



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS  
AND  
ANSWERS**

No. 19

TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2007

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

Notice given on date shown

<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 16 (Including Question Nos 0179 to 0180)	30 October 2007
Q & A No. 17 (Including Question Nos 0181 to 0182)	31 October 2007
Q & A No. 18 (Including Question Nos 0183 to 0183)	01 November 2007
Q & A No. 19 (Including Question Nos 0184 to 0221)	20 November 2007

**25 SEPTEMBER 2007**

(Paper No. 16)

- 0179 POLICE—COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY—Mr Gallacher to ask the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce representing the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 0180 POLICE—STAB OR BALLISTIC RESISTANT VESTS—Mr Gallacher to ask the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce representing the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

**26 SEPTEMBER 2007**

(Paper No. 17)

- 0181 COMMERCE—TRAVEL BOOKING FEES—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 0182 PLANNING—RE-PACKAGING FACILITY FOR HCB—Mr Cohen to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

**27 SEPTEMBER 2007**

(Paper No. 18)

- 0183 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—SNOWY SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

**16 OCTOBER 2007**

(Paper No. 19)

- 0184 HOUSING—HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND SUBSIDIES—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) Will your Government prioritise policies that pay for-profit developers via subsidy (either in cash form or as a tax concession) to operate low-income housing, or instead direct subsidies to government and not-for-profit community-based providers to operate low-income housing?
  - (2) If your government reduces developer levies for greenfield sites, how will this result in lower house prices for first home-buyers? Why would for-profit developers pass on 100% of the savings to the buyer?
  - (3) How can you ensure, that these potentially less expensive homes will be bought by the target group, aspiring first home-owners, rather than investors?
- 0185 HOUSING—HOME OWNERSHIP—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) Given that aspiring first home buyers cannot afford the private market, which is increasingly dominated by older home owners and investors, what has LandCom done to make available affordable homes for purchase by younger households in a variety of areas?
  - (2)

- (a) In a media release on September 24 of this year you said that "At the last election John Howard promised to keep interest rates low, but they have gone up nine times in a row". Given that the Rudd Labor Government has said it will pursue a similar financial strategy as the current federal Coalition Government, and the Reserve Bank, rather than Government, sets interest rates, isn't this comment political point-scoring rather than addressing the real issue that real house prices have gone up to the equivalent of 7 times the average wage?
- (b) Is it the case that during the Keating Government when interest rates were around 17%, housing was cheaper in real terms relative to average wages?
- (3) Should Federal Labor restructure the tax treatment of housing to discourage speculation in housing as an investment vehicle to make money, rather than as a place to live?
- 0186 HOUSING—EXPANSION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING STOCK—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) The Department of Housing Budget Commentary for 2007-08 variously refers to 'affordable housing initiatives' (p. 22 and 23, budget allocation \$17.664 m) and the Affordable Housing Innovations Fund (p. 6, budget allocation of 'up to' \$14 million). Out of the Innovations Fund the Department of Housing has called a tender for further debt equity projects worth \$6 million. So to spend \$17.664 million in 2007-08 there needs to be some affordable housing initiatives that are not part of the Innovations Fund and some other draw down of the Innovations Fund in addition to the debt equity tender. What initiatives are grouped under the heading 'affordable housing initiatives' that total \$17.664 million in 2007-08?
- (2) Given the Department of Housing owns and manages around 129,000 units of housing worth billions of dollars, what is preventing the Department of Housing from expanding its own stock in a similar manner, apart from an aversion to government debt and over-reliance on private debt and off-budget financing?
- (3)
- (a) Will you be seeking Commonwealth funding for projects similar to City West which was partly funded by a Building Better Cities grant?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (4) In relation to the housing conference to be held in Sydney in 2008, you mentioned two international speakers, Professor Rachel Bratt, from Tufts University, and Professor David Mullins, from the University of Birmingham. Do you agree with the thesis of Bratt's book, *Rebuilding a Low Income Housing Policy*, that "the production, rehabilitation, management and/or ownership [of housing] by community-based organizations, with funding and technical assistance provided by a new type of public support system, not only would offer participants much-needed shelter, but also control over and security in their living environments"?
- (i) If so, how will this be implemented in NSW?
- (ii) If not, why not?
- 0187 HOUSING—CULTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) Many people working in the housing sector (and some in the private developer sector) speak of feeling disillusioned or exhausted by the lack of progress on affordable housing in NSW, and complain of the extremely bureaucratic series of obstacles that are retarding the growth of affordable housing in all its forms in NSW. Do you intend to create a new culture around housing in the Department, inside your government, and in NSW?
- (i) If so, how?
- (ii) If not, why not?
- (2) Are Department of Housing staff given enough freedom to develop new programs?
- (3) Why are new programs of the NSW Department of Housing being treated as 'pilot programs', when there is ample evidence that such programs operate successfully in other jurisdictions?
- (4) Does the Department of Housing have an excessive focus on managing public housing rather than a

holistic approach to housing policy?

