime often associated with drugs such as heroin. Between April 2004 to March 2006:

- break and enter dwellings went down by 8%;
- motor vehicle theft was down by 9%;
- steal from a motor vehicle was down by 7%;
- steal from a retail store dwelling was down by 2%.

Care is required to be taken in the interpretation of the Swiss study's findings given they may relate to policies and programs that are not necessarily consistent with those of the NSW Government or relevant or appropriate for NSW. Studies such as this are routinely considered by NSW Health and expert bodies relied upon for advice.

*0451 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

(1) In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 103 and 104 the following entries appear:

Department of Natural Resources:

Page 103 -

Work-in-Progress

Acquisition of Spatial Data - various

Flood Warning Program - various

Gauging Stations for Unregulated Rivers - various

IT Equipment Replacement - various

Planning and Natural Resources Information Integration Equipment - various

Replacement of Core Server Infrastructure - various

Water Information System - various

Water Management Monitoring and Information System - various

Department of Primary Industries:

Page 103 -

New Works

Capital Funding for New Marine Parks - various

Information and Communication Technology Rationalisation and Replacement - various

Page 104 -

New Works

Marine Parks Capital Replacement - various

Redevelop Fisheries Compliance Facilities - various

Work-in-Progress

Marine Craft Replacement - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

(2) At page 104 of the same Budget Paper there is a reference to a Minor Works Program for the Rural Assistance Authority and for the Catchment Management Authority.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

What is/are the amounts in the Minor Works Program for each authority that will be allocated to the electorate of Oxley?

(3) In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 132 the following entries appear:

Page 132 -

- Plantation Establishment - Hardwood Growing Stock - various
- Plantation Establishment - Softwoods (Roads) - various
- Plantation Establishment - Softwoods Growing Stock - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

Answer—

NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Natural Resources do not allocate expenditure based on electorate. Departmental expenditure is determined through a rigorous budgetary process that aligns expenditure to Departmental needs and stakeholder requirements.

*0452 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—

(1) In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 115 the following entries occur:

- Road Development Minor works - \$160,338,000
- Infrastructure Maintenance Improvement Works - \$166,987,000
- Road Safety, Licensing and Vehicle Management - \$27,832,000
- Traffic and Transport - \$55,662,000

Maintenance and other works:

- Road Network Infrastructure - \$752,680,000
- Road Safety, Licensing and Vehicle Management - \$214,262,000
- Traffic and Transport - \$247,138,000

What amounts for each entry will be allocated to the electorate of Oxley?

(2) In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2006-2007 State Budget at page 111 the following entry appears:

- Pacific Highway Accelerated Projects - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

Answer—

I am advised:

The following budget allocations have been made to the Oxley electorate for 2006/07:

Minor Asset Acquisition Program

- Infrastructure maintenance improvement works - \$ 3,953,820
- Road safety, licensing and vehicle management - \$673,500
- Traffic and transport - \$33,000

Maintenance and Other Works

- Road network infrastructure - \$19,426,770
- Road safety, licensing and vehicle management - \$161,873
- Traffic and transport - \$746,730

Pacific Highway Accelerated Projects:

Details of Pacific Highway Accelerated Projects are in the public arena and have been reported in various publications including the Port Macquarie News on 30 June 2006.

*0453 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

(1) In the Budget paper No 4 of the 2006/07 State Budget at page 100 and 101 the following entries appear:

NSW Fire Brigades:

Page 100

Work-in-Progress

Replacement of Fire Pumper Appliances - various
Replacement of Special Appliances - various
Station Communications - various

State Emergency Services:

Page 100

New Works

Motorised Hydraulic Cutters - various
Rescue Equipment - various

Page 100

Work-in-Progress

Communication Equipment - various
Paging Equipment - various

Department of Lands:

Page 101

Work-in-Progress

Building Refurbishments - various
Dams Remediation - various

Land and Property Information New South Wales:

Page 101

Work-in-Progress

Upgrade Electronic Data Processing Equipment - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

(2) At page 101 of the same Budget Paper there is a reference to a Minor Works Program for the Department of Rural Fire Service.

What is/are the amounts in the Minor Works Program that will be allocated to the electorate of Oxley?

