



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2011-12-13-14

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

---

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**No. 227**

WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST 2014

---

The Questions and Answers Paper is published at the end of each sitting day and will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on that sitting day and any new questions. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered. During any adjournment of two weeks or more a Questions and Answers Paper will be published from time to time containing answers received.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Wednesday 6 August 2014

---

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 224 (Including Question Nos 5861 to 5915)	06 August 2014
Q & A No. 225 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 226 (Including Question Nos 5916 to 5950)	09 September 2014
Q & A No. 227 (Including Question Nos 5951 to 5956)	10 September 2014

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Wednesday 6 August 2014

2 JULY 2014

(Paper No. 224)

\*5861 OUTSTANDING HOUSING NSW MAINTENANCE ISSUES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services—

(1) How many outstanding Housing NSW maintenance issues are there in the Cessnock Electorate that have exceeded three months from the date of reporting for the following periods:

(a) 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013; and

(b) 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014?

(2) What is anticipated timeframe for the outstanding issues to be fixed?

Answer—

Information about maintenance and home improvements, including expected response times, are available on the Housing NSW website at:

<http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/Living+in+Public+Housing/Maintenance+and+Home+Improvements/>

\*5862 MAINTENANCE ISSUES RESPONSE TIME—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services—

Does the 48 hour response time, advised by the 24/7 Housing Contact Centre for maintenance issues reported to Housing NSW, commence from the time of reporting or does it exclude weekends and public holidays?

Answer—

Information about maintenance and home improvements, including expected response times, are available on the Housing NSW website at:

<http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/Living+in+Public+Housing/Maintenance+and+Home+Improvements/>

\*5863 REPLACEMENT BUSES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) How many of the 108 ageing buses scheduled to be replaced will be built in New South Wales?

(2) Of these, how many will be built in the Hunter?

(3) Will any of these buses be used to increase the number of buses available in the Newcastle CBD to accommodate the intended termination of the heavy rail line?

Answer—

I am advised:

Bus orders are not yet finalised for the 108 replacement buses being funded as part of the 2014-15 budget.

\*5864 BUS ROUTES 263 AND 267—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What changes, as announced in the recent State Budget, will be made to the Hunter Valley Buses bus routes 263 and 267?

(2) When will these changes be implemented?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW are currently in discussions with the local bus operator about additional 263 and 267 bus services. Details will be announced in due course.

\*5865 TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON GEORGE BOOTH DRIVE—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Roads and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

(1) Did Roads and Maritime Services receive an application for traffic lights on George Booth Drive in the suburb of Cameron Park to enable access to the proposed shopping centre?

(a) If so, when was the application received?

(b) If so, what is the current status of the application?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 20 November 2007, Lake Macquarie City Council referred a Development Application to the then Roads and Traffic Authority, which included traffic lights on George Booth Drive. The Development Application was approved by Lake Macquarie City Council on 9 June 2010. Timing of the work is a matter for the developer and Lake Macquarie City Council.

**\*5866 NEW ELECTRIC HOSPITAL BEDS**—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

How many of the 859 new electric hospital beds, as announced in the 2014-15 Budget, will be received by the following hospitals:

- (a) Cessnock Hospital;
- (b) Scone Hospital;
- (c) Muswellbrook Hospital;
- (d) Singleton Hospital;
- (e) Dungog Hospital;
- (f) Gloucester Hospital; and
- (g) Maitland Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) Cessnock Hospital will receive seven beds.
- (b) Scone Hospital will receive 28 beds.
- (c) Muswellbrook Hospital will receive six beds.
- (d) Singleton Hospital will receive six beds.
- (e) Dungog Hospital will receive two beds.
- (f) Gloucester Hospital will receive 58 beds.
- (g) Maitland Hospital will receive five beds.

**\*5868 LIFE SUPPORT ELECTRICITY REBATES**—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, and Special Minister of State—

Will the reported increase in electricity prices from 1 July 2014 be accompanied by an increase in the rebates for eligible customers with regards to the Life Support Electricity Rebates?

Answer—

With the repeal of Labor's Carbon Tax the vast majority of energy customers in New South Wales will experience a decrease in their electricity bills. Prior to 1 July 2014, electricity retailers contacted New South Wales customers to inform them of any changes to their electricity charges. These charges will now change, with the average New South Wales customer to experience a six to eight per cent reduction on their bill.

This reduction is due to the fact that electricity retailers have committed to passing through savings arising from the repeal of the tax, and have stated that such savings will be backdated to 1 July 2014.

With respect to the Life Support Rebate, I note that this was last reviewed in 2008, and no adjustments to rebate levels were made after that by the former Government.

The Government has since commenced a review of the machines currently eligible to receive the Life Support Rebate, and the payment levels for each type of machine, based on their average daily usage.

The review is being undertaken with experts from NSW Health as well as key stakeholders, such as the NSW Council of Social Services, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre and the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association.

**\*5869 HAZARD REDUCTION BURNS**—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Sport and Recreation, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Western Sydney—

- (1) How many hazard reduction burns were conducted in the Cessnock electorate from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014?
- (2) How many are scheduled to be conducted from 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Wednesday 6 August 2014

I am advised by the NSW Rural Fire Service:

The figures below cover the Local Government Areas of Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Newcastle and Singleton. Hazard reduction activities depend on favourable weather conditions.

(1) 13.

(2) The number of burns scheduled is subject to weather conditions.

\*5870 448 BUS SERVICE—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) What is the policy rationale for the 448 bus service only having one stop in Pyrmont at the casino?
- (2) What funds does the casino contribute to this bus service and how has this been calculated?
- (3) Does the 448 bus service stop to allow passengers to board or leave the bus between the casino and the Queen Victoria Building?
- (4) How many existing bus stops are along the 448 bus route?
- (5) What consideration has been given to adding stops along this route?
- (6) What were the reasons for providing an express bus service on this route?
- (7) Has a review been carried out on this service and has feedback been obtained from bus passengers and local residents?
- (8) What plans does the Government have for improving access to the 448 bus service?