0188 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—ABORIGINAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

(1)

- (a) Was a New South Wales Aboriginal Youth Advisory Council launched by the Previous Minister for Aboriginal Affairs?
- (b) If so, on what date was the council launched?

(2)

- (a) After the State Election, did the Minister disband the council?
- (b) If so, what were the reasons for disbanding the council?

(3)

- (a) Did the Minister or his department consult each member of the council prior to disbanding it?
- (b) If not, why not?

(4) Will the Minister, out of courtesy, meet with all members of the council to listen to any concerns regarding the disbandment of the council?

(5) What mechanisms does the Minister currently have within his department to advise him on Aboriginal youth matters?

0189 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—SECTION 740 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS INTO WARRINGAH COUNCIL—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

I thank the Minister for his specific answers to the Liverpool section 740 inquiry recommendations however note that specific answers to Professor Daley's recommendations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 12 of section 740 report into Warringah Council were not provided.

Can the Minister please provide the Government's specific reponse to Professor Maurice Daley's recommendations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 12 in his report on Warringah Council?

0190 PLANNING—COMPREHENSIVE COASTAL ASSESSMENT—Mr Cohen to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

(1) What value is the taxpayer getting, in terms of the Department of Planning's processes, for the \$8.5 million that was committed to the Comprehensive Coastal Assessment?

(2) How has the Comprehensive Coastal Assessment helped to shape the regional strategy process?

(3) How has the Comprehensive Coastal Assessment helped the revision of the Local Environment Plan (LEP) process?

(4)

- (a) Is the Comprehensive Coastal Assessment assisting and informing the planning review process?
- (b) If so, how?

0191 FAIR TRADING—HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

(1) The average weekly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Sydney's inner suburbs rose by \$20 to \$430 during the June quarter - a new record - while the average rent for the Sydney metropolitan area increased by \$10 to \$330. The 2006 Census data that showed that over half a million households or one in three Australian households that rent are now losing more than 30 per cent of their income in

rent payments. Why has the subject of rent levels and increases been completely left out of the latest Office of Fair Trading discussion paper, 'Residential Tenancy Law Reform A New Direction'?

- (2) Have the rental provisions in the Residential Tenancies Act been put in the 'too hard' basket?
- (3)
  - (a) Given the rental crisis shows no signs of abating and indeed it is predicted that the private rental market will tighten further causing upward pressure on rents, is the current legislation adequate, particularly sections 45, 47 and 48 of the Residential Tenancies Act which deal with rent increases?
  - (b) If not, will those sections be amended?
- (4) Given the lack of social and affordable housing in New South Wales, have you discussed with the Minister of Housing and Premier an integrated housing strategy for New South Wales?
  - (a) If not, why not?
  - (b) If so, how has this impacted on the current review of the Residential Tenancies Act?
- (5) The Minister was quoted as saying that an "increase in the supply of rental accommodation would hopefully be one of the outcomes but that was not the main purpose" of the review. How will that outcome be achieved without active government intervention in other spheres, such as Federal tax treatment of housing and state requirements in planning laws for affordable housing quotas in new developments?
- (6) You were quoted as saying that "The review process began in 2005, before the current affordability crisis set in". Is the review now taking into account the affordability crisis?
  - (a) If so, in what way?
  - (b) If not, why not?
  - (c) Will the issue of rent increases and sections of the Act that deal with rent increases be addressed?
- (7) Will the issue of boarders and lodgers be addressed within this review?
  - (a) If not, why not?
- (8) Given mortgage defaults have increased resulting in tenants being evicted with little or no notice, is this being treated with some urgency?
  - (a) If not, why not?
  - (b) Will the government's proposed amendments dealing with mortgage default be expedited?
    - (i) If not, why not?
- (9) If the amendments relating to mortgage defaults and evictions are delayed until 2008, based on trends from 2007, how many tenants will be evicted with little or no notice, between now and the proclamation of the legislation?