Answer—

(1) There is a Class 2 fire pumper appliance scheduled for delivery to the Kempsey fire station in 2006/07. No other pumper appliance or specialist appliance is scheduled for delivery to the Oxley electorate in 2006/07. New appliances have been delivered to all other fire stations in the Oxley electorate over the last six years.

State Emergency Service Motorised hydraulic cutters:

This is the first year of a four year program to replace equipment in accredited land rescue units. The units that will receive the equipment in this financial year are yet to be finalised.

All other communication projects for the NSW Fire Brigades and the State Emergency Service are state-wide programs. It is not possible to attribute planned expenditure on an electorate basis.

No specific Budget allocations to the Oxley electorate from the Department of Lands.

(2) NSW Rural Fire Service minor works allocations are made to Councils on the basis of their bids on the Rural Fire Fighting Fund. The allocations for 2006/07 have yet to be approved.

29 AUGUST 2006

(Paper No. 9)

0454 PARKINSON'S DISEASE—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What resources are provided through the Health portfolio for research into the cure of Parkinson's Disease in New South Wales?
- (2) What resources are provided for Parkinson's specific support services for sufferers?
- (3) How many persons have been identified as suffering with Parkinson's Disease for each of the past five years?

0455 NSW POLICE MEDIA—DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION—Mr Paul Crittenden to ask the Minister for Police—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- Did any sworn police officer or civilian employed in the NSW Police Media at any stage, communicate with journalists or provide briefings, background or otherwise, that were later used in media coverage on either 3 April 2005, 4 April 2005 or 5 April 2005 in respect of the drink driving charge issued to the then Member for Macquarie Fields?
- 0456 NSW POLICE—DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION—Mr Paul Crittenden to ask the Minister for Police—
- Did any sworn police officer or civilian employed in the NSW Police at any stage, communicate with journalists or provide briefings, background or otherwise, that were later used in media coverage on either 3 April 2005, 4 April 2005 or 5 April 2005 in respect of the drink driving charge issued to the then Member for Macquarie Fields?
- 0457 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE ADVISORY COUNCIL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—
- (1) Has Dr Bob Byrne, the former chairman of the Greater Southern Area Health Service Advisory Council, who resigned in April 2006 citing as the reason for his resignation the slow pace of the rectification of the health service's financial problems, been replaced?
 - (2) If so, what is the name of his replacement?
 - (3) Has the Greater Southern Area Health Service addressed any of the problems that caused Mr Byrne's resignation?
 - (4) If so, what specific action has been taken?
- 0458 REGIONAL TOURISM PLANS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—
- (1) How many Regional Tourism Plans, which remain in date, have been produced?
 - (2) Was the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) required to produce these plans by Tourism NSW?
 - (3) What was the cost to each RTO of producing these plans?
 - (4) What additional financial assistance did Tourism NSW provide to these RTOs to produce these plans?
- 0459 HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- (1) Do the Federal/NSW Government Home and Community Care Amending Agreements preclude the provision of community transport services to residents of hostels, hospitals, nursing homes or other institutions that provide long term residential care for frail elderly people?
 - (2) What specific action would have to take place to change the HACC Amending Agreements?
 - (3) Why have you not yet responded to my letter 06J057 dated 17 May 2006 regarding the transport of frail elderly in the Boorowa area?
 - (4) When will you respond to my letter?
- 0460 ASQUITH GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- Given Asquith Girls High School was promised a new kitchen for students' education in 2002, when will funding be made available so that this work can be commenced?
- 0461 HORNSBY SCHOOL MAINTENANCE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- (1) What are the total dollar estimates provided by public schools in the Hornsby electorate for their maintenance requests?
 - (2) What is the total provision made in this year's budget for this matter?
- 0462 COMPUTER ROLL OUT—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- For each public school in the Hornsby electorate, what is the status of the computer roll out, specifically:
- (1) How many new computers is each school entitled to?
 - (2) What date are these computers scheduled to arrive?
 - (3) Which, if any, schools have delays in this roll out?