Answer—

I am advised:

Route 448 is designed as a fast link between the Pyrmont business precinct and the Town Hall transport interchange in the CBD. This is a Monday to Friday peak-hour express service and does not stop between the CBD (Queen Victoria Building) and Pyrmont.

Route 448 was examined as part of a service assessment for routes in the region, which was informed by customer feedback. No additional stops are proposed at this time.

\*5871 SHORT TRIP TICKETS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) How long will paper tickets continue to be allowed under the full rollout of the Opal system?
- (2) What plans does the Government have to provide tickets or other options for short trips under the Opal system?
- (3) How will the Government ensure that short trips on buses continue to be cost effective for people on low incomes?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Fourteen paper tickets will be retired on 1 September 2014. These paper tickets can be purchased up until 1 September and continue to be used until they expire. There are more than 20 other paper ticket types still available for customers to purchase.

(2) Opal will be available for use on short trips.

(3) Under Opal, bus fares are cheaper than MyBus single paper tickets. For example, an Opal bus fare 1 (up to 3 kilometres) is \$2.10- 20 cents cheaper than the equivalent fare for a single paper ticket.

With Opal, after eight paid journeys in a week- all further travel is free for the rest of the week. That means, for example, a customer travelling to and from work every day will be able to travel anywhere on the Opal network for free on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

\*5872 ABATTOIR GAS CHAMBERS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events—

- (1) What proportion of pig abattoirs in New South Wales use group gassings to kill pigs?
- (2) What assessment has the Government made of the potential distress and pain experienced by pigs in gas chambers where carbon dioxide concentrations are over 20 per cent?
- (3) What assessment has the Government made of the potential for pain and suffering caused to pigs killed in gas chambers with carbon dioxide concentrations of between 80 and 100 per cent?
- (4) Is the Government aware of footage from earlier this year from the Rivalea pig abattoir which shows pigs kicking and screaming as they gasp for air inside a gas chamber?
- (5) Will the Government introduce an industry code or standard for pig gas chambers in New South

Wales that ensures pigs do not experience violent reactions and die in a state of terror?

- (6) What inspections has the Government carried out on pig gas chambers?
  - (a) What were the findings of these inspections?
- (7) Will the Government make CCTV cameras mandatory in all abattoirs to ensure current standards are not breached and to help improve standards to protect animals from unnecessary pain and suffering?

Answer—

(1) Four of 11 New South Wales abattoirs use Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) gas to ensure pigs are unconscious and insensible to pain before slaughter. Two of these are domestic facilities regulated by the NSW Food Authority and two are export facilities regulated by the Australian Department of Agriculture. All four are required to comply with the requirements outlined in the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transportation of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption (AS 4696:2007).

(2) All domestic abattoirs using CO<sub>2</sub> apply this at a concentration greater than 80 per cent which has been shown by organisations, such as the highly respected Animal Welfare Science Centre, to be a humane and acceptable method of stunning.

(3) See (2) above.

(4) The Government is aware of footage from the Rivalea abattoir.

(5) NSW Food Authority monitors compliance with standard AS 4696:2007 which requires all animals are unconscious and insensible to pain before slaughter. Animal welfare policy is administered by NSW Department of Primary Industries. National Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Livestock at Processing Establishments are being reviewed under the auspices of the Agriculture Ministers Forum.

(6) The NSW Food Authority audits each New South Wales domestic abattoir twice each year and also conducts a dedicated animal welfare inspection each year. These audits and inspections monitor that all animals are slaughtered in accordance with the requirements of AS 4696:2007.

(a) All abattoirs comply with AS 4696:2007.

(7) No. The Government supports voluntary adoption of cameras but not their mandatory use. The Government believes that the most effective way to effectively prevent animal welfare problems is to foster and maintain a culture that ensures management and staff at each abattoir fully understand and implement procedures to achieve consistent compliance with required animal welfare standards.

\*5873 PRUNING IMPACTS ON STREET TREES—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, and Special Minister of State—

- (1) What flexibility does Ausgrid provide on the geographical coverage of vegetation management contracts to encourage councils to tender to carry out tree pruning work for Ausgrid in their local government area given contract zones usually cover four or five council areas?
- (2) Will Ausgrid accept requests from councils to include only their local government areas in a contract?
- (3) To what extent will Ausgrid initiate a review of its latest clearance pruning requirements given many councils report that it is excessive?
- (4) Why did Ausgrid refuse the latest request from the City of Sydney to transfer clearance tree pruning as part of an agreement on sharing costs for converting multi-span power lines to aerial bundled cabling?
- (5) What action is the Government taking to reduce pruning impacts on street trees?

Answer—

It is expected that the tree trimming contracts for the greater Sydney area will go to an open tender in October this year.

It is a legal requirement for anyone working in close proximity to the electricity network to be suitably trained and qualified to ensure the work is done safely.

Any organisation, including Councils, with staff possessing this qualification can tender for the tree trimming contracts with Ausgrid.

While the tender areas generally cover multiple local government areas and are based on standard grid maps, Ausgrid has the flexibility to assess and award the works at a lower level.

Councils are welcome to submit tenders for their own local government area. All applications will be assessed fairly and the most competitive submissions will be selected.

With respect to pruning requirements, trees are trimmed depending on their species, the voltage of the

powerlines they are growing near and whether they are in a bushfire-prone area.

They are trimmed to keep the network safe – safe for the community, safe for staff working on the electricity network and to help ensure a safe and reliable power supply to our homes and businesses.

About 60 per cent of blackouts in Ausgrid's network area are caused by external factors, like tree branches coming into contact with powerlines.

All too regularly, trees that would normally grow 15 to 20 metres or more are inappropriately planted directly under powerlines.

Trees that grow taller than the network will always appear to be harshly treated when trimmed to clear powerlines.

Councils and residents have an important role to play in making sure that only appropriate species of trees are planted near the network, so extensive trimming would not need to take place.

Ausgrid trims trees to the same guideline that is used across the State. Trees are trimmed in accordance with the requirements of the Electricity Supply Act 1995 and the ISSC3 Guideline for Managing Vegetation near Powerlines.

It also applies the Australian Standard for trimming amenity trees, which includes cutting branches back to the nearest growth point beyond the required safety clearance, to protect the tree from disease and infection.