0192 CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER—MERGER OF CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Following the merger of the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Management Trust with the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, can the Minister assure Holroyd, Parramatta and Blacktown City councils and Baulkham Hills Shire Council that essential asset related services previously provided by the Trust will continue to be provided by the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority?
- (2) Can the Minister assure the four councils that the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority will be adequately resourced by Treasury to fund these critical asset related services?
- (3) Can the Minister provide the assurance that, unlike his predecessor and the Premier who have not responded to previous letters, he will have the courtesy to respond to the letter dated 14 August 2007 from the then mayors of the four councils?

0193 FAIR TRADING—RESIDENTIAL PARKS FORUM—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

Why did the Minister chose not to host or attend the residential parks forum that was held on September 27 in the Parliamentary Theatre?

0194 HOUSING—SOCIAL HOUSING DWELLINGS—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

(1)

(a) How many new social housing dwellings have been constructed or created, through government purchase, in each local government area during the last term of government?

(b) How many new social housing dwellings have been constructed or created, through government purchase, in each local government area during this term of government?

(2) Has the Government responded to the Local Government and Planning Ministers Council agreement regarding the Framework for National Action on Affordable Housing, that each jurisdiction will assess how their planning system facilitates affordable housing and report back to the Council by October 2007?

(3) Will sustainable features for social housing that reduce water and electricity consumption improve affordability, at a time when water and electricity prices are likely to continue rising, be investigated?

0195 FAIR TRADING—RESIDENTIAL PARKS RENT INCREASES—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

(1) Are Landlords able to raise rents higher than CPI?

(a) If so, will the Government be seeking to amend the legislation to rectify this? If so, when?

0196 FAIR TRADING—UNSOLICITED OFFERS OF CREDIT CARDS—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

(1) Will the government enact legislation to prevent unsolicited offers of credit cards and increases in credit card limits in New South Wales, despite the lack of national agreement on legislation?

(a) If not, why not?

0197 FAIR TRADING—REGULATION OF MORTGAGE INDUSTRY—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

(1) Given the recent United States' experience of massive mortgage default rates in the 'sub-prime' sector, what safeguards are in place to prevent a similar situation evolving, especially with the advent of 'low-doc' loans in New South Wales?

(2) Given the proportion of New South Wales borrowers who were more than three months behind on their mortgage repayments remains the highest of any state, what can Fair Trading do to stop lending practices that lead to over-lending and higher risk of default?

0198 TOURISM—GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION PROGRAM—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

(1)

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- (a) Does Tourism NSW have a greenhouse gas reduction program in place?
- (b) If so, what are the details?
- (c) If not, why not?
- (2)
- (a) Has Tourism NSW carried out modelling on climate change?
- (b) What is being implemented in your portfolio to:
- (i) reduce greenhouse gases?
- (ii) adapt to impacts of climate change?
- (3)
- (a) Has Tourism NSW carried out modelling on peak oil?
- (b)
- (i) Are recommendations or plans being implemented in your department and portfolio area to prepare for peak oil?
- (ii) If so, what recommendations or plans are being implemented?
- (iii) If not, why not?
- (4)
- (a) How much did Tourism NSW spend in government advertising in 2006-07?
- (b) How much did Tourism NSW spend in:
- (i) 2004-05?
- (ii) 2005-06?
- (5)
- (a) Are any workers employed by Tourism NSW, or employed by companies undertaking contract work with your department, on 457 visas?
- (b) What procedures does Tourism NSW undertake to check whether workers on 457 visas?
- 0199 FAIR TRADING—CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEAK OIL—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- (1) Does the Department of Fair Trading have a greenhouse gas reduction program in place?
- (a) If so, what are the details?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (2) What modelling has the Department done on climate change and what is being implemented by the Department to:
- (a) reduce greenhouse gases?
- (b) adapt to impacts of climate change?
- (3) What modelling has the Department done on peak oil and what recommendations or plans are being implemented by the Department or within your portfolio to prepare for peak oil?
- 0200 REDFERN WATERLOO—HUMAN SERVICES PLAN—Ms Hale to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) Are there any plans for additional funding for the RWA Human Services Plan?
- (2)
- (a) What money has been outlaid on direct service provision through the Human Services Plan?
- (b) What are the spending: client ratios for the programs funded?
- (3) What is the proposal for co-ordinating human services and implementing the Human Services Plan when funds are exhausted this financial year?
- (4) What allocation of the Human Services budget of the RWA was spent on:

