



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 2

WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 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

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 2 (Including Question Nos 0001 to 0027)	13 June 2007

9 MAY 2007

(Paper No. 2)

0001 HOUSING—SALE OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN MOUNT DRUITT—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 the following properties NSW Land and Housing Corporation-owned, or ex- NSW Land and Housing Corporation-owned, properties:
 - (a) 4 Exeter Place Bidwill?
 - (b) 10 Saturn Place Doonside?
 - (c) 5 Macartney Crescent Hebersham?
 - (d) 5 Mackellar Rd Hebersham?
 - (e) 431 Luxford Rd, Lethbridge Park?
 - (f) 13 Manilla Road, Lethbridge Park?
 - (g) 13 Leopold Street Rooty Hill?
 - (h) 8 Colbeck Street Tregear?
 - (i) 108 Wilkes Crescent Tregear?
 - (j) 36 Semana Street Whalan?
 - (k) 5 Magga Drive Tregear?
 - (l) 13 Kurama Crescent Whalan?
 - (m) 44 Waikanda Crescent, Whalan?
 - (n) 10 Feramin Avenue Whalan?
- (2) How many NSW Land and Housing Corporation residential properties have been sold since 1 July 2006 in the following postcodes:
 - (a) 2770?
 - (b) 2766?
 - (c) 2760?
 - (d) 2767?
- (3) Is it Department of Housing (DoH) policy that all department properties earmarked for sale by a real estate agent be auctioned?
- (4) If that is the policy, why is 13 Leopold Street advertised for sale at \$200,000 on the Richardson and Wrench Rooty Hill website?
- (5) Which real estate agents have been chosen to auction or sell Land and Housing Corporation properties for the following postcodes:
 - (a) 2770?
 - (b) 2766?
 - (c) 2760?
 - (d) 2767?
- (6) Was a tender to handle DoH sales/ auctions put out prior to selection?
- (7) How were the successful tenderer/s selected?

0002 HOUSING—PUBLIC HOUSING AT BROKEN HILL—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 many units of public housing are expected to be transferred to the management of a community housing organisation in Broken Hill?
- (2) How will the community housing organisation be selected?
- (3) After the transfer, how many units of housing is it expected will be managed by the community housing organisation in Broken Hill?
- (4) Will 39 houses in south Broken Hill will be sold?

- (5) What will the total numbers of dwellings owned by the Land and Housing Corporation in Broken Hill be:
- (a) prior to the sale?
 - (b) after the sale?
- (6)
- (a) Will the Department of Housing be adding an additional 39 units of public housing elsewhere to replace the 39 sold dwellings?
 - (b) If so, where will these be located?
- 0003 HOUSING—STOCK MANAGEMENT—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 Minister intend to restore:
 - (a) Department of Housing (DoH) managed housing stock to the same levels in the areas where existing stock has been handed to Community Housing Providers to supplement their operating stock levels?
 - (b) DoH managed statewide stock levels to the levels prior to commencement of the Stock Transfer program?
 - (c) If so, when?
- 0004 ENERGY—SNOWY SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- (1) Have nominations for representatives on the Snowy Scientific Committee required under the Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997 (which came into effect in June 2002) been sent out?
 - (2) If so, how many nominations were received?
 - (3) Has the membership of the Committee been finalised?
 - (4) If so, who is the Chairperson and who are the members of the Committee?
 - (5) Has the Committee held a meeting?
 - (6) If not, why not?
 - (7) If it has not met, when will it meet?
 - (8) Did the Premier of Victoria write to the Premier of New South Wales on 27 March 2007 requesting that the Snowy Scientific Committee be established as quickly as possible?
 - (9) Has the Premier or other Minister responded to this letter?
 - (10) If so, did the letter give an undertaking that the Government would expedite the establishment of the Snowy Scientific Committee and provide an indication as to when the Committee would meet?
 - (11) If not, why not?
 - (12) Is failure to establish the Snowy Scientific Committee a contravention of section 57 of the Snowy Hydro Corporations Act 1997 and contrary to undertakings given in 2006?
- 0005 LANDS—COMPOSITION OF THE KILLALEA STATE PARK TRUST—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- (1) What vacancies have occurred among members of the Killalea State Park Trust since 2000?
 - (2) When did each of those vacancies occur?
 - (3) What appointments have been made to fill each of those vacancies?
 - (4) When were those vacancies filled?
 - (5) Have any vacancies been left unfilled?
 - (a) If so, why were they left unfilled?
 - (6) Have representatives of the local community been appointed to the Trust?

