



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 68

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2008

(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. 63 (Including Question Nos 2072 to 2084)	02 October 2008
Q & A No. 64 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 65 (Including Question Nos 2085 to 2106)	28 October 2008
Q & A No. 66 (Including Question Nos 2107 to 2110)	29 October 2008
Q & A No. 67 (Including Question Nos 2111 to 2166)	30 October 2008
Q & A No. 68 (Including Question Nos 2167 to 2191)	25 November 2008

28 AUGUST 2008

(Paper No. 63)

*2072 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—BOWRAVILLE BUS DEPOT—Ms Hale asked the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast representing the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Did you receive a complaint from Mr. Mike Lennon regarding Nambucca Council and the operations of the Bowraville bus depot?
 - (a) If so, when?
- (2) Is the Bowraville Bus depot complying with the relevant zoning?
 - (i) If not, will you investigate this matter?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes
 - (a) The former Minister for Local Government, the Hon Kerry Hickey MP, received three complaints concerning the operation of the Bowraville Bus Depot. Two of these were raised by the Member for Oxley, Mr Andrew Stoner MP, who made representations on behalf of Mr Lennon. These were received on 28 November 2005 and 6 April 2006. The third item of correspondence, an email from Mr Lennon, was received on 10 April 2006.
- (2) While planning and development is a local government function, it is not a function of councils controlled by the Local Government Act 1993, and therefore does not fall within the local government portfolio. The Honourable Member may wish to direct her question to the Minister representing the Minister for Planning, as zoning issues fall within the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
 - (a) N/A.

*2073 ROADS—BERRY BYPASS—Ms Hale asked the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many submissions have been received by the Minister and the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in relation to the preferred route for the Berry bypass road?
 - (a) Of those submissions,
 - (i) how many supported each of the possible options?
 - (ii) how many opposed each of the possible options?
- (2) Is the RTA undertaking further work on any of these options?
 - (a) If so,
 - (i) which option(s) is the RTA undertaking further work on?
 - (ii) what work is the RTA undertaking?
- (3) Will there be a further period of exhibition and public consultation?
 - (a) If so, when?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (4) When is it anticipated a decision on the preferred option will be made?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA is planning the upgrade of the Princes Highway between Gerringong and Bomaderry to improve road safety and traffic conditions.

In November 2007, the RTA released seven route options for public comment. An independent peer review has confirmed the process used to identify these seven short-listed options was well founded and consistent with good practice.

By the end of the public display period on 29 February 2008, approximately 1000 submissions had been received. A report documenting all the issues, concerns and comments raised by the community and other key stakeholders will be finalised and made public later this year.

Since the display period, the RTA has conducted an extensive value management process involving representatives from Government agencies, the transport industry, Local Councils, road users and local community members.

During this process each of the displayed options was assessed and areas for further investigation were identified.

The RTA is undertaking these further investigations and reviewing all the submissions received during the public display period.

The preferred route for the greater part of the upgrade is expected to go on public display in late 2008 along with a range of access options for the towns of Gerringong and Berry.

Community feedback will be sought on these access options and will again be sought during the Environmental Assessment and concept development stages of the upgrade.

*2074 PLANNING—SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT—Ms Hale asked the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Has the Minister, the Department or the expert panel appointed by the Minister received a report from a panel of experts raising significant concerns about aspects of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Environmental Assessment?
 - (a) If so, when was the report received?
- (2) What action will the Minister, Department and/or the expert panel take to ensure that the Environmental Assessment for this proposal meets acceptable legal, community and scientific standards?
- (3) Will the Minister, the Department or the expert panel be the final consent authority for this project?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that a report was received by the Department of Planning on 1 August 2008. The report is being considered by the Department, who will make its recommendations to me in due course.
- (2) All statutory requirements under the applicable legislation will be addressed.
- (3) I am the consent authority.

*2075 HEALTH—MEDICAL GRADUATE CLINICAL TRAINING PLACES—Miss Gardiner asked the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many clinical training places are allocated for medical graduates by hospitals (or other clinical settings) for the following years:
 - (a) 2007-2008?
 - (b) 2008-2009?
 - (c) Estimated for 2009-2010?
- (2) Are there any programs that aim to ensure that there are adequate training places for the increased number of medical school graduates in New South Wales?
 - (a) If so, could you please list these programs?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Medical graduates are allocated to prevocational networks rather than to individual hospitals or clinical settings.
- (2) The NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training is working with Area Health Services to develop appropriate strategies for managing the increased number of medical graduates, such as

identifying suitable learning opportunities for new interns, ensuring there is adequate supervision and support, identifying expanded training settings and ensuring that the increased number of doctors entering the system addresses areas of workforce shortage.

*2076 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT—EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY EXPERT REFERENCE GROUP—Mr Cohen asked the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Can the Minister indicate whether the Extended Producer Responsibility Expert Reference Group (ERG) provided formal or informal advice, in the form of a implementation report, to her or the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) in response to the following:
 - (a) 2005-2006 Priority Statement?
 - (b) 2007 Priority Statement?
- (2) If the ERG did provide formal advice, is it available on the DECC website?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) In relation to the Recommendation 46 of the ERG in the 'Report on the implementation of the NSW Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement 2004' published in September 2005,
 - (a) did previous Ministers adopt the report?
 - (b) will the current Minister adopt the report?
 - (i) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1)
 - (a) Yes, a report on the implementation of the 2005-06 Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement was provided to my office and to the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) by the Expert Reference Group (ERG).
 - (b) No, the ERG has not provided advice on the implementation of the 2007 Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement.
- (2) No. The advice from the ERG to me with recommendations for action from priority industry sectors is currently being considered.
- (3) The ERG provides independent advice to the Government on Extended Producer Responsibility issues in NSW. The ERG's recommendations are provided as advice to be taken into consideration, rather than formally adopted.