- (4) What is the reason, if any, for the delay in each case?
- 0463 BURRANEER BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
When will the Government honour its 2003 election promise to construct an assembly hall at Burraneer Bay Public School?
- 0464 RIGHT TURN ARROWS AT GANNONS ROAD CARINGBAH—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—
When will right turn arrows be installed to both sides of Gannons Road at its intersection with the Kingsway, Caringbah?
- 0465 PUBLIC DENTAL WAITING LIST—SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—
How many people in the Sutherland Shire are on the public dental waiting list?
- 0466 APPREHENDED VIOLENCE ORDERS—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Police—
- (1) How many Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) do the NSW police issue per annum?
 - (2) How many AVOs were issued by police in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005?
 - (3) How many AVOs were issued in the Southern Wagga Wagga command?
 - (4) How are police officers trained to determine if an AVO application is justified by the applicant?
 - (5) What process is followed when determining if the AVO applicant's claims are legitimate?
 - (6) Is there a consequence for applying for an AVO knowing the claims were fraudulent?
 - (7) Do police receive appropriate information to enhance skills in the area of AVOs?
 - (8) Do police hold education days?
 - (9) How many have been held in the region?
 - (10) On how many education days were AVOs and associated matters discussed?
 - (11) Does the education officer have a program to systematically educate officers about issuing AVOs?
 - (12) How many AVOs were issued for domestic violence in Wagga Wagga?
 - (13) How many were lodged by females/males?
 - (14) Have there been deficiencies identified in the system of issuing AVOs?
 - (15) Have there been legal matters implicating issuing officer's actions that have resulted in the courts?
- 0467 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—DIALYSIS MACHINES—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—
- (1) How many renal dialysis machines are located in hospitals that are administered by the Greater Southern Area Health Service?
 - (2) In which hospitals are the dialysis machines located?
 - (3) Are all machines operational?
 - (4) If machines are not operational, is it because of:
 - (a) breakdown;
 - (b) need of service;
 - (c) lack of staff to operate machine;
 - (d) no demand for renal dialysis;
 - (e) antiquated machinery?
 - (5) Do small hospitals conduct renal dialysis? If so, please name them?
 - (6) What is the restriction or difficulty in smaller hospitals offering renal dialysis to patients?
- 0468 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL ATTACHMENTS TO HUME HIGHWAY—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—
- (1) How many registrations from Aboriginal groups or Aboriginal people with cultural attachments to the following sections of the Hume Highway have been received by the RTA:
 - (a) Sturt Highway to North of Tarcutta;
 - (b) Kyeamba Hill;
 - (c) Little Billabong;

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (d) Yarra Yarra to North Holbrook;
(e) South to Woomargama Table Top?
- (2) Who has expressed an interest and to what sections of the highway?
- 0469 INNER CITY POLICE NUMBERS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Police—
- What are the authorised police staffing levels at these inner city Local Area Commands in 2003, 2004, 2005 and in 2006, how many officers are currently working at these Commands, and how many officers will be working at these Commands when new Probationary Constables graduate later this year:
- (1) Surry Hills?
(2) Kings Cross?
(3) Redfern?
(4) City Central?
(5) The Rocks?
(6) Newtown?
(7) Rose Bay?
(8) Leichhardt?
- 0470 SHOOTING ON PUBLIC LANDS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—
- With regard to reports that a family pet was shot dead in Double Duke State Forest by a hunter licensed by the NSW Game Council:
- (1) What investigation has the Government carried out into this incident and what is the outcome of any investigations?
(2) What other incidents have been reported where people or pets were at risk of being shot since the Government has licensed hunters to kill feral animals on public land?
(3) What fees do hunters pay to be allowed to hunt feral animals on public land in NSW?
(4) What controls does the Government have to ensure that visitors to public land are not at risk of being shot by hunters?
(5) Will the Government review this approach to feral animal control following this incident?
(6) Will the Government increase biological and other safe controls of feral animals following this incident?
(7) How many state forests declared for conservation hunting appear in Forests NSW's top 20 state forests visited by individuals?
(8) How will the Government ensure that only hunters with conservation hunting licences hunt in declared sites?
(9) How will the Government ensure that feral animals are not purposely released in State Forests declared for "conservation hunting", for the purpose of hunting?
- 0471 WORKCHOICES IMPACTS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- With respect to the impact of the Commonwealth Government's WorkChoices legislation:
- (1) Will the NSW Government establish a Workplace Advocate to inform employees about their rights under the new WorkChoices system, as has been set up by the Victorian Government?
(2) What action has the NSW Government taken to review complaints about WorkChoices, document the impact of WorkChoices on vulnerable employees, and identify how the NSW Government can inform and protect marginalised workers?
(3) What action has the NSW Government taken to lobby the Commonwealth Government to reinstate collective bargaining, baseline standards for awards, and protection from unfair dismissal?
- 0472 EPPING-CHATSWOOD RAIL LINK—COMPENSATION—Mr Barry O'Farrell to ask the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—
- (1) Did Lane Cove National Park specifically, or the National Parks and Wildlife Service generally, receive compensation from the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (TIDC) in connection to the construction of the Epping-Chatswood Rail Link through the Lane Cove National Park?
(2) If so, how much compensation was (a) allocated and (b) received?
(3) How much of these monies have been spent to date?