- (a) Salaries of RWA staff?  
 (b) One off projects run by the RWA?  
 (c) Providing funding for ongoing projects run by local NGO organizations?
- (5) How has funding been provided for government department projects for service deficiencies identified in the Human Services review?
- (6) What evaluation criteria has been used to assess the success or otherwise of Human Services projects?
- (7) What is the statistical evidence of their effectiveness?
- (8) As the RWA was planning to locate local youth services within a one stop shop, partly in recognition of the substandard premises that most of them were operating from, why can't money be allocated to upgrade them in their existing locations?
- 0201 HOUSING—GREENHOUSE REDUCTION PROGRAM—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1)  
 (a) Does the Department of Housing have a greenhouse gas reduction program in place?  
 (b) If so, what are the details?  
 (c) If not, why not?
- (2)  
 (a) Has the Department of Housing carried out modelling on climate change?  
 (b) What is being implemented in your portfolio to:  
 (i) reduce greenhouse gases?  
 (ii) adapt to impacts of climate change?
- (3)  
 (a) Has the Department of Housing carried out modelling on peak oil?  
 (b)  
 (i) Are recommendations or plans are being implemented in your department or portfolio area to prepare for peak oil?  
 (ii) If so, what recommendations or plans are being implemented?  
 (iii) If not, why not?
- 0202 REDFERN WATERLOO—BUILT ENVIRONMENT PLAN—Ms Hale to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) What timeframe is anticipated for Stage 2 of the Built Environment Plans and how long have budget allocations been made for this purpose?
- (2) Are there any plans to sell or lease land or airspace as part of the redevelopment of Redfern Railway station?  
 (a) If so, what is being considered?
- (3) How is the redevelopment of public housing planned in Stage 2 of the Built Environment Plan to be funded?  
 (a) Are there any plans to sell or lease land currently occupied by public housing to fund the redevelopment?  
 (b) If so, has any land been ear marked, or any proportion of land been ear marked?
- 0203 REDFERN WATERLOO—REDFERN WATERLOO STREET TEAM—Ms Hale to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) Were there any funds left over from the Redfern Waterloo Street Team?

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- (a) If so, what happened to the funds?
  - (b) Were they expended to address the needs of youth in Redfern -Waterloo?
  - (c) If so, how?
- (2) When will the Street Team Project Report be released?
  - (3) Does the Street Team Project Report contain a full financial report?
    - (a) If not, why not?
  - (4) When will the evaluation of the outcomes of the Street Team project be released?
  - (5) Does the Street Team Project Report contain a costing per client service delivered compared with other providers operating in the same sector?
  - (6) What was the Street Team Project costing per client service delivered compared with other providers operating in the same sector?
- 0204 HOUSING—RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BREAKING THE SILENCE REPORT—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- In relation to the Breaking the Silence Report by the Aboriginal Child Sexual Assault Taskforces, what is the Department of Housing doing with regard to the following recommendations of the Report?
- (1) Recommendation 114:
    - (a) Provide emergency accommodation assistance to families in crisis because of child sexual assault?
    - (b) Raise awareness in the Aboriginal community that Priority Housing assistance and emergency temporary accommodation may be available if a family is in housing crisis because of child sexual assault?
  - (2) Recommendation 115:
    - (a) Develop and implement a policy to respond to Aboriginal families who experience child sexual assault?
    - (b) All frontline DOH staff are provided training in the dynamics, indicators and responding to child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities Recommendation 116 Aboriginal client service officers are employed in all DOH areas where there is a significant Aboriginal population?
  - (3) Recommendation 117:
    - (a) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to address overcrowding in Indigenous homes?
  - (4) How much funding has been allocated to any programs within the Department of Housing related to the Breaking the Silence Report?
- 0205 REDFERN WATERLOO—RWA PLANS—Ms Hale to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) Have evaluation frameworks been set up to evaluate the RWA plans?
    - (a) If so, when will these frameworks/benchmarks be publicly released?
  - (2) When will the RWA publicly release progress evaluations on the implementation of the HSP and the EEP?
  - (3) When will the RWA in its current guise be wound up?
  - (4) Will an exit strategy be developed for the demise of the RWA in its current format?
    - (a) If not, why not?
    - (b) If so, what?
  - (5) Will the exit strategy be made public
    - (a) prior to the event, or
    - (b) immediately post event?