*2077 WATER—LICENSING POLICY FOR GROUNDWATER RESOURCES—Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) When did the licensing policy for groundwater resources of the Hawkesbury sandstone, Kulnura-Mangrove Mountain produced by the Department of Land and Water Conservation in 1996 ceased to have effect?
- (2) Applying this policy to Water Act applications in 1998, what would the volumetric allocation to a licensee be for subzone 2 and subzone if the total size of a property was 35 Hectares?
- (3) On what basis or by what direction, determination or instrument did the policy cease to have effect and apply to volumetric licensing applications for new licenses or applications for increased allocation?
- (4) What Departmental licensing policy was in effect to evaluate licensing applications for new licenses or increases of existing allocations under the Water Act 1912 between 31 March 2001 and 1 July 2004?
- (5) Did the Hunter Region Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) or Department of Natural Resources (DNR) adopt the practice of evaluating and determining Water Act 1912 applications with reference to gazetted but not commenced Water Sharing Plans (WSP)?

- (a) If so, why?
- (6) Did any other Regional Offices adopt this practice?
- (7) Were there any Ministerial or Director-General directions and instructions to the Regional Offices to adopt the practice of applying gazetted WSPs to Water Act applications?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (8) Were employees of the South Coast Region DIPNR/DNR advised in October 2004 that increased allocations sought under DA22097/2003 were to be sourced from a vendor willing to transfer an access licence or from a controlled allocation?
- (9) Has the Department of Water and Energy undertaken any controlled allocation in relation to the 'Water Sharing Plan for the Kulnura Mangrove Mountain Groundwater Sources 2003'?
- (10) How many license applications lodged under the Water Act have been determined, post the gazettal of a WSP, under Clause 38 Schedule 10 of the Water Management Act in:
- (a) New South Wales?
- (b) Kulnura-Mangrove Mountain Catchment Area?
- (11) How many megalitres have been allocated under the Water Act, post gazettal of a WSP and prior to controlled allocations in:
- (a) New South Wales?
- (b) Kulnura-Mangrove Mountain Catchment Area?
- (12) Is there evidence the Department had a policy of not applying policy and principles contained in WSPs after gazettal and prior to 1 July 2004 for the purpose of overcoming the need for a controlled allocation?
- (13) Did any employee of the DIPNR or DNR raise concerns about the loss of state revenue and income stemming from the non-implementation of controlled allocations under WSPs prior to 1 July 2004?
- (14) In relation to DA 22097/2003 Euloo Road, Peats Ridge, what policy did the South Coast Region Office apply to determine the merits of a 41 ML/Y increase under Part 5 of the Water Act for a non-rural use?
- (15) Of the 22 groundwater licence applications outstanding as of 13 May 2005, including applications lodged between 10 January 2003 and 29 June 2004, how many license applications resulted in increased water allocations?
- (a) Could you identify by license number those licenses which received increase allocations?

Answer—

(1) to (6). In 1997 the Minister for Land & Water Conservation released the NSW State Groundwater Policy Framework document as part of the NSW Water Reforms. There were three component policies (groundwater quality protection, groundwater dependent ecosystems and groundwater quantity management) identified under this framework. These component policy documents were provided to water management committees as reference material for development of water sharing plans. Following the introduction of this policy framework volumetric allocations were determined across the State, based on the principles of sustainability of the groundwater system and demonstrated need.

(7). The rules of the Water Sharing Plans take effect only after the commencement of the Plans. The legislation requires that applications made under the Water Act 1912 are dealt with under the provisions of that Act.

(8). The Water Sharing Plan for the Kulnura Mangrove Mountain Groundwater Sources commenced 1 July 2004. Applications made before the commencement of the plan were required to be determined under the provisions of the Water Act 1912. The only opportunity to increase individual entitlements, on applications lodged after the commencement of the water sharing plan, is via trading in of entitlement (dealing) or from a controlled allocation.

(9). No.

(10)(a). All applications made between the gazettal and commencement dates of water sharing plans, but still outstanding at the time of commencement of the plans, are required to be determined in accordance with the provisions of Clause 38 of Schedule 10 of the Water Management Act 2000. Effectively, this means they are determined with regard to the provisions of the Water Act 1912. The resources required to

research and collate the total number of these applications, statewide, would cause an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources from essential core functions.

(10)(b). Twenty-two.

(11)(a) and (b). Apart from one instance of controlled allocation on the lower Darling in south-west NSW, there have been no controlled allocations declared in NSW.

(12) and (13). Controlled allocation provisions only potentially become available after the water sharing plan commencement, which in the case of Kulnura-Mangrove Mountain, was 1 July 2004.

(14). See answer to questions (1) to (6).

(15). All of the applications.

(15)(a).

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20AL100952

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*2078 HEALTH—PADP LODGEMENT CENTRES—Mr Cohen asked the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Health—

(1) On what date was Oakton (formerly Acumen Alliance) appointed to conduct the approved financial and compliance audit of Area Health Services (AHS) Program of Appliances for Disabled People (PADP) Lodgement Centres?