These guidelines are being assessed across the NSW electricity distribution industry and Ausgrid is also looking at how it can better engage with the community to hear its ideas on how tree trimming can take place to ensure the network remains safe and the amenity of local neighbourhoods is enhanced.

Arborists are employed to inspect the trimming work performed by Ausgrid contractors to make sure it is done to standard. Reviews of recent work show that, in many cases, trees which are inappropriate because they grow too tall, have been planted too close to the network.

With respect to the City of Sydney, Ausgrid is committed to honouring its existing tree trimming contracts. Transferring the contracts before they are up for tender is neither fair, nor proper.

The City of Sydney is welcome to submit a tender for the trimming contract when it goes to the open market later this year.

Aerial bundled cabling is welcomed by Ausgrid. However, Council is asked to pay the full replacement costs to ensure the cost is not passed on to Ausgrid electricity customers.

**\*5874 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES—**Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How does the Government ensure that students with a disability are able to attend and learn at public schools?
- (2) How are resources allocated to individual schools for disability support services?
- (3) What resources are allocated to the following public schools:
  - (a) Bourke Street Public School;
  - (b) Crown Street Public School;
  - (c) Darlinghurst Public School;
  - (d) Fort Street Public School;
  - (e) Glenmore Road Public School;
  - (f) Paddington Public School;
  - (g) Plunkett Street Public School;
  - (h) Ultimo Public School; and
  - (i) Woollahra Public School?
- (4) How many students with a disability needing support have been identified at these schools?
- (5) What specialist training has been provided to teachers in these schools?
- (6) How many specialist teachers or aides are provided in these schools?
- (7) What plans does the Government have to increase disability funds and support?

Answer—

(1) To ensure that it meets its legislative obligations, the Government is committed to ongoing support for students with disability and additional learning and support needs in New South Wales public schools and provides an extensive range of in school and targeted provisions to meet student need. These include learning and support specialist teachers and flexible funding in every New South Wales regular public

school, as well as the Integration Funding Support Program supporting eligible targeted students with confirmed disability in regular classes and specialist support classes in regular and special schools.

(2) The Department of Education and Communities provides every regular school with learning and support resources in the form of a specialist teacher allocation and an annual flexible funding allocation based on student need. These resources support students with lower levels of learning support need enrolled in regular classes and do not require individual students to have a formal disability diagnosis. Learning and support resources are determined on the basis of a school's enrolment and longitudinal NAPLAN data. Additional funding allocations are made to regular schools through the Integration Funding Support Program to support eligible targeted students with confirmed disability and moderate to high levels of support needs in regular classes determined by the student's individual profile based upon their learning needs.

In addition, the establishment, disestablishment and relocation of specialist support classes and specialist positions are part of the annual process of review and planning for support for students with disability.

An analysis of the needs of students with disability informs this annual planning process in public schools across New South Wales. This analysis and consultation with school principals, teachers, parents and carers, and relevant school communities determine the demand for and location of specialist support provisions for the coming year.

(3) The following table shows the resources - Learning and Support (L&S), and Integration Funding Support (IFS) - allocated to support students with disability and additional learning and support needs in the nominated schools as at 17 July 2014.

School	L&S Teacher (full time equivalent)	L&S annual flexible funding	IFS funding
Bourke Street Public School	0.2 FTE	\$6,462	\$37,140
Crown Street Public School	0.4 FTE	\$10,250	\$8,140
Darlinghurst Public School	0.5 FTE	\$6,970	\$9,040
Fort Street Public School	0.2 FTE	\$3,010	\$0
Glenmore Road Public School	0.4 FTE	\$7,900	\$53,930
Paddington Public School	0.5 FTE	\$9,229	\$19,170
Plunkett Street Public School	0.2 FTE	\$5,010	\$31,370
Ultimo Public School	0.8 FTE	\$15,863	\$61,340
Woollahra Public School	0.5 FTE	\$17,018	\$0

(4) The Department does not disclose specific student information which has the potential to identify individual students. The provision of data about the number of identified students with disability in the schools indicated has the potential to identify individual students.

(5) Each school makes decisions about the provision of professional learning for its staff including those working with students with disability and additional learning and support needs. The Department currently provides six accredited training courses Understanding Autistic Spectrum Disorders; Inclusion for Learners with Speech, Language and Communication Needs; Understanding and Managing Behaviour; Understanding Motor Coordination; Understanding Dyslexia and Significant Difficulties in Reading; and Understanding Hearing Loss. More than 15,100 New South Wales public school staff have completed one or more of these courses. In addition more than 37,000 New South Wales public school staff have undertaken accredited training about the Disability Standards for Education. At least 200 teachers have been sponsored by the Department through the Every Student, Every School initiative to undertake post graduate university studies about students with disability and additional learning and support needs.

(6) While each regular school receives a specialist teacher allocation (as indicated in the table at question 4), the number of additional specialist teachers or school learning support officers (formerly teacher aides) is determined by each school in response to student need. Under the Local Schools, Local Decisions reforms for New South Wales public schools, principals in consultation with their school communities have a greater say over how they allocate and use their resources to best meet the needs of their students.

(7) The Government is committed to ongoing support for students with disability and additional learning and support needs in New South Wales public schools and increases expenditure to meet need.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Wednesday 6 August 2014

\*5876 INNER CITY WOMEN'S REFUGES—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) What action will the Government take to ensure inner city women's refuges keep their premises to prevent interruption to homelessness services?
- (2) What consideration will the Government give to providing additional funding to refuges that are forced to move from existing premises to cover the additional cost of renting a new premise?
- (3) Will the Government extend the funding period beyond 18 months to ensure inner city women's homeless refuges remain viable?

Answer—

Details of the Going Home Staying Home reform are available on the Housing NSW website at:

<http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/Help+with+Housing/Homelessness/Going+Home+Staying+Home/Going+Home+Staying+Home.htm>

\*5877 REDUCING POKER MACHINE BETTING LIMITS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Hospitality, Gaming and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What consideration will the Government give to the Productivity Commission's proposal to reduce poker machine bet limits as a way to reduce harm without affecting recreational gamblers, which was supported by the 2011 Joint Select Committee on Gambling Reform report?
- (2) What assessment has the Government made on the effect of reducing poker machine bet limits to \$1?
- (3) What new actions will the Government consider to reduce losses by problem gamblers?