- (6) Is it envisaged that another body will be created for the purpose of implementing/overseeing the delivery of the concepts developed under the RWA?
- (7) What new or original projects has the RWA implemented?
- 0206 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—LOCAL GOVERNMENT PECUNIARY INTEREST PROVISIONS—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- (1) Has the Department of Local Government undertaken any research of other State's Local Government Acts concerning penalties for breaches by councillors of provisions regarding councillors' failure to disclose pecuniary or conflicts of interest?
- (2) How many complaints of pecuniary interest/conflict of interest breaches have been received by the Department of Local Government for the following periods:
- 1999/2000  
2000/2001  
2001/2002  
2002/2003  
2003/2004  
2004/2005  
2005/2006  
2006 to present
- (3) How many complaints have been brought before the Pecuniary Interest and Discipline Tribunal (previously Pecuniary Interest Tribunal) in the following periods:
- 1999/2000  
2000/2001  
2001/2002  
2002/2003  
2003/2004  
2004/2005  
2005/2006  
2006 to present
- (4) What penalties have been imposed on councillors who have breached pecuniary interest provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 for the following periods:
- 1999/2000  
2000/2001  
2001/2002  
2002/2003  
2003/2004  
2004/2005  
2005/2006  
2006 to present
- (5) Can the Minister explain why it would not be better to adopt the Western Australian legislation that puts before the Courts pecuniary interest breaches and provides for penalties including a gaol term should a councillor breach the pecuniary interest disclosure provisions?
- 0207 TREASURER—SENIOR LIVING SEPP—Mr Cohen to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In regard to the Senior Living SEPP, why has your department revoked the Draft requirement that the 400m distance to a bus stop be measured from the site's entry-exit point and returned to it to being measured from the closest boundary?

- 0208 HOUSING—INTERDEPARTMENTAL HOUSING TASKFORCE—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) Is there still an interdepartmental housing taskforce located in the Premier's Department?
  - (2) Is there a Cabinet housing committee which is the driving force of the housing strategy for New South Wales?
  - (3) Who else is on that committee besides the Minister for Housing and the Hon. Angela D'Amore?
- 0209 HOUSING—COMMONWEALTH-STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) Has the Rudd Opposition given any indication of an increase in spending for New South Wales through a renewed Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement or predecessor agreement?
  - (2) If so, how much would the augmentation be?
- 0210 REDFERN WATERLOO—RWA BUSINESS ADVICE SERVICE—Ms Hale to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) Have there been reports from aboriginal people that the RWA's business advice service has not given assistance or returned phone calls as well as negative feedback about the business skills course the RWA ran?
    - (a) If so, what has been done about these reports?
- 0211 REDFERN WATERLOO—PLANNING APPROVALS—Ms Hale to ask the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- Why have there been delays in approving the Pemulwuy Project compared to the comparative speed for the approval of the National Indigenous Centre at the old school site?
- 0212 HOUSING—MONITORING OF DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING SALES—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) It has been reported that you may have been unsatisfied with how the Department of Housing was disposing of stock in certain areas and have asked for information on potential stock sales from the Department of Housing. Do you think the Department of Housing has more room for improvement on asset management and planning for retention and redevelopment of housing, rather than random sales?
  - (2)
    - (a) Have Department of Housing units in Bondi recently been sold?
    - (b) If so, what were the reasons for those sales?
  - (3)
    - (a) Have Department of Housing units in the Blacktown area recently been sold?
    - (b) If so, what is the reason for those sales?
  - (4)
    - (a) Have you instructed the Department of Housing to, where possible, spend proceeds of sales on new housing stock in the same area?
    - (b) If not, why not?

