



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2011-12-13

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 137

WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2013

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.

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Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 133 (Including Question Nos 3302 to 3336)	26 March 2013
Q & A No. 134 (Including Question Nos 3337 to 3369)	27 March 2013
Q & A No. 135 (Including Question Nos 3370 to 3426)	28 March 2013
Q & A No. 136 (Including Question Nos 3427 to 3457)	02 April 2013
Q & A No. 137 (Including Question Nos 3458 to 3490)	03 April 2013

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- 3456 FUNDING FOR ILLAWARRA INSTITUTE OF TAFE—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Minister for Education—
- 3457 SYDNEY WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

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- 3458 WESTERN SYDNEY TRAVEL TIMES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- (1) Has the Auditor General reported an increase in travel times on roads from Western Sydney to the Sydney Central Business District (CBD)?
 - (2) What is the Government doing to improve travelling times from the Mount Druitt electorate to the Sydney CBD?
- 3459 PUNCHBOWL STATION EASY ACCESS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport—
- Why has Punchbowl station not received funding for an Easy Access upgrade despite its barrier count being significantly higher than Oatley and Waterfall stations, both of which have planning approval and funding for Easy Access upgrades?
- 3460 INNER CITY SELECTIVE SCHOOL STUDENTS—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for Education—
- With respect to inner city students attending Sydney Girls High School and Sydney Boys High School:
- (1) What percentage of students attending these selective schools live in the inner city?
 - (2) Is any extra weighting given to local students in allocating places to these schools?
 - (3) What options has the Department of Education and Communities investigated for increasing access to these schools for local students?
 - (4) Has the Department of Education and Communities considered using local resident status as an additional criterion to give priority at local selective schools in order to improve access to public high schools?
 - (5) What plans does the Government have to increase local students' access to inner city high selective schools?
- 3461 REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- With regard to Regional Pest Management Strategies developed by the New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Services:
- (1) What research has the Government initiated on alternatives to the cruellest forms of pest management used in strategies like 1080 and pindone baiting?
 - (2) What work has the Government done on fertility pest control methods?

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- (3) What assessment has the Government made of studies and programs on humane forms of pest management including fertility control?
- (4) What targets has the Government set to cease use of certain forms of pest management including 1080 and pindone baiting?

3462 BAYS PRECINCT TASKFORCE LAND—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

With regard to land covered by the Bays Precinct Taskforce:

- (1) What development applications have been approved on this land in the last two years?
- (2) What development proposals on this land are at the draft Environment Assessment stage?
- (3) What development proposals on this land are on exhibition?
- (4) How will the Government ensure new development being assessed complies with a long term strategic planning framework/ master plan for the whole Bays Precinct area, given it is yet to be finalised?

3463 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING TRAFFIC SIGNALS—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) Does the Government require pedestrian crossings across all new legs of traffic signal installations?
- (2) If not, what is the policy for pedestrian crossings at new legs of traffic signal installations?
- (3) To what extent will the Government assess existing traffic signals in the Sydney Electorate and install pedestrian crossings at legs which do not have them?
- (4) What is the Government's policy for automatically activating the pedestrian walk signal at crossings without the need for pedestrians to push a button?
- (5) What assessment has the Government made on expanding the times and locations where pedestrians are not required to push a button to activate the pedestrian walk signal?
- (6) To what extent will the Government assess existing pedestrian crossings in the Sydney electorate which require a pedestrian to push a button to activate the pedestrian walk signal and consider making pedestrian walk signals automatic?

3464 NATIONAL PARKS ESTABLISHMENT PLAN—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With regard to the National Parks Establishment Plan 2008 which identifies priorities for building the NSW terrestrial reserve system:

- (1) When is the plan expected to be reviewed?
- (2) Will the review involve a public consultation process?
- (3) How will the Government work with the National Parks Association in conducting the review?

3465 MILLERS POINT SOCIAL HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

With respect to the Millers Point social housing properties:

- (1) How many properties in the first program of sales were sold?
- (2) (a) Did these sales raise more than \$18 million?
- (b) If not what funds were realised?
- (3) What housing projects were funded from these sales and how many additional social housing homes were developed with these funds?
- (4) Were these funds used for units in Lilyfield?
- (5) How many properties in the second program of sales have been sold?
- (6) (a) Have these sales realised more than \$22 million as at 28 February 2013?
- (b) If not what funds were realised?
- (7) What housing projects were funded from these sales and how many additional social housing homes were developed with these funds?
- (8) Were these funds allocated for Glebe housing redevelopment?
- (9) How many commercial properties and properties not identified as social housing in Millers Point have been sold and what funds were realised from these sales?
- (10) How many residential Lands and Housing Corporation properties in Millers Point and Dawes Point are vacant?
- (11) How many non-residential Lands and Housing Corporation properties in Millers Point and Dawes

Point are vacant?

- (12) What funds have been allocated to maintain and repair remaining tenants' homes in Millers Point and Dawes Point?