- (a) If so, when were those appointments made?
- (7) Is the local community still represented on the Trust?
- (a) If not, when did the vacancy/vacancies occur?
- (8) Have representatives of the local indigenous community been appointed to the Trust?
- (a) If so, when were those appointments made?
- (9) Is the local indigenous community still represented on the Trust?
- (a) If not, when did the vacancy/vacancies occur?
- (10) Does the Chairperson or other member of the Trust advise the Minister for Lands (or his representative) of vacancies among members of the Trust?
- (11) Does the Chairperson or other member of the Trust make recommendations to the Minister for Lands as to whether such vacancies should be filled?
- (12) Has the Chairperson or other member of the Trust advised the Minister for Lands of any vacancies for members representing the local community and/or the local indigenous community?
- (13) Has the Chairperson or other member of the Trust made a recommendation to the Minister as to whether those vacancies should be filled?
- (a) If so, what was the recommendation/s?
- (14) What reasons were given to support the recommendation/s?
- (15) Did the Minister act in conformity with the recommendation/s?
- 0006 LANDS—CAMPSITES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AT KILLALEA STATE PARK—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- (1) How many campsites are currently available at Killalea State Park?
- (2) What is the cost per adult per night of camping in the state park?
- (3) Will the camping be retained if the area is developed?
- (4) Will new accommodation, for example cabins, be more expensive than the current campsites?
- (5) Can the Minister guarantee that the current campsites will be preserved in quantity, and be no more expensive than the campsites are now?
- (a) If not, why not?
- 0007 LANDS—ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE DESIGN FEATURES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- (1) What ecologically sensitive features would any development in a state park be required to have?
- (2) Are they required to have:
- (a) Solar water heaters?
- (b) Solar panels?
- (c) Composting toilets?
- (d) Rainwater tanks?
- (e) Energy-efficient appliances?
- (3) If not, why not?
- 0008 LANDS—AGREEMENT TO LEASE KILLALEA STATE PARK—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- (1) Will the Minister for Lands guarantee that any revenue coming from a private lease agreement within Killalea State Park will go toward the upkeep of Killalea State Park considering he has been quoted as saying that 'it is time that Killalea State Park earned its keep'?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (2) If the proposed development goes ahead, will the Department of Lands be putting the money it gains

from a lease towards upkeep of Killalea State Park?

(a) If not, will the department be diverting it elsewhere?

0009 LANDS—PRIVATE PARTNERS TO MARINER FINANCIAL LTD—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) Does the agreement with Mariner Financial Limited in relation to Killalea State Park involve any other private companies?
- (2) If so, which one(s)?

0010 PLANNING—NEWCASTLE COAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP COAL LOADER—Ms Rhiannon 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) The project approval for the Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group Coal Loader gives the Director General absolute discretion to reach alternative agreements with the Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group rather than those conditions set out in the approval with "or as otherwise agreed to by the Director General" being common wording throughout the document. What checks and balances are in place to prevent the proponent constantly requesting changes to the approval where they feel they cannot meet the outcomes required?
- (2) What mechanisms are in place to allow the public and other stakeholders to assess and/or make comment on these alternative plans and/or agreements the proponent and the Director General may enter into?

0011 CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER—SOURCE OF WATER USED AT COWAL GOLD MINE—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) How much water is Barrick Gold Australia using from the Cowal Gold Mine project dewatering bores?
- (2)
 - (a) How many down stream users in the Lachlan River have had their water allocations suspended in 2006 and thus far in 2007?
 - (b) How much water is being saved from these suspensions?
- (3) Are farmers near Lake Cowal allowed to have their stock and domestic allocation from the Jemalong irrigation channel while it is running for the Cowal Gold mine?
- (4) How much water was used by the mineral industry in New South Wales in 2006 and the previous five years?
- (5) Of the water used by the mineral industry of New South Wales in 2006, how much was used by gold mines?
- (6) How much water used by gold mines was taken from:
 - (a) groundwater sources?
 - (b) surface water sources?
- (7) How much recycled water did gold mines in New South Wales use in 2006 and the previous five years?
- (8)
 - (a) Was this water recycled onsite or brought to mine sites from other sources?
 - (b) If brought to mine sites from other sources where did it come from?
- (9) How much water has been used at the Lake Cowal mine since it began construction?
- (10) How much of this water was recycled?
- (11) If recycled water was used at the Lake Cowal mine site, was it recycled onsite?
- (12)
 - (a) Was any recycled water from offsite sources used at the Lake Cowal mine site?