- (4) What projects have been funded?
 (5) How much has each project received?
 (6) How much is yet to be spent?
 (7) Of the unspent portion, (a) what projects have been identified for funding and (b) how much has been earmarked for these projects?
- 0473 HOME WARRANTY INSURANCE CERTIFICATES—Mr Barry O'Farrell to ask the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—
- (1) Has the Department of Fair Trading identified problems with home warranty insurance certificates supplied by Madison Constructions (NSW) Pty Ltd to purchasers of properties in a Turramurra development?
 (2) Has the department confirmed whether or not the certificates supplied to these purchasers were fraudulent?
 (3) Has the department undertaken a wider search in relation to other insurance certificates Madison Constructions (NSW) Pty Ltd supplied for other developments it was involved with around the same period?
 (4) If not, why not?
 (5) If so, how many other developments and/or property owners are affected by invalid home warranty insurance certificates?
 (6) What steps is the department taking to ensure invalid certificates are identified earlier to avoid problems faced by building owners who subsequently identify building defects?
- 0474 TRANSIT OFFICERS—Mr Barry O'Farrell to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—
- In relation to RailCorp:
- (1) What is the total expenditure on Transit Officers since 1 September 2002?
 (2) What is the current total cost of Transit Officer wages per month?
 (3) What was the cost of Transit Officer wages for each of the past four financial years?
 (4) What is the total current cost of Transit Officer uniforms and other equipment necessary for their duties per month?
 (5) What was the cost of Transit Officer uniforms and other equipment necessary for their duties for each of the past four financial years?
- 0475 M2 BUS LANES—Mr Steven Pringle to ask the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—
- Will the Minister examine increasing the utilisation of the bus lanes on the M2 to allow taxis and a "T3" system?
- 0476 WORKCOVER'S EDUCATIVE ROLE—Mr Steven Pringle to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- How does the Minister propose to enhance WorkCover's educative role in safety to assist businesses, machinery owners and manufacturers to reduce the risk of accidents and enhance business viability as well?
- 0477 THOMPSONS CORNER—WEST PENNANT HILLS—Mr Steven Pringle to ask the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Roads—
- Will the Minister examine a "tidal flow" system on Pennant Hills Road between the Thompsons Corner West Pennant Hills tunnel and the M2?
- 0478 GREEN CARD HOLDERS—CONVERSION APPLICATION—Mr George Souris to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- (1) Is the Minister aware that existing Green Card holders who have not lodged a conversion application by 31 March 2006 must undertake retraining with a WorkCover accredited trainer?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- (2) Did the appropriate WorkCover Authority notify the present holders of existing certificates at the postal address on database where the original certificates were forwarded, of the necessity to lodge a conversion application by 31 March 2006?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Is the Minister aware of the inconvenience and cost involved to undertake the course again?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that most local TAFE colleges do not provide the course and that applicants must travel to large centres such as Newcastle and Orange to undertake the course?
- (6) Is it intended to extend the date for existing Green Card holders to lodge a conversion application as was reconsidered by WorkCover with the Basics Certification?
- 0479 LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSIONER—Mr George Souris to ask the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—
- (1) When was the Legal Services Commissioner, Mr Steve Mark, appointed?
- (2) What is the term of the current Legal Services Commissioner?
- (3) Has the term been renewed since appointment?
- (4) What is the date of expiry of the current term of the Legal Services Commissioner?
- (5) Is the current term renewable or non-renewable?
- (6) Why did the Enquiries Line at the Commission give information that there is no expiry date for the current term of the Legal Services Commissioner?
- 0480 RESTRUCTURE OF DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES—Mr George Souris to ask the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—
- (1) How many employees did the Soil Conservation Service have in the Hunter as at March 1995?
- (2) How many employees does the Soil Conservation Service have in the Hunter at present?
- (3) Are the remaining employees of the Soil Conservation Service in the Hunter being offered redundancy?
- (4) Under which department is the Scone Research Field Study Centre now managed?
- (5) What is the department's vision for the future conduct of the Scone Research Field Study Centre?
- (6) Are the foreshores of Lake Glenbawn, Lake St Clair and other lakes as well, managed by a Department of Lands team?
- (7) What is the intended management plan for the Hunter Valley Dam foreshores after the proposed retrenchment of all foreshores management staff in the Hunter Valley?
- (8) Is the Minister confident that sound environmental and foreshores management practices will prevail after the withdrawal of all departmental staff?
- (9) How can the Minister justify the reduction of staff at both Scone Research Field Study Centre and Hunter Valley dam lakes foreshores management?
- 0481 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- (1) In the Budget paper No 4 of the 2006/07 State Budget at page 130 and 131 the following entries appear:
- Page 130
New Works:
Administrative Assets - Information Technology Projects - various
Community Housing - various
Community Housing Asset Improvement - various
Crisis Accommodation - various
Crisis Accommodation Asset Improvement - various
Office Accommodation and Administrative Assets - various
- Page 131
New Works:
Public Housing - various
Public Housing Asset Improvement - various
- Page 131
Work-in-Progress:
Community Housing - various
Public Housing - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