(2) Were all New South Wales AHS PAPD Lodgement Centres audited?

(a) If not,

(i) which Lodgement Centres were audited?

(ii) what is the criteria for a Lodgement Centre being audited?

(3) Does the Department of Health or the Minister review, cite or retain annual reports completed by PADP Lodgement Centres held by respective AHSs?

(a) If not, why not?

(4) Does the Department of Health retain, cite or review information from the Health Care Complaints Commission in relation to PADP clients?

- (a) If not, why not?
- (5) On what date did the external auditor complete the collection of primary audit data from the AHS PADP Lodgement Centres?
- (6) Has the Minister or the Department of Health been shown a preliminary or draft report by Oakton?
- (a) If so,
- (i) on what date was the Minister or the Department of Health shown a preliminary report?
- (ii) did the Minister make any representations or statements to the external auditor in relation to the draft report?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (7) During the audit process has the external consultant raised any concerns to the Minister or Department of Health about the integrity or administrative capabilities of any PADP Lodgement Centre?
- (a) If so, which AHS PADP Lodgement Centres?
- (8) Do the individual AHS keep a record of their current equipment loan pool (ELP) inventory?
- (9) Do the AHS record whether a user of an ELP appliance has made a request for equipment through the PADP scheme?
- (10) Of all applications made to PADP Lodgement Centres, how many PADP applicants/clients were provided with ELP appliances while they were awaiting PADP equipment procurement and processing for the following years:
- (a) 2005-2006?
- (b) 2006-2007?
- (11) What percentage of all PADP applicants were provided with ELP appliances while awaiting PADP equipment procurement?
- (12) How many PADP applicants between 1 January 2008 and 30 June 2008 had been on PADP Lodgement Centre waiting lists for 12 months or longer in:
- (a) the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service?
- (b) the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service?
- (c) the Sydney South West Area Health Service?
- (d) the Sydney West Area Health Service?
- (e) the Greater Southern Area Health Service?
- (f) the Greater Western Area Health Service?
- (g) the Hunter New England Area Health Service?
- (h) the North Coast Area Health Service?

Answer—

- (1). 22 March 2007.
- (2). Yes.
- (3). No. It is currently the responsibility of each Area Health Service to report on the annual performance of each PADP Lodgement Centre within their Area.
- (4). No. The Department of Health does not have jurisdiction over the Health Care Complaints Commission which operates under the Health Care Complaints Act 1993.
- (5). 23 May 2008.
- (6). The auditors provided a draft report to Health Support Services, a unit of the Health Administration Corporation, on 3 June 2008. The draft report is currently under review by Health Support Services.
- (7). The auditors have documented their findings in the draft report and these are currently under review by Health Support Services.
- (8) to (11). The Government strongly supported Recommendation 28 of the Pricewaterhouse Coopers Review that Equipment Loan Pools be co-ordinated across Area Health Services to increase the availability of loan equipment. EnableNSW is working toward co-ordinated Equipment Loan Pools that interface with PADP in all Area Health Services.

This information is not currently held centrally and the diversion of public resources necessary to provide the level of detail requested by the Member is not justifiable.

(12). Waiting list data provided by Area Health Services, as at 30 June 2008, is as follows:

- (a). 60
- (b). 306
- (c). 237
- (d). 3
- (e). Nil
- (f). 8
- (g). 96
- (h). 17

It should be noted that the joint State-Commonwealth funding boost of \$11 million, announced on 15 July 2008, will eliminate the current waiting list for disability aids and equipment.

*2079 AGEING, DISABILITY SERVICES—SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION AND RESPITE CARE POLICY DOCUMENTS—Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast representing the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) On what date was the 'Draft Allocation of Places in Supported Accommodation policy and procedures' document and the 'Draft Maintaining Respite Capacity Policy' uploaded and made available on the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care website?
 - (a) Were these documents temporarily removed from the website at any point?
 - (i) If so, why were the documents removed?
- (2) Will the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) publish stakeholder feedback and submissions on the draft policies, either in full or in the form of a consultation summary on the Department website, if stakeholders agree to publication?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) Who will be invited to participate in the stakeholder forums where the draft policies will be discussed?
- (4) Are the stakeholder forums open to the public to attend if they request an invitation from DADHC?
- (5) Does the policy of 'targeted consultation' apply to all stakeholder forums run by DADHC across New South Wales whereby participation at stakeholder forums is by invitation only?
- (6) Did the Minister consider the object of the Disability Services Act 1993 before the Minister approved the publication of the Draft Maintaining Respite Capacity Policy, whereby people with disabilities are described and labelled 'trespassers' if they overstay their allocated time at a respite facility?
- (7) In the "maintaining respite capacity" policy it states on page 7 that the first options explored must be community based and utilise existing funding. Does this mean that DADHC are reluctant to provide support to families in crisis that are "outside of the guidelines" or carry additional costs?
- (8) Is the Minister aware as to whether therapists need to get the agreement of families prior to closing therapy and casework referrals?
 - (a) If so, can the Minister provide examples of this process?

Answer—

- (1) to (8). The two draft policies the subject of this question, Maintaining Respite Capacity and Allocation of Places in Supported Accommodation, are two key initiatives in this Government's continuing commitment to improving services for people with a disability, their families and carers.

They have been the subject of a period of extensive consultation.

One of the first things that I did on becoming Minister late last month was to take a critical look at these Draft Policies and the feedback that had been received from the sector and the wider community on their contents.