(b) If so, where was it sourced?

0012 MINERAL RESOURCES—SOURCE OF WATER USED AT COWAL GOLD MINE—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How much water is Barrick Gold Australia using from the Cowal Gold Mine project dewatering bores?
- (2)
 - (a) How many down stream users in the Lachlan River have had their water allocations suspended in 2006 and thus far in 2007?
 - (b) How much water is being saved from these suspensions?
- (3) Are farmers near Lake Cowal allowed to have their stock and domestic allocation from the Jemalong irrigation channel while it is running for the Cowal Gold mine?
- (4) How much water was used by the mineral industry in New South Wales in 2006 and the previous five years?
- (5) Of the water used by the mineral industry of New South Wales in 2006, how much was used by gold mines?
- (6) How much water used by gold mines was taken from:
 - (a) groundwater sources?
 - (b) surface water sources?
- (7) How much recycled water did gold mines in New South Wales use in 2006 and the previous five years?
- (8)
 - (a) Was this water recycled onsite or brought to mine sites from other sources?
 - (b) If brought to mine sites from other sources where did it come from?
- (9) How much water has been used at the Lake Cowal mine since it began construction?
- (10) How much of this water was recycled?
- (11) If recycled water was used at the Lake Cowal mine site, was it recycled onsite?
- (12)
 - (a) Was any recycled water from offsite sources used at the Lake Cowal mine site?
 - (b) If so, where was it sourced?

0013 PLANNING—TAILINGS PONDS AT LAKE COWAL GOLD MINE—Ms Rhiannon 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 is the capacity of the tailings ponds at the Lake Cowal Gold Mine?
- (2) What is the chemical composition of the liquid in the tailings ponds?
- (3) How much of the water component of the tailings is derived from Bland Paleochannel, Lachlan River and other sources?
- (4) Who is monitoring the tailings ponds for leaks or spills?
- (5) What are the current level(s) of the Bland Paleochannel?
- (6) What water sources are local farmers relying on for domestic, stock and agricultural uses?

0014 PLANNING—TRANSPORT OF SODIUM CYANIDE—Ms Rhiannon 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) How much sodium cyanide has the Minister or the Department of Planning approved for transport annually in New South Wales?

- (2) In what quantity and with what frequency does this sodium cyanide pass by:
- rail from Brisbane to Sydney?
 - road from Chullora to Parramatta?
 - rail from Parramatta through the Blue Mountains?
- (3)
- Has any planning and/or training for an emergency response in case of any cyanide spill been undertaken?
 - If not, why not?
- 0015 CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER—WATER ALLOCATION FOR WAMBO COAL MINE—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- Has Wambo Coal mine applied to increase its water allocation?
 - What is the size of the increased water allocation that Wambo Coal mine is seeking?
 - Is the water allocation that Wambo Coal mine is seeking nearly double the current water allocation?
 - In light of the current reduced water allocations, where will this extra water come from?
 - Which existing water users will have their allocations reduced in order to assist coal mining operations in the Upper Hunter?
 - Are any guarantees that the extra water allocated to the Wambo mine will be used in operational activities, and not simply sold off into the water market to earn additional profits for Wambo Mine?
 - If not, why not?
- 0016 MINERAL RESOURCES—WATER ALLOCATION FOR WAMBO COAL MINE—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- Has Wambo Coal mine applied to increase its water allocation?
 - What is the size of the increased water allocation that Wambo Coal mine is seeking?
 - Is the water allocation that Wambo Coal mine is seeking nearly double the current water allocation?
 - In light of the current reduced water allocations, where will this extra water come from?
 - Which existing water users will have their allocations reduced in order to assist coal mining operations in the Upper Hunter?
 - Are any guarantees that the extra water allocated to the Wambo mine will be used in operational activities, and not simply sold off into the water market to earn additional profits for Wambo Mine?
 - If not, why not?
- 0017 PLANNING—BUS PRIORITY SYSTEM OPERATING ON T-WAYS—Ms Rhiannon 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—
- Is the bus priority system along the North-West T-way still operating?
 - If not, when was it dropped?
 - If not, why was it dropped?
 - Has the bus priority system been turned off at several intersections on the Liverpool to Parramatta T-way?
 - If so, what are the intersections where the bus priority system no longer works on the Liverpool to Parramatta T-way?
 - What is the status of the Public Transport Information and Priority System (PTIPS)?
 - When will it be introduced?
 - What T-ways will it operate on?