(2) In the Budget paper No 4 of the 2006/07 State Budget at page 97 the following entries appear:

New Works:

Additional Housing - various

Work-in-Progress:

Additional Housing - various.

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

0482 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Education and Training—

In Budget Paper No. 4 of the 2006-07 Budget at pages 78, 79, 81, 82, 83 and 85 the following entries appear:

Page 78

Information Technology - New Projects 06/07 - various

Page 79

School Halls Program 2006/07 - New Halls/Gymnasiums at Various Schools - various

State-wide Compliance and Upgrades 2006/07 Various Schools - various

Behaviour Units - Accommodation at Various Schools 04/05 - various

Behaviour Units 05/06 Stage 2 - various

Behaviour Units 05/06 Specialist Facilities - various

Page 81

Information and Communication Technology Projects 03/04 - various

Information and Communication Technology Projects 04/05 - various

Information and Communication Technology Projects 05/06 - various

Page 82

State-wide Demountable Replacement Program 04/05 - various

State-wide Upgrade and Compliance Program 05/06 - various

Page 83

State-wide Compliance Projects - Various Colleges - various

Page 85

TAFE Online Project Stage 2 - various.

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

0483 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Health—

In Budget Paper No. 4 of the 2006-07 Budget at pages 89, 90, 91, 92, 93 and 94 the following entries appear:

Page 89

Ambulance Rural Radio Network - various

Computer-Aided Dispatch System - various

E-Business and Internet Booking System - various

Medical Equipment and Maintenance - various

Integrated Medical Imaging - Planning - various

Page 90

Breast Screening - Minor Works - various

Breast Screening - New Facilities - various

Page 91

Information Management and Technology:

- Infrastructure Strategy - various
- Patient Administration System - various

Page 92

- Patient and Clinical Systems - various

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006

- Patient and Clinical Systems Phase 2 - various
- Point of Care Clinical Information System Pilot - various
- State Electronic Health Record - various

Page 93

Mental Health Stage 3A - various

Page 94

Rural Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory Strategy - various.

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the electorate of Oxley?

0484 YARRALUMBA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) Was the Yarralumba Shire Council Chambers located on Crown Land in Queanbeyan?
- (2) Did the State Government require Yarralumba Shire Council to vacate such chambers?
- (3) If so, why?
- (4) Did the State Government offer any compensation for the value of buildings and other improvements on the subject land?
- (5) If so, how much?
- (6) If so, how was the valuation determined?
- (7) If so, who determined the valuation?
- (8) In determining the valuation, was present day value applied?
- (9) If so, what was that value?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) What is the intention of the State Government for such land if so acquired?

0485 BUNGENDORE—NEW COUNCIL OFFICES AND CHAMBERS—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Local Government—

What is the total amount paid by the State Government to Palerang Council to assist the council to build new council offices and chambers at Bungendore? How are those monies broken down?