Answer—

(1) The Government considered the Productivity Commission's findings following its release in 2010, and does not support a \$1 bet limit for gaming machines. The estimated costs of implementation are not justified in the absence of research confirming the efficacy of the proposal on addressing problem gambling.

(2) Available research on the effectiveness of a \$1 bet limit as a gambling harm minimisation measure is inconclusive. The estimated costs of implementation are not justified in the absence of research confirming the efficacy of the proposal on addressing problem gambling. The Productivity Commission noted that a significant proportion of problem gamblers already limit their bets to \$1 or less.

(3) The Government supports a pre-commitment system that is voluntary for the player, and is committed to working with the Federal Government on promoting and implementing a venue-based voluntary pre-commitment system. The Federal Government has committed to working with industry and jurisdictions to develop an appropriate timetable for implementation.

All staff in gaming venues must have completed responsible conduct of gambling training. A core module of this training includes addressing indicators of problem gambling for patrons in venues and the use of a checklist of indicators to assist staff. The content for this module was drawn from Gambling Research Australia (GRA) commissioned research, which was recently validated through further GRA funded research completed.

The Government is awaiting the outcome of a range of gambling-related research underway that will help inform future government policy.

The Government has also allocated \$16 million this financial year to target problem gambling through access to high quality counselling services, research and education and awareness activities across the State.

\*5878 UNSOLICITED PROPOSALS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) How many unsolicited proposals have been submitted to the Government since April 2011?
  - (a) What proportion of these proposals were approved?
- (2) How many unsolicited proposals have been submitted to the Government from community housing providers since April 2011?
  - (a) What proportion of these proposals were approved?

Answer—

There have been 103 unsolicited proposals submitted to the Government since April 2011, two of which have been approved and binding agreements signed. Two proposals have been submitted from community housing providers, none of which were approved.

\*5879 JOINT SUPPORT PROGRAM SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What is the nature of the services provided under the Joint Support Program to the clients referred to in LA Q.5314?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) That information about the nature of the services provided under the Joint Support Program to its clients is publicly available on the Juvenile Justice website.

\*5880 CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

(1) What is the status of the Corrective Services NSW program for protected witnesses?

(2) Has it been relocated?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Corrective Services NSW continues to operate a Witness Protection Program.

(2) No.

\*5881 COURT REPORTING IN THE SUPREME COURT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Will the Department's proposal for court reporting in the Supreme Court using contract monitors and RSB sound monitors eventually cover all Supreme Court civil matters, whether a daily transcript is required or not and thus remove the Department's current Court Reporters from all Supreme Court civil matters?

Answer—

I am advised:

No decision will be made until the pilot has been evaluated after six months of operation.

\*5882 DEPARTMENTAL COURT REPORTERS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

(1) Will the Department proposal for Departmental Court Reporters to be replaced by sound monitor contractors mean that for a one day matter with two parties, an individual plaintiff, if requested to pay for the transcript, will bear the burden of a 30% increase in overall hearing fees?

(2) Will the proposal mean that for a two day matter, the hearing costs would increase by 43%?

(3) If the proposal will not result in the above increases in (1) and (2), what consequence will there be for the cost of transcripts to parties?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) No.

(2) No.

(3) Fees will be charged at rates agreed between the Department and contractors. This is currently \$19.50 per page. When shared between two parties, this is \$9.75 per page compared with \$10.20 per page prescribed by regulation. Where only one party requires a transcript the current regulated fee will apply.

\*5883 SINGLE SEX YOUTH REFUGES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Family and Community Services—

(1) Will the Going Home Staying Home proposal mean that there will be no single sex youth refuge in the region extending from Fairfield to Bowral?

(a) If not, in which suburbs will such single sex youth refuges be located?

Answer—

Details of the Going Home Staying Home reform are available on the Housing NSW website at:

<http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/Help+with+Housing/Homelessness/Going+Home+Staying+Home/Going+Home+Staying+Home.htm>

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Wednesday 6 August 2014

\*5884 YOUTH REFUGES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) Will the Going Home Staying Home proposal mean that there will only be three 24 hour youth refuges in the region extending from Fairfield to Bowral?
- (a) If not, how many such refuges will there be and in which suburbs will they be located?

Answer—

Details of the Going Home Staying Home reform are available on the Housing NSW website at:

<http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/Help+with+Housing/Homelessness/Going+Home+Staying+Home/Going+Home+Staying+Home.htm>

\*5885 POLICE COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Sport and Recreation, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Western Sydney—

What progress has been made in investigating the complaint against police concerning the prosecution of Bradley James Rankin and Alan Leslie Roberts and the comments made by Magistrate Heilpern at Lismore Local Court on 30 October 2013?

Answer—

I am advised by the NSW Police Force that this matter remains under investigation.

\*5886 SOCIAL BENEFIT BONDS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations—

- (1) What progress has been made in relation to the proposed recidivism pilot of Social Benefit Bonds involving Social Finance and Mission Australia and the then Department of Attorney General and Justice?
- (2) Are there any other pilots of Social Benefit Bonds that have been considered for development involving the Department of Attorney General and Justice or the Department of Police and Justice?
  - (a) If so, what are they?
  - (b) If so, what progress has been made in relation to them?

Answer—

- (1) The decision has been made not to proceed with the proposed recidivism SBB model.
- (2) There are no other SBB models under active consideration at this stage.

\*5887 SMYTH REVIEW OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Mental Health, Assistant Minister for Health—

Will the Government lower the priority for mental health education and training in light of the recommendation of the Smyth Review of the New South Wales Institute of Psychiatry?

Answer—

No.