- (5) Does the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) have a conflict of interest where T-ways cross other roads, which prevent it giving full priority to buses?
- (6) Will the bus priority system favoured by the RTA continue to operate until PTIPS is implemented?
- (7) Why do T-way buses slow to almost a stop at intersections with even minor roads?
- (8) If the consent conditions have been varied, why did the Minister for Planning agree to vary the consent conditions?
- 0018 TRANSPORT—BUS PRIORITY SYSTEM OPERATING ON T-WAYS—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- (1) Is the bus priority system along the North-West T-way still operating?
- (a) If not, when was it dropped?
- (b) If not, why was it dropped?
- (2) Has the bus priority system been turned off at several intersections on the Liverpool to Parramatta T-way?
- (3) If so, what are the intersections where the bus priority system no longer works on the Liverpool to Parramatta T-way?
- (4) What is the status of the Public Transport Information and Priority System (PTIPS)?
- (a) When will it be introduced?
- (b) What T-ways will it operate on?
- (5) Does the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) have a conflict of interest where T-ways cross other roads, which prevent it giving full priority to buses?
- (6) Will the bus priority system favoured by the RTA continue to operate until PTIPS is implemented?
- (7) Why do T-way buses slow to almost a stop at intersections with even minor roads?
- (8) If the consent conditions have been varied, why did the Minister for Planning agree to vary the consent conditions?
- 0019 CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER—CARBON EMISSIONS FROM THE RICE INDUSTRY—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- (1) Does the rice industry in southern New South Wales significantly contribute to carbon emissions through the burning of stubble remaining after harvest?
- (2) Is the spray chemical, MCPA, aerially sprayed on rice crops?
- (3) If so, what will the Government do to protect residents living in areas of rice production from potentially dangerous emissions?
- 0020 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—FORESTS NSW SEEING REPORT—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- (1) Is any of the expenditure shown on page 26 of the 2004-05 Forests NSW Seeing Report, showing \$9.1 million on research and \$4.5 million on education, not recorded as a cost in the Statement of Financial Performance in the Annual Report for 2004-05 at page 9, as at page 63 of the 2004-05 Annual Report it is indicated that some of Forests NSW research was carried out by Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Science and Research?
- (a) Given that the 2005-06 Seeing Report at page 22 indicates that expenditure on research for 2005-06 (\$6.2 million) and that on education (\$4.2 million) fell compared to earlier years due to shared management and administrative costs with DPI, how much was this expenditure for work carried out on behalf of Forests NSW by DPI?
- (b) Was the expenditure for the work done by DPI on behalf of Forests NSW, shown as a cost in the Income Statement at page 10 of the 2005-06 Annual Report?

0021 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE OF FORESTS NSW—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

With regard to the expenditure of the Southern Regional Office of Forests NSW:

- (1)
 - (a) Does recurrent expenditure include depreciation?
 - (b) If not, what is the total depreciation figure for 2005-06 for the Eden and South Coast Southern sub-regions, including depreciation of buildings, (including guest house and cabins), plant and equipment, roads and bridges, and workshops at Eden, Bateman's Bay and Narooma and any other locations within the Eden and South Coast-Southern sub regions? (Exclude depreciation of Bombala workshop and Tumbarumba forest centre. If these latter two items cannot be excluded on the basis that depreciation costs are only available at the regional level, please provide a separate estimate for each of these two items.)
- (2) If depreciation is only available at the aggregate level - as shown in the Annual Report for 2005-06 - please provide an estimate of depreciation for the Eden and South Coast-Southern sub regions including depreciation of buildings, (including guest house and cabins), plant and equipment, roads and bridges, and workshops at Eden, Bateman's Bay and Narooma and any other locations within the Eden and South Coast-Southern sub regions?
- (3)
 - (a) Does recurrent expenditure for 2005-06 for the Southern Regional Office exclude any cost items that are not recurrent expenditure, for example consultants' fees?
 - (b) If so, what are they and what was their value?
- (4)
 - (a) Are there any items of expenditure that were incurred by the South Coast Regional Office but paid by Head Office?
 - (b) If so, what were they and what is the value of each one?
 - (c) Does this occur each year?
- (5)
 - (a) Have there been any changes in the way depreciation is calculated, comparing 2004-05 with 2005-06?
 - (b) If so, what effect has it had on the total dollar value of depreciation comparing 2004-05 with 2005-06?
- (6)
 - (a) How much is spent by Head Office and by the Divisions implementing the Native Forest Management System (NFMS) and any other planning systems that apply to Native Forests, per annum? (Please use an estimate from 2004-05, rather than 2005-06 financial year in calculations as a large proportion of FNSW staff are no longer on Forest NSW's books.)
 - (b) What are the employee and related costs, an estimate for Head Office depreciation, including fees, materials and other?
- (7) What is the estimate of the cost of developing the NFMS system, including its technology and related costs? (Please amortise these costs over the expected life of the system to provide a per annum estimate and show the amortised development cost separately from the per annum implementation costs and indicate the time horizon used as the basis for amortisation.)
- (8) How much of each amount from question (7) including the implementation cost and amortised development cost is applicable to the Southern Regional Office?
- (9) How much was spent on research on Native Forests in 2005-06? (Please include employee and related costs, fees, materials, other and provide an estimate of depreciation costs at head office, the divisions and the regions as applicable, showing components separately.) (Examples of previous years projects include wildlife studies, studies on regrowth forests, the pulp yield study undertaken in order to provide a better service to South East Fibre Exports. The results of the study went into a wood quality database for future crop management decisions.)
- (10)