I have subsequently instructed the Department to prepare new drafts of those policies.

I remain committed to the holding of a comprehensive stakeholders forum on these policies in the coming weeks.

The redrafted policies will be circulated to all participants in the forum, prior to the event, to enable informed discussion and consideration of the policies and the feedback received.

I am determined to ensure that these policies will deliver the services and long-term practical solutions that are the entitlement of people with a disability, their families and carers.

*2080 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT—REPORT OF ILLEGAL LAND CLEARING—Mr Cohen asked the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What action did the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) take in relation to the report of illegal land clearing in Maclean, Lot No. 1711, 1712 (DP 616116) and Lot 1072 (DP 702367)?
- (2) Did the landowner have a Property Vegetation Plan in relation to these properties?
- (3) Has the landowner made any representations to DECC as to the reason for undertaking the clearing activity?
- (4) Is the clearing undertaken by the landowner covered by any exemptions under the Native Vegetation Act?
- (5) Did DECC notify the Clarence Valley Council staff of the state conservation significance of the Gulmarrad area in mid 2007?
 - (a) Specifically, what advice did DECC communicate to the Clarence Valley Council?
- (6) Has DECC or any representative of DECC visited and inspected the land in Maclean, Lot No. 1711, 1712 (DP 616116) and Lot 1072 (DP 702367)?
- (7) Did DECC identify any old growth Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) on the land?
- (8) What findings, preliminary or final, have DECC made in relation to the construction of roadway and other infrastructure on the site?
- (9) Does the process of sediment moving into Endangered Ecological Communities Swamp Sclerophyll Forest fall within the scope of matters prescribed in Schedule 3 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 1998?
- (10) If evidence indicates that sediment created by the clearing process has polluted water in EECs will DECC use Section 120 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 to prosecute the land owner or holder?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) The alleged illegal clearing was first reported to the Department of Environment and Climate Change on 18 July 2008 and the matter is being investigated.
- (2) No record of a Property Vegetation Plan has been identified to date.
- (3) Yes. The landowner indicated that the clearing was undertaken for agricultural purposes, in accordance with exemptions available under the Native Vegetation Act 2003 for "routine agricultural management activities".
- (4) The Department is investigating this issue as part of its broader investigation.
- (5) Yes, as part of broader advice provided to a number of local councils on the North Coast.
 - (a) The Department provided maps to Clarence Valley Council (and other councils on the North Coast) showing areas of state, regional and local biodiversity significance. The mapping identified areas of state biodiversity significance in the Gulmarrad area.
- (6) Yes. An initial inspection was undertaken on 23 July 2008.
- (7) It is not appropriate to comment as this is part of an ongoing legal investigation.
- (8) It is not appropriate to comment as this is part of an ongoing legal investigation.

- (9) Yes.
- (10) The local council is the appropriate regulatory authority with respect to water pollution issues on the property.
- (a) See response to question 10.

*2081 PLANNING—MULLUMBIMBY SETTLEMENT STRATEGY 2003—Mr Cohen asked the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) When the Minister stated he is "advised by the Department of Planning that the approved development does not contravene the Mullumbimby Settlement Strategy 2003", did he cite, refer or review page 17 of the Mullumbimby Settlement Strategy 2003?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (2) On what basis is the approval of 2 Stage Development of the 2,500 square metre Station Street supermarket or any subsequent Section 96 Application compatible with Mullumbimby Settlement Strategy 2003?
- (3) The Mullumbimby Settlement Strategy 2003 states, "[t]he viability of the business centre of Mullumbimby is to be retained and enhanced through confining business development to the existing 3(a)(Business Zone). No stand-alone shopping centres will be permitted. Business zoned land is still available for development within the town centre". Does this impact on the approval of the s 96 modification application?
- (4) What criteria will the Minister apply to evaluate the June version of Woolworths' on-site sewage proposal?
- (5) Has the s 96 proponent provided a level of detail to enable a proper evaluation of the application's merits in relation to hydraulic and nutrient loading rates, design details, site assessment and soil evaluation?
- (a) If so,
- (i) has the Department of Planning verified and tested the veracity of hydraulic and nutrient loading data?
- (ii) who verified the accuracy of the data?
- (6) What weight does the Minister and Department of Planning attach to the Byron Shire Council's submission on the onsite sewerage plan and specifically the assertion that "[i]f the proposed on-site wastewater treatment system was presented to Byron Shire Council as part of a Section 68 Application under the Local Government Act 1993 it would not be supported"?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that it is the Department and not the Minister that cited page 17 of the Mullumbimby Settlement Strategy 2003.
- (2) I am advised that the aims and objectives of the Settlement Strategy include a need to provide adequate services for the population of Mullumbimby.
- (3) I am advised that it does not.
- (4) I am advised that the matter is currently under consideration by the Department of Planning.
- (5) See response to Question 4.
- (a)
- (i) See response to Question 4.
- (ii) See response to Question 4.
- (6) I will consider all issues raised in submissions, including Council's views, when making a decision on the application.

*2082 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—NEW SOUTH WALES FOREST AGREEMENTS—Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

What would be the total cost to the Government in terms of compensation or other expenditure in the event that the New South Wales Forest Agreements for the Southern and Eden regions were cancelled forthwith?

Answer—

Cancelling the agreements would be of little social, economic or environmental benefit to NSW, yet the cost to the State of NSW in terms of breaching the faith of industry and other stakeholders and meeting compensation and litigated damages claims would be incalculable.