3466 LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD REBATE—Mr Ron Hoenig to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) How many applications were received for the Low Income Household Rebate in 2011-2012?
- (2) How many NSW households received the Low Income Household Rebate in 2011-12?
- (3) What was the Government's total expenditure on the Low Income Household Rebate Program in 2011-12?
- (4) How many households received both the Low Income Household Rebate and the Family Energy Rebate in 2011-12?

3467 FAMILY ENERGY REBATE—Mr Ron Hoenig to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) How many applications did NSW Trade and Investment receive for the Family Energy Rebate in 2011-12?
- (2) How many NSW households received the Family Energy Rebate in 2011-12?
- (3) What was the Government's total expenditure on the Family Energy Rebate program in 2011-12?
- (4) What is the budget for Family Energy Rebates in 2012-13?

3468 ENERGY INFORMATION HOTLINE VOUCHERS—Mr Ron Hoenig to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) How many calls were received on the Energy Information Hotline in 2011-12?
- (2) What community welfare organisations were involved in the distribution of Energy Accounts Payment Assistance in 2011-12?
- (3) How many Energy Vouchers were issued in the period:
 - (a) June 2011 to December 2011?
 - (b) January 2012 to June 2012?
- (4) How many vouchers were redeemed in 2011-12?
- (5) How many requests for additional vouchers were received from Community Welfare Organisations or other groups?
- (6) When did vouchers available to Community Welfare Organisations run out?
- (7) How many vouchers were unused at the end of June 2012?
- (8) How many unissued vouchers are currently available in the Energy Accounts Payment assistance scheme?

3469 PREVENTION OF SMOKING ON RAILWAY PLATFORMS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport—

With regards to the enactment of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012:

- (1) What Act covers smoking on railway platforms?
- (2) What penalties may apply and under which Acts?
- (3) What new signage has been erected on railway platforms since the legislation was introduced to inform commuters that smoking is now not permitted on platforms?
- (4) How often are non smoking announcements made?
- (5) Is there a time of day restriction to such announcements?
- (6) Do railway staff have the designated authority to order a commuter to:
 - (a) Extinguish the offending cigarette;
 - (b) Leave the platform?
- (7) What instructions have been given to staff with regards to their powers under the various Acts involved?
- (8) When were these instructions given?
- (9) Have any commuters been fined or charged under any Act for smoking on a railway platform or train since July 1, 2012?
- (10) If so, how many?

3470 PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL HYDROTHERAPY POOL—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to the hydrotherapy pool at Prince of Wales Hospital:

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- (1) Has a new charge been introduced for this pool?
 - (2) What is the cost of this charge?
 - (3) How much of this is claimable on Medicare or private health funds?
 - (4) Will you rule out any privatisation of this hydrotherapy facility in the future?
- 3471 CANTERBURY HOSPITAL STAFFING AND BEDS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) With regards to staffing and beds at the Telopea Ward at Canterbury Hospital:
 - (2) What is the total number of beds available in this ward?
 - (3) How many nursing positions as of 20 February 2013 are:
 - (a) established; and
 - (b) filled?
 - (4) How many of this number are rostered on;
 - (a) day shift;
 - (b) evening shift; and
 - (c) night shift at any given time?
 - (5) Is the Telopea Ward included in the current nurse-to-patient ratio agreements?
- 3472 WAITING TIME FOR KNEE REPLACEMENT—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- Can the Minister provide information on when Mrs Angela Catania, aged 75, who has been on the waiting list at Concord Hospital for a right knee replacement since 28 December 2011, will be getting her knee replacement?
- 3473 HEALTH WORKER OVERTIME—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- Given that the NSW Auditor General recommends (Volume 11, 2012, page 37) that all Health entities should identify the top 1 per cent overtime earners in 2011-12 and investigate if reliance on these employees is value for money or if patient safety is compromised:
- (1) What directive, if any, to make this happen, has been released by:
 - (a) The Minister's office;
 - (b) NSW Health?
 - (2) When was this directive released?
 - (3) In what way?
 - (4) Will the Minister direct each Local Health District to ensure that all Health workers in NSW follow the AMA safe-hours guidelines?
- 3474 MACQUARIE FIELDS FIRE DANGER—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- (1) What was the fire danger for Macquarie Fields on 14 Jan 2013?
 - (a) Was Macquarie Fields Fire station closed at any time on 14 January 2013?
 - (b) If yes, for how long?
 - (c) For what reason?
 - (d) What alternative measures were used during this time?
 - (2) What was the fire danger for Macquarie Fields on 15 Jan 2013?
 - (a) Was Macquarie Fields Fire station closed at any time on 15 January 2013?
 - (b) If yes, for how long?
 - (c) For what reason?
 - (d) What alternative measures were used during this time?
- 3475 LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL OPHTHALMOLOGY CLINIC—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- With regards to the Ophthalmology Clinic at Liverpool Hospital:
- (1) How many hours per month is it open?
 - (2) How many of the following work in this clinic:
 - (a) registrars;
 - (b) consultants?