\*5888 CENTRAL COAST LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Mental Health, Assistant Minister for Health—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent staff were employed in mental health in the Central Coast Local Health District (LHD) as at 1 June 2013 and 1 June 2014?
- (2) How many positions in mental health were vacant in the Central Coast LHD as at 1 June 2013 and 1 June 2014?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) - (2) Local Health District Chief Executives and Boards are responsible for managing budgets in accordance with requirements of the Service Agreement between the Ministry of Health and the District. The Local Health District is also responsible for determining the right composition of the workforce to meet the health needs of the local community.

Where a staffing vacancy occurs, Local Health Districts consider a range of factors including existing skills mix and availability of other health professionals, the complexity of client health care needs and the level of patient activity. Agency and casual staff are employed as necessary while active recruitment is undertaken.

\*5889 NEPEAN BLUE MOUNTAINS LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Mental Health, Assistant Minister for Health—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent staff were employed in mental health in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (LHD) as at 1 June 2013 and 1 June 2014?
- (2) How many positions in mental health were vacant in the Nepean Blue Mountains LHD as at 1 June 2013 and 1 June 2014?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the response to Q.5888.

\*5890 WESTERN SYDNEY LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Mental Health, Assistant Minister for Health—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent staff were employed in mental health in the Western Sydney Local Health District (LHD) as at 1 June 2013 and 1 June 2014?
- (2) How many positions in mental health were vacant in the Western Sydney LHD as at 1 June 2013 and 1 June 2014?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the response to Q.5888.

\*5891 SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Mental Health, Assistant Minister for Health—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent staff were employed in mental health in the South Western Sydney Local Health District (LHD) as at 1 June 2013 and 1 June 2014?
- (2) How many positions in mental health were vacant in the South Western Sydney LHD as at 1 June 2013 and 1 June 2014?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the response to Q.5888.

\*5892 MENTAL HEALTH STAFF—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Mental Health, Assistant Minister for Health—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent staff were employed in mental health in the following Local Health Districts (LHD) as at 1 June 2013 and 1 June 2014:
  - (a) Western New South Wales;
  - (b) Southern New South Wales;
  - (c) Hunter New England; and
  - (d) Far West?
- (2) How many positions in mental health were vacant in the LHDs in (1) as at 1 June 2013 and 1 June 2014?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the response to Q.5888.

\*5893 TRANSPACIFIC LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT PLANT—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for the Central Coast, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

- (1) Will the proposed Parliamentary inquiry into the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) handling of environmental concerns investigate the lack of response to the hundreds of community complaints against the Lidcombe Liquid Waste Treatment Plant (now Transpacific) over the past 13 years?
- (2) When local residents direct complaints against Transpacific to the EPA's Transpacific liaison officer, as suggested by the EPA, are these complaints logged and tallied as they would if made to the EPA's environmental hotline?
  - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) Were the Minister for the Environment, the former Minister, and the EPA consulted regarding the Carter Street Urban Activation Precinct (UAP) development, comprising of 5,000 dwellings for a potential 15,000 residents?
  - (a) If so, why did the EPA support the UAP's proposal to construct dwellings inside the buffer zone?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Wednesday 6 August 2014

- (4) Does the Minister agree with the suggestion in the Environmental Assessment Report prepared for the Carter Street UAP that by the time any proposed buildings close to the Transpacific facility are built the facility will no longer be located in the precinct?
  - (a) If yes, what plans does the Government have for relocation of the facility?
- (5) Will potential buyers of the Carter Street development be advised of the location and proximity of the Transpacific Liquid Waste Treatment Plant, including information regarding the expiry date of the facility, the date and place of relocation of the facility, and the history of emissions generated by the facility's operation?
  - (a) If so, how will this information be provided?

Answer—

- (1) The Parliamentary Inquiry will determine the matters it investigates.
- (2) Both are recorded in the licensee's annual return.
- (3) The EPA was consulted with regard to the UAP proposal. The proposal was not supported in its current form. A copy of the EPA response is available on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) website.
- (4) The future of the Transpacific facility is a contractual matter between the land owner, the lessee and the plant operator.
- (5) If the Carter Street UAP is approved, any conditions concerning provision of information will be a matter for the consent authority.

\*5894 PARKING FEE REVENUE AT MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How much revenue was generated by parking fees at Mount Druitt Hospital for the year ending 30 June 2014?
- (2) How does this figure compare to each of the previous five years?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) - (2) \$73,133 revenue was generated by parking fees at Mount Druitt Hospital for the financial year ending 30 June 2014. Revenue for parking at Mount Druitt Hospital from July 1 2011 to June 30 2014 was \$263 000. The revenue generated by parking fees at Mount Druitt Hospital from July 1 2008 to June 30 2011 was \$311 000.

The Government is currently investing in the upgrade of a car park at Mount Druitt Hospital. This upgrade will provide additional car parking spaces.

\*5895 CARDIAC WARD AT MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Did the Minister claim to have a record budget in her portfolio of Health?
  - (a) If so, will the Minister reverse the decision to close the Cardiac Ward at Mount Druitt Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The consolidation of cardiac services, which commenced on 1 July 2014, enhances patient cardiac care at Blacktown Hospital, and the enhancement of selected services at Mount Druitt Hospital will create centres of excellence for planned surgery, rehabilitation and paediatrics.

\*5896 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many people were transferred to the Mount Druitt Hospital by ambulance from 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014?
- (2) How do these figures compare for the same period over the past three years?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) - (2) 1,915 people were transferred to Mount Druitt Hospital by ambulance during the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014.

The number of ambulance transfers to Mt Druitt Hospital were:

- 2011: 2,089.
- 2012: 2,115.
- 2013: 2,126.

\*5897 ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY CONSOLIDATED FUND—Mr Richard Amery asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations—

- (1) What was the average dividend paid to the Consolidated Fund from the electricity industry over the past five years?
- (2) What is the breakdown from all sources of the industry for these amounts?

Answer—

This information is printed in the Budget Papers every year.

\*5898 ROOTY HILL RAILWAY STATION EASY ACCESS FACILITIES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

Where in the Budget Papers are the funds to provide the easy access facilities to the Rooty Hill Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2012, the Government announced a new Transport Access Program which will deliver accessible, modern, secure and integrated transport infrastructure where it is needed most. This includes station upgrades, better interchanges and commuter car parks. This program includes more than \$770 million for improvements over four years.