*2083 TREASURER—RECALL OF PARLIAMENT—Ms Rhiannon asked the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

What were the additional costs of sitting during the recall of New South Wales Parliament on 28-29 August 2008, including associated accommodation and travel costs of members and services to enable the proper functioning of parliament.

Answer—

I am advised these costs will be reflected in future monthly financial statements.

*2084 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—WOOD FIRED POWER PLANTS—Ms Rhiannon asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Will trees that are currently left in the forest after "Integrated Harvesting" in the Eden Region because they are unsuitable either as sawlogs or pulp logs, be cut and sold to South East Fibre Exports for its proposed wood fired power plant?
- (2) Does electricity generated from a wood fired power plant, that uses 70% of native forest biomass, qualify to be considered 'renewable energy' in New South Wales?
- (3) Will you permit native forest logs of any classification, sourced from Victoria, to be trucked to the Eden Chipmill for the purposes of burning in the proposed wood fired power plant?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) The Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 1998 makes it an offence for defined "native forest bio-material" to be burned in any electricity generating works in NSW.
- (3) This is a matter for the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

23 SEPTEMBER 2008

(Paper No. 65)

2085 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT—EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY PRIORITY SCHEMES AND REGULATION—Mr Cohen to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister for Commerce—

2086 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES PLANTATIONS UNIT—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

2087 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- 2088 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT—ECOLOGICAL HARVESTING PLAN APPLICATIONS—Mr Cohen to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister for Commerce—
- 2089 COMMUNITY SERVICES—SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES—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 Community Services—
- 2090 WATER—KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK—Mr Cohen to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Rural Affairs, and Minister for Regional Development—
- 2091 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT—S90 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974—Mr Cohen to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister for Commerce—
- 2092 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—PLANTATIONS—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2093 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT—PESTICIDES AND FERTILISERS USED ON FORESTRY PLANTATIONS—Mr Cohen to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister for Commerce—
- 2094 LANDS—TRAVELLING STOCK ROUTES—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services—
- 2095 HEALTH—INCREASING NEED FOR NURSES—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- 2096 HEALTH—PATIENTS BELONGINGS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- 2097 TRANSPORT—TICKETING SYSTEM—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 2098 TRANSPORT—RETIRING CARRIAGES—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 2099 ATTORNEY GENERAL—THEFTS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS—Ms Ficarra to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations—
- 2100 HEALTH—CLOSURE OF BLUE MOUNTAINS MATERNITY WARD—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- 2101 FINANCE—COMPLAINTS BY AMBULANCE STAFF—Ms Ficarra to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- 2102 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—ST STANISLAUS COLLEGE—Ms Ficarra to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2103 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—DICK PERSSON'S USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Local Government, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 2104 PREMIER—DICK PERSSON'S USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for the Arts—
- 2105 PREMIER—DEFAMATORY COMMENTS—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for the Arts—
- 2106 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—DEFAMATORY COMMENTS—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Local Government, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

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- 2107 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT—FLYING FOXES—Mr Cohen to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister for Commerce—
- 2108 LANDS, POLICE—BALMAIN CROWN LAND—Ms Hale to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services—
- 2109 ATTORNEY GENERAL—BREACH OF THE PROTECTED DISCLOSURE LEGISLATION—Ms Ficarra to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations—
- 2110 HOUSING—SALE OF HOUSING NSW PROPERTY IN MUDGEE—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, and Minister for Western Sydney—

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- 2111 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—CULTURAL SITES IN THE UPPER HUNTER REGION—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 2112 MINERAL RESOURCES—MINING EXPLORATION OFF THE NEW SOUTH WALES COAST—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- 2113 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—NEW SOUTH WALES INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations—
- 2114 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—FORESTS NSW—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2115 COMMERCE—INSTALLATION OF HOT WATER SERVICES, SMOKE ALARMS AND SHOWERHEADS FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister for Commerce—
- 2116 YOUTH—INSTALLATION OF HOT WATER SERVICES, SMOKE ALARMS AND SHOWERHEADS FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Volunteering, and Minister for Youth—
- 2117 TREASURER—STANDARD & POOR'S—Dr Kaye to ask the Treasurer—
- 2118 FAIR TRADING—OVER THE COUNTER MEDICINES CONTAINING FOOD ADDITIVES—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 2119 FAIR TRADING—BISPHENOL A—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 2120 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—BISPHENOL A RESEARCH—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2121 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—BISPHENOL A AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2122 WATER—KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—Dr Kaye to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Rural Affairs, and Minister for Regional Development—
- 2123 HEALTH—BISPHENOL A BAN—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- 2124 FAIR TRADING—BISPHENOL A BAN—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 2125 HEALTH—BISPHENOL A AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- 2126 HEALTH—BISPHENOL A RESEARCH—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- 2127 HEALTH—OVER THE COUNTER MEDICINES CONTAINING FOOD ADDITIVES—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- 2128 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—INSTALLATION OF HOT WATER SERVICES, SMOKE ALARMS AND SHOWERHEADS FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2129 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—PRIVATE AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL FUNDING 2007/2008—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2130 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—PRIVATE AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOL FUNDING 2005/2006—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2131 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—FOOD SAFETY INSPECTIONS—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2132 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2133 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—FUSION—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2134 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—YOUTH ALIVE EXODAY—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2135 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—SCHOOLS EXO LEADER'S MANUAL—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2136 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—CHOICES OF LIFE PROGRAM—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2137 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CHOICES OF LIFE PROGRAM—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2138 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—HILLSONG'S SHINE PROGRAM—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2139 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—TAFE DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—