- (a) Does the recurrent expenditure shown for the cost of the Native Forests Operations Branch (\$11.689 million), shown for workshops (\$1.383 million), and shown for Research (\$396,029) exclude the cost(s) of any officer, who as a result of the operation of the Public Sector Employment Legislation Amendment Act 2006 or any other Act, was actually paid by the Department of Primary Industries or another entity, even though the officer was working on activities for Forests NSW?
- (b) If so, what is the amount of these costs using the standard cost categories shown in the Revenue Statement in Forests NSW Annual Report? (Please show the costs separately for Native Forests Operations Branch, workshops and Research activities by cost category.)

0022 CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER—PROHIBITION OF SPEAR FISHING—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

For all marine reserves, intertidal protection zones and other areas where spear fishing is prohibited in New South Wales:

- (1) what is the location of the area?
- (2) what are the details of the signage that is in place to inform the public about prohibited activities?
- (3) what is the frequency of patrols by Fisheries Officers?
- (4) what is the number of reports of illegal activities that have been made by members of the public each year for each area since its establishment?
- (5) what are the number of prosecutions, penalty notices, warning letters, information packages that have been issued to breaches noted or reports made by (a) Fisheries Officers and (b) members of the public?

0023 CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER—STOP WORK ORDER TO REMOVE GOATS—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Did the DECC recently issue a Stop Work Order to remove goats from the southern section of Lot 2, DP 1013290 at Corindi on cultural heritage grounds?
- (2) Did the Stop Work Order require that goats were removed from the property within seven days of the Stop Work Order being issued?
- (3)
 - (a) Were the goats removed within seven days of the Stop Work Order being issued?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (4)
 - (a) Has Mr Andrew Fraser MP been seen visiting the block in question?
 - (b) If so, what meetings and communications have occurred between Mr Fraser and staff of DECC in relation to this block and the Stop Work Order?
- (5) Will the Minister provide all documents and file notes of any such meetings and communications?
- (6)
 - (a) Did Mr Fraser apply pressure to DECC staff to discourage them from enforcing the Stop Work Order?
 - (b) Was this pressure instrumental in preventing them from enforcing that Order?
 - (c) If so, does the Minister consider this an appropriate manner for the DECC to discharge their legal responsibilities under the Threatened Species Act 1995?
- (7) How many Stop Work Orders have been placed by the DECC over this block since the start of 2004?
- (8) Does the Minister acknowledge that these short-term Stop Work Orders have been ineffective in preventing clearing and degradation of this block?
- (9)
 - (a) Has an Interim Protection Order been issued for the block?