Budget paper 4 details the 2014-15 funding allocation for the Transport Access Program.

More planning and design work will now occur to see which projects will come next. Rooty Hill Station will be considered as part of this process.

The Transport Access Program is part of the Government's commitment to improve public transport services and provide a world-class transport system people want to use.

\*5899 COUNCIL TRAFFIC COMMITTEES—Mr Barry Collier asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Roads and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What role do Council Traffic Committees (CTC) have in the management of traffic and parking on state and local roads?
- (2) What literature is available to advise Councils and Council Committee Chairpersons on:
  - (a) The function of CTCs;
  - (b) The responsibilities of CTCs;
  - (c) The role of the Chairman of CTCs;
  - (d) The alternatives available to Councils in dealing with recommendations of their traffic committees; and
  - (e) The procedures to be followed when a Council rejects a decision of its CTC?
- (3) What role do New South Wales Members of Parliament play in the decision making process of local CTCs?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is available on the Roads and Maritime Services website, Traffic Committees page, including the document A Guide to the delegation to councils for the regulation of traffic.

\*5900 F6 EXTENSION—Mr Barry Collier asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Roads and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) When will the route of the proposed F6 extension be decided?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the F6 extension from the Illawarra to the M5 East via the Alford's Point Bridge?
- (3) Will the Government consider the alternative proposal for the extension put forward by the NRMA that includes a tunnel from Loftus to Sylvania Waters?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Wednesday 6 August 2014

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW and Roads and Maritime Services are collaborating to develop a feasibility study for options to improve access from the south to the Sydney Motorway Network, including a connection from Loftus to WestConnex in the F6 Corridor.

The study is to be considered by Government towards the end of 2014, and will inform the development of further detailed investigations and decisions.

We are considering various options to improve access from the south to the Sydney Motorway Network including the feasibility of tunnelled options in some areas.

The investigation includes potential improvements to the A6 route between the Princes Highway and the M5 Motorway, including- Heathcote Road, New Illawarra Road, Old Illawarra Road, Alfords Point Road and Davies Road.

The A6 is a high standard road in most parts with only eleven sets of traffic lights and one round-about along its 20 kilometre route.

This option will be assessed against other options to improve access from the south to the Sydney Motorway Network, including a motorway in the F6 corridor.

In parallel, the Government has directed WestConnex Delivery Authority to prepare a business case for a southern connection to WestConnex by the end of the year. The business case will outline strategic estimates including all potential timeframes.

\*5901 WOMEN'S REFUGE AND SUPPORT SERVICE CLOSURES—Mr Barry Collier asked the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) What women's refuges, domestic violence support services, and youth support services have been, or will be, closed in the Miranda electorate?
- (2) What women's refuges, domestic violence support services, and youth support services have been, or will be, closed in the suburbs of Menai, Alfords Point and Illawong?

Answer—

Details of the Going Home Staying Home reform are available on the Housing NSW website at:

<http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/Help+with+Housing/Homelessness/Going+Home+Staying+Home/Going+Home+Staying+Home.htm>

\*5902 FLYING FOX COLONY AT KAREELA—Mr Barry Collier asked the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, Minister for the Central Coast, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

- (1) What financial assistance has the Minister provided, or intends to provide, to Sutherland Shire Council for the dispersal of the flying fox colony at Kareela?
- (2) What non-financial assistance or advice has the Minister provided, or intends to provide, to Sutherland Shire Council for the dispersal of the flying fox colony at Kareela?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

The Government has been working closely with Sutherland Shire Council to implement the Kareela flying-fox camp plan of management.

The plan includes actions to manage interactions with native fauna (Step 1), clearing roosting and other vegetation (Step 2) and making an application to disperse the camp (Step 3). \$30,000 in matched funding was provided in June 2014 to assist with Step 1, and approval was granted in July 2014 for works under Step 2. If Step 3 of the Plan is required, the Government will work with Council to develop a dispersal plan and ensure the information required to make an informed decision is gathered.

\*5903 ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Barry Collier asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How much will the Government spend on the expansion of the Accident and Emergency Department of Sutherland Hospital in:
  - (a) 2015-16; and
  - (b) 2016-17?
- (2) How many extra beds will be added to the Accident and Emergency Department of Sutherland

Hospital once the proposed expansion is complete?

- (3) What new services and facilities will be added to the Sutherland Hospital as a result of the proposed expansion of the health campus?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) I refer the Member to the response to his earlier Question on Notice in respect of this matter, Q.5810.

- (2) - (3) This will be determined through the planning process.

\*5904 FREE SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE IN SHELLHARBOUR—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Will the Government provide funding to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether there is a viable demand to introduce a free shuttle bus service within the City of Shellharbour?

- (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government has no plans to introduce additional free shuttle buses.

\*5905 NEW BUS SERVICES—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) What is the frequency of the two new bus services, announced in the 2014-15 budget, available to commuters from Flinders to Shellharbour and Dapto to the University of Wollongong?

- (2) Has a final route and pick-up and drop-off points been determined?

- (a) If so, what are these details?

- (b) If not, why have these details not been determined and when will they be finalised?

- (3) Which transport provider will operate the services?

- (4) What will be the costs of the services?

- (5) What will be the price of a ticket for use of these two new bus services?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW are currently in discussions with the bus operator. Details will be announced in due course.

Regular route fares will apply to both new bus services with full and concession fares available to customers.

\*5906 ALBION PARK RAIL BYPASS—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Roads and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) How much of the \$1 million project allocation for the Albion Park Rail Bypass in the 2014-15 budget will actually be spent in the 2014-15 financial year?

- (2) What planning works will be completed with this \$1 million allocation?

- (3) In what year will the planning works associated with the Albion Park Rail bypass be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) A detailed breakdown of capital investment is contained in the Budget Papers.

- (2) The project will be further developed with local councils and the community during the planning stage. For further information on the project and details of work refer to the Albion Park Rail Bypass project page on the Roads and Maritime Services website.