- 2140 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2141 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—WAITING LISTS FOR CAPITAL WORKS—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2142 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—ESTIMATES OF CAPITAL WORKS—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2143 TREASURER—MONTHLY STATEMENTS—Dr Kaye to ask the Treasurer—
- 2144 TREASURER—MOODY'S INVESTMENT SERVICES—Dr Kaye to ask the Treasurer—
- 2145 TREASURER—RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND LAND TAX—Dr Kaye to ask the Treasurer—
- 2146 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—FOOD REGULATION GUIDE—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2147 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—FOOD SAFETY TESTING—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2148 ENERGY—CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2149 ENERGY—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INTO CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2150 ENERGY—RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION DEVELOPMENTS—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2151 ENERGY—RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2152 ENERGY—STAFF AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS AND POLICIES—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2153 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2154 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—REGULATION OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—

- 2155 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—TEACHING OF CREATIONISM AND INTELLIGENT DESIGN—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- 2156 FAIR TRADING—HOME WARRANTY INSURANCE TREASURY REPORTING—Ms Cusack to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 2157 FAIR TRADING—HOME WARRANTY INSURANCE SENATE INQUIRY—Ms Cusack to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 2158 FAIR TRADING—HOME WARRANTY INSURANCE—Ms Cusack to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 2159 FAIR TRADING—CONSUMER TRADER AND TENANCY TRIBUNAL—Ms Cusack to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 2160 FAIR TRADING—SURETIES AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEES—Ms Cusack to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 2161 FAIR TRADING—BEECHWOOD—HOME WARRANTY INSURANCE—Ms Cusack to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 2162 FAIR TRADING—EFFECTS OF HOME WARRANTY INSURANCE—Ms Cusack to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 2163 ENERGY—EDEN CHIPMILL—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 2164 JUSTICE—VISITING RIGHTS AT LONG BAY CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Ms Hale to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations—
- 2165 PREMIER—ELECTORAL RETURNS—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for the Arts—
- 2166 MINERAL RESOURCES—COAL EXPLORATION LICENCES—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

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- 2167 HEALTH—AUDIT OF PADP LODGEMENT CENTRES—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- (1) Why has the audit report conducted by the Department of Health in December 2006 regarding the operations of the Program of Appliances for Disabled People (PADP) lodgement centres and their delivery of essential appliances for disabled people not been released?
 - (a) Do you intend to make the report public?
 - (i) If so when?
 - (ii) If not, why not?
- 2168 HEALTH—DRUG INJECTING PROGRAMS—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- (1) Will the Department of Health obtain reasons as to why Norway's one drug injecting room closed?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (2) How do the results and conclusions from such a closure influence the continuing operation of the Kings Cross drug injecting program?
 - (3) When will evaluation or operational statistics on the Kings Cross Drug Injecting Program be made publicly available?
- 2169 HEALTH—CHLAMYDIA TESTING—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- (1) What resources have been provided in order to increase the rate of Chlamydia testing in New South Wales?
 - (2) What public health education is there for young people in the public school system and for the wider community in relation to raising awareness of Chlamydia?
 - (3) How can Chlamydia screening rates be increased?
 - (4) What specific resources are being directed to regional and rural New South Wales?
- 2170 HEALTH—CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- (1) Has consideration been given to the use of liquid cytology for cervical cancer screening programs for women who reside in rural and remote areas, as well for indigenous women, in order to decrease the level of unsatisfactory and inconclusive results and subsequent repeat visits?
 - (a) If so,
 - (i) what was the result?
 - (ii) are there plans to introduce the technology to such women?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- 2171 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—PUBLIC SCHOOL MAINTENANCE—Ms Ficarra to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- (1) When will carpet be replaced at Leumeah High School?
 - (2) Are you aware of the multitude of carpet sections patched with masking tape creating an occupational health and safety hazard?
 - (3) Are you aware this carpet has not been replaced since the school's commencement in the early 1970's?
 - (4) Has the Department of Education and Training undertaken an inventory of New South Wales public schools with respect to the condition of floor coverings?

- (a) If so, will this information be made public?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (5) How many of the State's schools are without an assembly hall?
- (a) Of those schools without an assembly hall,
 - (i) where are they located?
 - (ii) how many are in metropolitan Sydney?
 - (iii) how many are in regional and rural locations?
 - (b) What plans exist to address this deficiency and what is the time-frame involved?
- 2172 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—AGEING STRATEGIES AND SENIOR IMPACT STATEMENTS—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Local Government, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- (1) What consideration has been given to assisting councils in New South Wales, especially those in coastal locations and other popular centres for retirement, to be able to plan and provide the appropriate housing, infrastructure and services to cater for their rapidly ageing populations?
 - (2) Will there be guidelines and/or directives to ensure that ageing strategies and senior impact statements are implemented by local councils?
 - (a) If so,
 - (i) in what time frame will this be achieved
 - (ii) what support will be provided?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- 2173 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—COUNCIL HOME BUILDING REGULATIONS—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Local Government, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- (1) What is your response to the article published in the Australian on 18 October 2008, which outlined the additional costs New South Wales residents are incurring as a result of stricter building regulations being imposed by certain councils?
 - (2) Has your department examined these claims in a report by the Australian Building Codes Board?
 - (a) If so, what is your response?
 - (b) If not, why not?
 - (3) Are there plans to introduce ministerial approval for such costly building codes or rules, as is the case in Victoria, to ensure consistency across the State?
 - (a) If so, when?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- 2174 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—ARE COUNCILS SUSTAINABLE REPORT—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Local Government, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- (1) When will the Percy Allan AM report 'Are Councils Sustainable' be made publicly available?
 - (2) Why has there been a delay of 2.5 years in releasing this report?
 - (3) Has your department analysed the financial and social impacts of cost shifting to councils for each of the following?
 - (a) Private certification provisions?
 - (b) Environmental protection?
 - (c) Public health provisions?
 - (d) Occupational health and safety?
 - (e) Abandoned vehicles?
 - (f) Contaminated lands?