- 0213 HOUSING—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING WATER CHARGES—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) How much money has the Department of Housing collected from social housing tenants for water charges in the last financial year?
  - (2) How much was paid by the Department of Housing to water agencies for social housing residential water use in the last financial year?
  - (3)
    - (a) Are tenants given a copy of the Sydney Water or other water agency bill on request for their residence or block of units?
    - (b) If not, why not?
  - (4) Is the Department of Housing planning to install separate water metering over time?
  - (5) How many complaints from tenants have you received about water charges since you became Minister?
- 0214 HOUSING—WATER CHARGES COMPLAINT—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) Are you aware of the complaints made by Mr. Ian Kelly regarding the water charges for his unit at 18 FigTree Avenue, Telopea?
  - (2) Is it the case that a Department of Housing letter sent to Mr. Kelly stated that water charges were \$19.60 per week, or \$1020 per annum?
  - (3) Did the letter state the meter reading of 8/107 was 610, and at 10/4/07 was 737 and on 24/8/07 was 835?
  - (4) Mr. Kelly claims the costing is \$483.77 and he has therefore been overcharged by \$536.23. Would you care to comment on his claims that the Department of Housing estimates are out by 208%?
  - (5)
    - (a) Did Mr. Kelly request to see the Sydney Water accounts?
    - (b) If so, were they supplied to him?
    - (c) If not, why not?
  - (6) Do you agree with Mr. Kelly's statement that that the "absence of the actual Sydney Water charge from the client's statement and the refusal to supply the Sydney Water Account is not only deceitful, confusing and discriminatory, but gives no idea to the householder of actual usage over a period of time"?
- 0215 HOUSING—INQUIRY INTO HOUSING ALLOCATION—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) The recent ICAC inquiry is the second into an officer of the Department of Housing taking bribes in order to gain people housing allocation.
  - (2) What can the Department of Housing do better to make sure its employees are not engaging in this sort of petty fraud/acceptance of bribes in the future?
- 0216 HOUSING—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING ECO-DESIGN—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) Has the Department of Housing considered a retrofit program for existing stock designed to save on energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions - for example to install solar hot water and rainwater tanks?
    - (a) If so, what is the cost such a program?

(b) If not, why not?

0217 HOUSING—BONNYRIGG DEVELOPMENT—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) Lend Lease dropped out of the Bonnyrigg tender process apparently due to risk allocation issues. With the Becton/Spotless/St George Community Housing consortium, how did you apportion risk within the contract?
- (2) Given the population of Sydney is growing by over 1% a year, will retaining the same net amount of social housing units in Bonnyrigg and surrounds after the redevelopment be sufficient?
- (3) Why hasn't stock in Bonnyrigg and surrounds increased, given the scale of the redevelopment?
- (4)
  - (a) In a press release on 11 September, you said, "As our population grows and there is a call to create a greater social mix of public and private housing here". Given that the Bonnyrigg redevelopment will result in little net gain, is the Department of Housing stock supply actually lagging behind population growth?
  - (b) Won't maintaining supply at a flat level put pressure on the waiting list?
- (5) You claimed at Budget Estimates on 15 October 2007 that the additional purchase or supply of 134 houses to ensure no net loss of stock at Bonnyrigg is "in the contract" between the Department of Housing and the private partners. What does the relevant clause of the contract actually say, verbatim?
- (6) Does the Government give a guarantee that 134 houses will in fact be purchased or built in the vicinity of Bonnyrigg, to ensure no net loss of stock due to the redevelopment?

0218 HOUSING—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING RULES—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1)
  - (a) Should the children of a sole parent tenant have succession rights in certain circumstances should that tenant die?
  - (b) If not, why not?
- (2) Do you support a recommendation that for young people of families housed in social housing, once they turn 18 years of age their rent stay at 12.5% of their income (eg. Youth Allowance; wages) until they reach 21 years of age?

0219 HOUSING—PRIORITY HOUSING—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) Has the proportion of priority housing allocations under Priority housing altered significantly in the last three years?
- (2) Some welfare agencies claim it is getting harder to gain allocation of social housing for their clients. Is this the case according to Department of Housing statistics?

0220 HOUSING—CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEAK OIL—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) Does the department have a greenhouse gas reduction program in place?
  - (a) If so, what are the details?
  - (b) If not, why not?
- (2) What modelling has the department done on climate change?
- (3) What is being implemented within your portfolio to:

- (a) reduce greenhouse gases?
- (b) adapt to impacts of climate change?
- (4) What modelling has the department done on peak oil?
- (5) What recommendations or plans are being implemented in your department and portfolio area to prepare for peak oil?

0221 HOUSING—14 AND 16 THE AVENUE, YAGOONA—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

Background: a complaint from home-owner David Paul

- (1)
  - (a) In regard to the complaint reported by a neighbour living in a private home that, following building work at the Department of Housing properties at 14 and 16 The Avenue, Yagoona, rainfall causes a lagoon in his backyard and flooding his granny flat. Is this the case?
  - (b) Is the Department of Housing, as building owner, responsible?
  - (c) Did a Council officer inspect the work and claim that it was not to specification?
  - (d) How can this be resolved?

Lynn Lovelock  
Clerk of the Parliaments