- (3) Over the next two years, planning will include:

- site work and studies including surveys, geotechnical, flooding and traffic investigations.
- development of the bypass concept design, including road and bridge design, structural and drainage design, landscaping and urban design.
- preparation of an environmental impact statement outlining the benefits and impacts of the project. Issues that will be considered as a part of this assessment process include flora and fauna, noise,



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Wednesday 6 August 2014

vibration, air and water quality, visual impacts, socio-economic effects, flooding, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage.

\*5907 BERRY BYPASS—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Roads and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What are the contributing factors that have seen the estimated cost of the Berry Bypass project increase from \$510 million to \$580 million?
- (2) How will the additional \$70 million for the project be obtained from the State Budget?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The initial \$510 million cost for the Foxground and Berry Bypass was estimated in 2012 dollars before the project went to tender and further detailed planning was carried out. The updated cost incorporates inflation and other costs which will enable the bypass to open in mid-2018.

(2) \$580 million is allocated for this project in the 2014-15 NSW Budget.

\*5908 SHELLHARBOUR HOSPITAL—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) In what year will all the planning works associated with Shellharbour Hospital be completed?
- (2) Will the ambulatory facility planned for Shellharbour Hospital, which was announced as part of the 2014-15 budget, require additional funding before it can commence?
  - (a) What is the cost of the ambulatory facility?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) - (2) Planning for the Shellharbour Hospital redevelopment, including preliminary design, is expected to be completed in 2014. No additional funding for the ambulatory care facility is required. The total estimated cost for the Ambulatory Care Expansion Project is \$6.7 million.

\*5909 CAMPBELLFIELD HOUSE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Which Government department is responsible for the ownership and maintenance of Campbellfield House, Minto?
  - (a) Is this house for sale?
  - (b) What is the current use of this house?
  - (c) What heritage order applies to this house?
- (2) How would the Government ensure that the heritage value of the house would be maintained, and public access facilitated, if this house were to be sold?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) - (2) Campbellfield House at Minto is not owned or managed by NSW Health.

As this property is owned by Landcom (now known as "UrbanGrowth NSW"), I have referred this matter to my colleague the Hon Pru Goward MP, in her capacity as the NSW Minister for Planning, to respond.

\*5910 SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT ACT 2000—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed by the Ministry of Health are able to issue fines under the Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000?
  - (a) At which location are these officers based?
- (2) How many fines have been issued this year up to 2 July 2014?
  - (a) What was the total monetary value of fines collected in this period?
- (3) Are environmental health officers employed by individual Local Health Districts (LHD) entitled to enforce the Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000?
- (4) Are public health units in each LHD required to employ Tobacco Officers?
  - (a) Are these officers empowered to issue fines to offending individuals under the Act?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) - (4) No staff employed by the Ministry of Health are currently authorised to issue fines under the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000. Authorised Inspectors employed by Health Protection NSW and Local Health Districts conduct tobacco compliance and enforcement activity under the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000. These officers are located in North Sydney and in Local Health District Public Health Units across New South Wales.

Between 1 January 2014 and 2 July 2014, 94 fines have been issued under the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 for smoking in a smoke-free area. A further 2,144 fines have been issued under the Passenger Transport Regulation 2007 for smoking in a smoke-free area. The total monetary value of these fines is \$671,400.

Environmental Health Officers employed by Local Health Districts who are appointed as Authorised Inspectors under the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 are able to enforce the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000. Public Health Units in Local Health Districts are required to carry out tobacco compliance and enforcement activity. Officers employed in Local Health Districts are appointed as Authorised Inspectors for the purposes of the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 and are able to issue fines under the Act.

\*5911 SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS NETWORK—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Has the Family Advisory Committee met with the board of the Sydney Children's Hospital Network at any time over the last three years?
- (2) Would they agree to meet if requested?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) - (2) The Family Advisory Committee reports to The Health Care Quality Committee (HCQC) and the Director of Clinical Governance regularly attends the Family Advisory Committee. The HCQC is the committee of the Sydney Children's Hospital Network (SCHN) Board responsible for all consumer engagement matters. This committee is chaired by a member of the SCHN Board.

\*5912 CONCESSIONS FOR PENSIONERS AND SENIORS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Family and Community Services representing the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What cuts will the Government make to their contribution of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreement on concessions for pensioner and senior concession card holders following the recent cuts in the Federal Budget?
- (2) Will the Government increase their contribution to concessions for pensioner and senior concession card holders to account for any cuts made by the Federal Government?
  - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) - (2) The Government remains focused on delivering concessions to our seniors. The Treasurer and I have committed that the State's pensioners and seniors will not bear the costs arising from changes to Federal funding of senior concessions. In a move to protect New South Wales pensioners and seniors, the Government will contribute an additional \$107 million towards concessions for the 2014/15 financial year to cover the shortfall.

The Treasurer, the Hon. Andrew Constance MP, and I recently called on the Federal Government to reinstate \$450 million in funding over the next four years that the Federal Budget has withdrawn from New South Wales by terminating a National Partnership agreement.

This agreement had been in place since 1993, providing funding for discounted public transport fares, cheaper energy and water bills, council rates and vehicle registration.

\*5913 RAYMOND TERRACE GP SUPERCLINIC—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Finance and Services—

When will the contractors working on the Raymond Terrace GP Superclinic be paid?

Answer—

The contractor is paid progressively in accordance with the terms of the contract.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Wednesday 6 August 2014

\*5914 PUBLIC TRANSPORT CAPACITY—Mr Ron Hoenig asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

What increases will be made to public transport capacity to ensure residents can get on a train at Erskineville, given that Sydney Trains reporting data indicates that train loads at Erskineville reach 161% capacity during the morning peak, and considering the former Minister for Planning and Infrastructure's media release on 28 March 2012 which stated that he would work with the Minister for Transport to increase public transport capacity as new residents moved into the Ashmore Precinct Development?

Answer—

I am advised:

In October 2013, additional peak period rail services were introduced on the Bankstown Line to provide more capacity for customers. As a result, peak hour loading on trains departing Erskineville has significantly improved. Increases to weekday and weekend frequency and hours of operation were introduced on bus Route 308 between Marrickville Metro and Sydney CBD.