- (g) Brothel legislation compliance?
 - (h) Companion animal compliance?
 - (i) Food inspection provisions?
 - (j) Heritage management ? Waster service provision?
 - (k) Energy and Water resource management?
 - (l) Rural Fire services?
 - (m) Pensioner rates rebates?
 - (n) Educational services?
 - (o) Roads infrastructure?
 - (i) If so, when will this information be made public and the Local Government Association informed?
 - (ii) If not, why not?
- (4) Are there plans to increase funding to local councils severely impacted by the above?
- (a) If so, when?
 - (b) If not, Why not?
- 2175 PLANNING—PLANNING FOR FUTURE AGEING DEMOGRAPHICS—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—
- (1) What planning and appropriate policy measures have been put in place to manage the provision of services, housing needs and infrastructure for our ageing population trends expected over the next 10 to 20 years?
 - (2) Is there interaction or communication with government departments to ensure a coordinated response?
 - (a) If so, can you provide details?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- 2176 PLANNING—SEPP 1—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—
- (1) What guidelines, reporting and other regulatory measures are in place to avoid misuse or inappropriate use of Councils' abilities to issue development approval related dispensations?
 - (2) Can you provide information on how many councils and which councils have breached their guidelines regarding the application of SEPP1 since its introduction?
 - (a) What action was taken in each respect?
 - (3) Will you be reviewing the operation and success of SEPP 1 and other state planning policies?
 - (a) If so,
 - (i) when?
 - (ii) how?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- 2177 ROADS—TIMBER BRIDGES—Ms Ficarra to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Roads—
- (1) What information exists regarding the structural condition of timber bridges in New South Wales?
 - (2) Is there an inventory of where such bridges are located and their age?
 - (a) If so, can this information be made public?
 - (b) If not, why not?
 - (3) What assessment has been made about safety risks to pedestrians and motorists?
 - (4) What plans exist for the maintenance of these timber bridges?
 - (5) What is the time frame and funding for such maintenance?

- (6) What support is being given to relevant local councils to assist them to maintain such timber bridges?
- (a) Could you please provide the the following information?
 - (i) Type of assistance?
 - (ii) Time frame for assistance?
 - (iii) Funding amount?
- (7) What plans exist for such assistance to local councils in the future?
- (8) Has contact been made with the head of civil and environmental engineering, Professor Bijan Samali from Sydney University of Technology regarding his study into the structural condition of over 200 timber bridges in New South Wales?
- (a) If so, what was the outcome?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- 2178 TRANSPORT—POPULATION GROWTH AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT USAGE—Ms Ficarra to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- (1) What are you doing to address the recent findings of the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics that found Sydney, although having a population increase of 4.1% over the past 5 years, had static bus travel patronage and only a 1.8% increase in heavy rail usage during the same period; in contrast public transport usage grew by 31.5% in Melbourne, 27.5% in Brisbane?
- 2179 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- (1)
 - (a) How many students are enrolled at Barrington Public School?
 - (b) Is this school at or close to full enrolment capacity?
 - (2) How many school children who live closer to Rookhurst Public School than Barrington Public School are attending Barrington Public School?
- 2180 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—ROOKHURST PUBLIC SCHOOL—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- (1)
 - (a) What is the minimum number of students required for Rookhurst Public School to remain open?
 - (b) Has that number been increased?
 - (i) If so,
 - (i) when?
 - (ii) by what?
 - (c) What was the previous minimum number of students required for the school to remain open?
- 2181 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL AND SOCIALISATION—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- (1)
 - (a) Did the Department of Education and Training persuade parents of children at Rookhurst Public School to send their children to Barrington Public School one day a week for the purpose of enhancing the childrens' socialisation?
 - (b) Is the Department now using the consequent reduced attendance hours at Rookhurst Public School as an argument in support of closure of the school?