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- (3) How are referrals made?
 (4) Is there a lower age limit to referrals?
 (5) How long is the wait for new patients to be seen?
 (6) How many as yet unseen new patients have waited more than three months for an appointment?
 (7) How many patients were seen in this clinic in
 (a) October 2012;
 (b) November 2012;
 (c) December 2012; and
 (d) January 2013?
- 3476 IN HOSPITAL FOOD CHALLENGES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) Which NSW public hospitals provide in hospital 'food challenges' for children with suspected food allergies?
 (2) What is the average current waiting time for each hospital from date of recommendation from the treating doctor to the date of the in hospital challenge?
 (3) What measures are being taken to reduce this waiting time in each hospital?
- 3477 AUSTRALIAN VACCINATION NETWORK—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) How many complaints to the Department have been received this year concerning the Australian Vaccination Network?
 (2) How many of those complaints have led to some form of enquiry?
 (3) When can we expect these enquiries to be completed?
- 3478 MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS FOR SCHOOL REGIONS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- (1) In relation to the Hunter Central Coast region of schools, what projects were nominated for funding under the Major Capital Works process in the 2012-13 year and which projects were successful?
 (2) In relation to the Illawarra and South East region of schools, what projects were nominated for funding under the Major Capital Works process in the 2012-13 year and which projects were successful?
 (3) In relation to the New England region of schools, what projects were nominated for funding under the Major Capital Works process in the 2012-13 year and which projects were successful?
 (4) In relation to the North Coast region of schools, what projects were nominated for funding under the Major Capital Works process in the 2012-13 year and which projects were successful?
 (5) In relation to the Northern Sydney region of schools, what projects were nominated for funding under the Major Capital Works process in the 2012-13 year and which projects were successful?
 (6) In relation to the Riverina region of schools, what projects were nominated for funding under the Major Capital Works process in the 2012-13 year and which projects were successful?
 (7) In relation to the South Western Sydney region of schools, what projects were nominated for funding under the Major Capital Works process in the 2012-13 year and which projects were successful?
 (8) In relation to the Sydney region of schools, what projects were nominated for funding under the Major Capital Works process in the 2012-13 year and which projects were successful?
 (9) In relation to the Western NSW region of schools, what projects were nominated for funding under the Major Capital Works process in the 2012-13 year and which projects were successful?
 (10) In relation to the Western Sydney region of schools, what projects were nominated for funding under the Major Capital Works process in the 2012-13 year and which projects were successful?
- 3479 OVER ESTABLISHMENT TEACHERS IN 2013—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- (1) As at the end of February 2013, how many over establishment teachers were there in NSW schools?
 (2) As at the end of February 2013, which schools had over establishment teachers?
- 3480 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- How many teachers were placed on a Performance Improvement Program in the 2012 calendar year?
- 3481 PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER VACANCIES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—

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- (1) How many vacant primary school teacher positions are there in NSW schools?
(2) Which primary schools have vacant teacher positions filled by a temporary appointment?
- 3482 VACANT PRINCIPAL POSITIONS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- (1) How many vacant principal positions are there in NSW schools?
(2) Which schools do not have a permanent principal?
- 3483 SPECIAL CLASSES FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- For each region:
- (1) As at July 2012 how many special classes for students with a disability and/or special needs were there in regular government schools?
(2) How many special classes for students with a disability and/or special needs were there in special schools?
- 3484 VACANT HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING POSITIONS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- (1) How many vacant high school teacher positions are there in NSW ?
(2) For each high school which has a vacant teacher position filled by a temporary appointment, what are the number, the subject area and whether the vacancy is for a head teacher or regular teacher position?
- 3485 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- For each Department of Education and Communities Region, what proportion of the highest priority minor school infrastructure projects put forward in 2012 were provided with funding?
- 3486 ILLAWARRA REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Minister for Transport—
- (1) On what date will the process commence to develop a Regional Transport Plan for the Illawarra?
(2) How long will the process take to develop the plan?
(3) What stakeholders will be involved in developing the plan?
(4) Which department or agency will drive the development of the plan?
(5) Will a draft of the plan be released for further consultations during the development stage?
(6) On what date will the plan be finalised and released?
- 3487 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATIONS—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—
- What plans does the Government have to amalgamate the local government areas of Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama?
- 3488 HEALTH PLANS FOR ILLAWARRA AND SOUTH COAST—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) Why is the upgrade of Shellharbour Hospital not listed under the health initiatives outlined in the Illawarra and South Coast Regional Action Plan?
(2) On what date is the Minister expected to receive the clinician and Asset Management Plan from the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District?
(3) On what date will the Minister announce the Government's decisions on the Health Care Services Plan published by the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District?
- 3489 LAKE ILLAWARRA AUTHORITY—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—
- (1) When will the Minister release the report and recommendations into the review of the Lake Illawarra Authority?
(2) (a) Will the Minister also release the submissions received by the review?
(b) If not, why not?
(3) How many individuals and organisations provided submissions to the review?
(4) (a) Will the report's recommendations be subject to further public consultations?
(b) If not, why not?

3490 ILLAWARRA AND SOUTH COAST BUS AND CITYRAIL TIMETABLES—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) On what date will the process to review the bus and CityRail timetables across the Illawarra and South Coast commence?
- (2) How long will the process take?
- (3) What consultations will take place as part of this review?
- (4) On what date will the review be finalised?

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