\*5915 REGIONAL RELOCATION GRANT—Mr Ryan Park asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Small Business, and Minister for the North Coast—

(1) Was the Deputy Premier consulted about recent changes to the Regional Relocation Grant that allows someone to be paid \$7,000 to move from Wollongong to Nowra?

(2) What evidence did the Deputy Premier receive that these changes would be beneficial to the Illawarra economy?

(3) Did the Deputy Premier consult with anyone from the Illawarra about this initiative?

(a) If so, who?

Answer—

(1) Yes. Consultation was also conducted with the Shadow Minister and supported by the Opposition.

(2) In November 2013 the Government enacted legislation to enhance the Regional Relocation Grant scheme. The enhancements took effect on 1 January 2014 and included extending eligibility for the Regional Relocation Grant (\$7,000) to metropolitan renters and introducing a new Skilled Regional Relocation Incentive (\$10,000) to encourage people to relocate to regional New South Wales for employment or self-employment. These initiatives are designed to better target the scheme and increase its appeal to a more economically active demographic. The impact of these changes is being monitored by the Government and will be assessed after an appropriate period of operation.

(3) Yes.

(a) The Regional Relocation Grant program was considered by the NSW Decentralisation Taskforce as part of a broader review of the Government's Decade of Decentralisation policy and its associated initiatives. On 18 January 2013 the Taskforce Chair and I called for submissions to be made on the Government's Have Your Say website. The review received a total of 67 submissions from a wide range of stakeholders, including peak industry bodies such as the NSW Business Chamber, regional organisations such as Regional Development Australia (RDA) NSW committees, several Regional Organisations of Councils, local businesses, individual councils and shires, community and specific interest groups as well as individuals. In the Illawarra region, key stakeholders including the Illawarra Business Chamber and RDA Illawarra were invited to make submissions. Written submissions were also received from the Wollongong and Shoalhaven City Councils. No submissions were received from the New South Wales Labor Party or its Members of Parliament.

5 AUGUST 2014

(Paper No. 226)

5916 WICKHAM TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

5917 NEW TRAIN CARRIAGES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

- 
- 5918 THE LOWER HUNTER FREIGHT RAIL BYPASS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 5919 ADAMSTOWN RAILWAY STATION GATES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Roads and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 5920 JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL EYE CLINIC—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 5921 JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL SECURITY INCIDENTS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 5922 RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Education—
- 5923 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REVIEW TEAM CONVENER—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5924 PREVENTION OF SELF HARM AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Assistant Minister for Health—
- 5925 NEWCASTLE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Women—
- 5926 LAW ENFORCEMENT (POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES) AMENDMENT BILL—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5927 SUPREME COURT PROCEEDINGS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5928 OPERATION PROSPECT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5929 SPECIAL GRANTS UNDER THE VICTIMS COMPENSATION SCHEME—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5930 RECOGNITION PAYMENTS UNDER THE VICTIMS COMPENSATION SCHEME—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5931 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC LOSS SUPPORT CLAIMS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5932 IMMEDIATE NEEDS CLAIMS UNDER THE VICTIMS COMPENSATION SCHEME—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5933 JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES CENTRES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5934 OFFICIAL VISITORS AT JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5935 GOING HOME STAYING HOME REFORMS—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- 5936 NEWLEAF COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- 5937 MEALS ON WHEELS—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services representing the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 5938 CABRAMATTA SCHOOL LAND REZONING—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Education—
- 5939 PROPOSED HOSPITAL CO-PAYMENT SYSTEM—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 5940 CABRAMATTA RAILWAY STATION UPGRADES—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Wednesday 6 August 2014

---

- 5941 CRIME IN CABRAMATTA—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 5942 REPORTED FALLS AND INJURIES AT PUNCHBOWL RAILWAY STATION—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 5943 REVIEW OF PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Hospitality, Gaming and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—
- 5944 AMBULANCE HUB STATIONS—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 5945 NSW FOOD AUTHORITY—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events—
- 5946 SCHOOL SPEED ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Roads and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 5947 LITTLE YUIN ABORIGINAL PRESCHOOL—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Education—
- 5948 RAILWAY STATION NEAR SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Barry Collier to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 5949 DISABILITY PAYROLL TAX REBATES—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations—
- 5950 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

**6 AUGUST 2014**  
(Paper No. 227)

- 5951 DISCONTINUATION OF PAPER TRAIN TICKETS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—
- (1) When was the decision taken to stop selling paper tickets at railway stations as a result of the Opal card roll out?
    - (a) When was this decision announced?
  - (2) Is it still possible to buy paper tickets at attended stations in:
    - (a) Melbourne;
    - (b) Adelaide;
    - (c) Brisbane; and
    - (d) Perth?
- 5952 OPAL CARD FEASIBILITY—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—
- (1) On which study is the Minister's assertion that "90% of commuters are the same or better off" under the Opal system based?
  - (2) Are the figures that form the basis of this assertion publicly available?
    - (a) If so, where?
- 5953 OPAL CARD SELLERS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—
- (1) What company will be contracted to on-sell the Opal card at selected train stations once paper tickets are retired?
    - (a) What is the value of this contract?
  - (2) On which days will Opal cards be made available to purchase at Glenfield Railway Station?
  - (3) If Opal cards are not available at Glenfield Railway Station, at which location will they be sold?
- 5954 PERIODICAL TICKETS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

Does the Opal technology used in the roll out of the Opal card across the New South Wales public transport system permit the sale of periodical tickets?

5955 MATERNITY UNIT BEDS AT ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many beds are in use in the maternity unit at Royal North Shore Hospital?
  - (a) How many of these beds are electric; and
  - (b) How many of these beds are manual wind up?
  - (c) What plans exist to increase the number of electric beds?

5956 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Are there any regulations in the licensing arrangements for community transport services that prevent community transport buses from transporting:
  - (a) Disabled persons travelling from their home to places of employment in assisted workshops; and
  - (b) Persons travelling from their home to nursing homes for respite care?
- (2) Are there any community transport services in New South Wales that provide transport for persons in the circumstances stated in (1)?