- 2182 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—POPULATION GROWTH FOR GLOUCESTER SHIRE—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- (1)
 - (a) What are the current predictions for population growth for the Gloucester Shire?
 - (b) What are the current predictions for population growth for Rookhurst?
 - (2) Has the number of students enrolled at Rookhurst Public School decreased over the last three years?
 - (a) If so, by what number?
- 2183 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—ROOKHURST PUBLIC SCHOOL CLOSURE—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- (1) Does the Department of Education and Training have any plans to close Rookhurst Public School?
 - (a) If so,
 - (i) why?
 - (ii) what are the details of those plans?
- 2184 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—ENROLMENT AND CLOSURE OF ROOKHURST PUBLIC SCHOOL—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women—
- (1)
 - (a) In the last 12 months has any Department of Education and Training employee contacted any parents and advised them not to enrol their children in Rookhurst Public School in the Gloucester Shire because it may be closed?
 - (i) If so, why did this happen?
- 2185 COMMERCE—PROMOTION OF WIANAMATTA REGIONAL PARK OPEN DAY—Dr Kaye to ask the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister for Commerce—
- (1) Is the Minister aware of an advertisement that appeared in the Penrith Star on 14 October 2008 promoting the Wianamatta Regional Park open day on Sunday 19 October?
 - (2) Can the Minister confirm that the advertisement was half paid for by the National Parks and Wildlife Service?
 - (3) Can the Minister confirm that the remaining cost of the advertisement was paid for by the developers of the former ADI site (Ropes Crossing), Delfin Lend Lease?
 - (4) Can the Minister advise if the arrangement between the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the developer of the former ADI site (Ropes Crossing), Delfin Lend Lease conforms to the NSW Government Advertising Guidelines?
 - (5) Is the Minister aware of any other arrangements between government agencies and developers that involve taxpayers' money being used to help to promote land sales at housing developments in New South Wales?
- 2186 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—ANIMAL DERIVED FOOD PRODUCTS—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- (1) Is the Minister aware that neither New South Wales nor Commonwealth laws specify the labelling of animal derived food products which would disclose the farming production method used?
 - (2) Is the Minister aware that neither New South Wales nor Commonwealth laws specify definitions of farm production methods for animal derived food products, such as "free-range" or "bred free-range"?
 - (3) Is the Minister aware that a growing number of consumers are seeking food produced in ways that

minimise the harm and suffering to animals and avoid intensive animal farming methods?

- (4) Is the Minister aware that the absence of regulations specifying the labelling of farm production methods disadvantages many small and medium sized farmers, by failing to protect their market from unscrupulous branding that misleads consumers seeking products derived from less intensive animal farming methods?
- 2187 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—REGULATION FOR FOOD LABELLING—Dr Kaye to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- (1) What steps has the Minister taken to investigate the benefits of a consistent and rigorous system of labelling for all animal derived food products for those farmers and food processors who minimise harm and suffering to animals in their care?
 - (2) What steps is the Minister taking to develop consistent and comprehensive regulation for food labelling disclosing the farming production method of animal derived food products?
 - (3) What action is the Minister taking to prevent unscrupulous labelling that misleads consumers seeking food produced in ways that minimise the harm and suffering to animals and avoid intensive animal farming methods?
- 2188 WATER—HUNTER WATER'S STORAGES—Dr Kaye to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Rural Affairs, and Minister for Regional Development—
- (1) On what basis were the future inflows to Hunter Water's storages de-rated in its planning studies used to justify the construction of Tillegra dam?
 - (2) Can the Minister identify the scientific research which justified this de-rating?
 - (3) Will the Minister release the data on which this decision was based?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- 2189 WATER—TILLEGRA DAM—Dr Kaye to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Rural Affairs, and Minister for Regional Development—
- (1) What is the projected increase in the water bills of Hunter residents attributed to the cost of constructing Tillegra Dam?
 - (2) Is the statement by Hunter Water Corporation MD Kevin Young that 60% of the cost of Tillegra Dam is to be recovered from future development true?
 - (a) If so, what is the additional cost burden per development lot on future development?
 - (3) Has the Minister studied the impacts on the cost implications of Tillegra Dam for existing Hunter residents (cost per bill) and for future development (cost per lot) of a failure of the projected population growth of 160,000 over the next 25 years to occur?
 - (a) If so, what are those implications?
 - (b) If not, will the Minister cause such studies to be undertaken and the results to be published?
 - (4) What dividends and tax equivalents did the Hunter Water Corporation pay to the state government for the last 10 years?
 - (5) Is Hunter Water Corporation going to reduce the size of the dividend and tax equivalents that they pay to the Government to reduce the cost burden of the Tillegra Dam on Hunter residents or is the size of the dividend going to increase because the asset base will increase and Treasury want a fixed return on assets?
- 2190 FINANCE—SAFETY SOLUTIONS REBATE PROGRAM—Dr Kaye to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- (1) In relation to the \$500 Safety Solutions Rebate Program which is available to small business employers in New South Wales could you please provide the following information:
 - (a) Describe the eligibility requirements?

- (b) How long has the program been operating?
- (c) How many small businesses have applied for the rebate?
- (d) How many rebate applications have been successful?
- (e) How much money in total has been spent on these rebates?
- (f) How much money was budgeted for the rebate program in each of the last five years (including 2008-09)?

2191 FINANCE—SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA BILL—Dr Kaye to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) What communication has the Minister had with Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Julia Gillard, in respect to the Safe Work Australia Bill?
- (2) Does the Minister support employee representation on the Safe Work Australia Authority?
- (3) Does the Minister support amending the Safe Work Australia Bill to include provision for:
 - (a) Outlining the objects of the new body?
 - (b) Restoring effective levels of representation employee representatives (social partners)?
 - (c) Ensuring workers and industry are effectively and ably represented by peak representative groups?
 - (d) Freeing peak representative groups from ministerial interference when appointing their own representatives?
 - (e) Freeing the CEO of Safe Work Australia from excessive Ministerial interference in the management of new body?
 - (f) Establishing an audit committee to examine the finances and expenditure of Safe Work Australia?
- (4) Will the Minister lobby the Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Julia Gillard, to include the proposed amendments in the Safe Work Australia Bill?

Lynn Lovelock
Clerk of the Parliaments