- (b) If not, why not?
- (10) Why doesn't the department have a policy that Stop Work Orders are not working if at least three have been issued on a single block and clearing activities are still occurring?
- (11) Why doesn't this automatically trigger a different and stronger legal action in the form of an Interim Protection Order?
- (12) Is the Minister aware that the owner is currently (7 May 2007) undertaking or preparing to undertake more goat fencing on the block, presumably to move the goats to another part of the block?
- (13) Can the Minister provide a commitment that he will not allow the goats to be moved to any other part of the block, so that they do not repeat the destruction that is now occurring in the southern section?
- (14) Is the vegetation where the goats are currently located (in the southern section of the block) covered almost entirely by two endangered ecological communities – Swamp Sclerophyll Forest and Subtropical Coastal Floodplain forest?
- (15) Given that the goats are destroying vegetation within those two Endangered Ecological Communities, why didn't the Stop Work Order also require the goats removal on the grounds of damage to those communities?
- (16) Why have the department and the Minister ignored the fact that Coffs Harbour City Council have mapped the southern section of the block, where the goats are now located, as containing large areas of those two endangered ecological communities?
- (17)
- (a) Will the Minister and the department now act to urgently protect those Endangered Communities by requiring the goats to be removed from the block?
- (b) If not, doesn't this indicate that there is no real commitment to protection of threatened species and ecological communities, and that the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 has become little more than a toothless tiger?
- (c) Are the goats on the block unwell?
- (d) Have a significant number died and the RSPCA visited the block to treat or euthanase a number of goats?
- (18) Has fodder now had to be brought on to the block to feed the goats?
- (19)
- (a) Has the placement of close to 1,000 goats on 32 hectares of land, led to severe over-grazing and the decline and death of a significant number of goats?
- (b) Is this 'sustainable grazing'?
- (20)
- (a) The Native Vegetation Act 2003 broadly defines sustainable grazing as grazing that 'is not likely to result in the substantial long-term decline in the structure and composition of native vegetation'. Given that the goats in question have completely removed all understorey vegetation from the area, severely affecting both structure and composition, does the Minister acknowledge that the grazing is not sustainable?
- (b) If not, how does the Minister and the department determine and assess what constitutes sustainable grazing?
- (c) What guidelines and criteria, if any, does it use or abide by?
- (d) Will copies of any such guidelines/criteria be made available?
- (21) Are goats also being used in other areas, such as Fame Cove and Wallis Island, to degrade native vegetation in order to facilitate future development?
- (22) Has the ongoing failure of the department to properly deal with this issue undermining the intent and operation of the Native Vegetation Act 2003 and the much-vaunted native vegetation reforms of the Government?
- (23)

- (a) Will the Minister act to enforce the sustainable grazing provisions of the Native Vegetation Act 2003 to ensure that this practice can no longer occur, and to prevent any further exploitation of this clause by developers?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (24) Recent documents obtained by the North Coast Environment Council under Freedom of Information laws show that the owner of the block has applied to Coffs Harbour City Council on at least 2 occasions to re-zone the block to residential, and has plans to put in a 60 lot subdivision and a caravan park.
- (a) Was the department or the Minister aware of the intentions of the owner in relation to development on this block?
- (b) Are the repeated attempts at clearing through various mechanisms that have taken place over the last three years on this block for the purposes of degrading vegetation to facilitate development?
- (c) If so, are these actions condoned by the Minister?
- (d) If not, will the department and the Minister act immediately to place an Interim Protection Order over the block?
- (e) Will the department prosecute the owners of the block for knowingly damaging endangered ecological communities and cultural heritage values on the block through the intensive grazing of goats?
- (f) If not, why not?
- 0024 ROADS—E-TAGS FOR MOTORCYCLISTS—Mr Gay to ask the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- (1) What provisions have been and/or are been put into place for motorcyclists given moves to make the Harbour Tunnel cashless?
- (2) Are E-tags able to be properly mounted on bike and waterproof?
- (3) If not, why not?
- 0025 ROADS—PATRONAGE LEVEL IN LANE COVE TUNNEL—Mr Gay to ask the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- (1) What was the patronage level in the Lane Cove Tunnel during the toll-free period?
- (2) What has the patronage level in the Lane Cove Tunnel, on a daily weekday period and also on the weekend, been since the toll-free period ended?
- (3) How does the current patronage level compare with the Roads and Traffic Authority lane Cove Tunnel usage projections?
- 0026 ROADS—IMPLEMENTATION OF FLASHING LIGHTS AT SCHOOLS—Mr Gay to ask the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- (1) How many schools in New South Wales have flashing lights?
- (2) At what schools are these flashing lights installed?
- (3) Of those schools, over the past year how many have broken down, needed repairs or are not working?
- (4) To date, what has been the total cost of the implementation of flashing lights?
- 0027 ROADS—SPEEDING INFRINGEMENTS IN CITY TUNNELS—Mr Gay to ask the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- (1) How many speeding infringements have been issued this year in the:
- (a) Eastern Distributor?
- (b) Sydney Harbour Bridge Tunnel?
- (c) Cross City Tunnel?
- (d) Lane Cove Tunnel?

(e) M5 Tunnel?

Lynn Lovelock
Acting Clerk of the Parliaments

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales