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REVISE



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2019-20

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 55

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2020

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. 48 (Including Question Nos 2334 to 2378)	31 March 2020
Q & A No. 49 (Including Question Nos 2379 to 2398)	01 April 2020
Q & A No. 50 (Including Question Nos 2399 to 2488)	02 April 2020
Q & A No. 51 (Including Question Nos 2489 to 2516)	07 April 2020
Q & A No. 52 (Including Question Nos 2517 to 2554)	08 April 2020
Q & A No. 53 (Including Question Nos 2555 to 2638)	09 April 2020
Q & A No. 54 (Including Question Nos 2639 to 2744)	28 April 2020
Q & A No. 55 (Questions—Nil)	-

25 FEBRUARY 2020

(Paper No. 48)

*2334 WILCANNIA DESALINATION FACILITY—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

Will the Government fund the purchase, installation and associated running costs of a desalination facility for the township of Wilcannia?

Answer—

As a result of recent rainfall in South East Queensland, meaningful flows are currently passing down the Barwon Darling River. These flows have already significantly improved the situation in a number of towns and are expected to benefit more communities along the river to the junction with the Murray.

Central Darling Shire Council, the water utility responsible for provision of water to Wilcannia, can source water from the Darling River or groundwater to provide potable water to the community. Following the first flush of water in the Darling River, it is expected that Council will be able to return to their Darling River source for the potable water.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will continue to monitor the situation, with NSW Health and Council, and may choose to implement water quality improvements such as Desalination (Reverse Osmosis) in the future to respond to its water quality risks.

*2335 COLLARENEBRI 4WD AMBULANCE—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Why is the Collarenebri 4WD Ambulance being transferred to the Walgett Ambulance Station?
- (2) Will the Collarenebri Ambulance Station be receiving a replacement 4WD Ambulance?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) NSW Ambulance regularly evaluates vehicle locations based on community need. In November 2019, the 4WD ambulance located at Collarenebri was transferred to Walgett ambulance station to assist with the 2019-20 bushfire emergency. The vehicle has remained at Walgett due to recent flooding in the region. The 4WD ambulance may be deployed to incidents in Collarenebri and surrounding communities as required.
- (2) Yes.

*2336 WESTERN LANDS LEASES AT LIGHTNING RIDGE.—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

Considering the response to LA Q0123, will the Deputy Premier honour the commitment he made to the people of Lightning Ridge in June 2019 that the Western Lands Lease rent increase would be pegged at the first year and not the subsequent three years after?

Answer—

There will be no further rent increases for term residential Western Lands leaseholders for the upcoming financial year. They will be assessed annually.

*2337 DUNGOWAN DAM—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Considering that the development plan has progressed, will the entire 22 gigalitres of capacity, made up of 16 gigalitres of new water and six gigalitres of replacement old storage, be licenced as Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) supply water?
- (2) What will the volume be of the effective Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) or cap diversion, expressed as a reliability factor of the 22 gigalitres of possible storage capacity?
- (3) How will this long-run diversion be accounted for within the Peel and Namoi water accounting system?
- (4) How will the cost, which is estimated at \$480 million, be recovered from users?
- (5) What does the Integrated Quantity-Quality Model (IQQM) water modelling and the TRC demand-cycle modelling show as an annual improvement in reliability for TRC, stated in megalitres or gigalitres per annum?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Dungowan Dam will increase town water supply for Tamworth by around 7 gigalitre (GL) per annum.
- (2) The Basin Plan Sustainable Diversion Limit will not change.
- (3) The diversions will be accounted for within the current state and Basin Plan accounting frameworks.
- (4) Further consultation with stakeholders will be undertaken before any decision is made about the final funding strategy for the project.
- (5) The modelling undertaken for the project feasibility study demonstrates that there is an increase in the long-term reliability for Tamworth and other critical water users in the Peel. Further detailed analysis will be undertaken for the development of the Final Business Case.

*2338 WAMBELONG BUSHFIRES 2013—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) Will the current review into the recent bushfires in New South Wales include a review of the actions of the National Parks and Wildlife Service during the Wambelong bushfire event that took place in the Warrumbungle National Park on 12 January 2013?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

The terms of reference for the NSW Independent Bushfire Inquiry are publicly available at www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/projects-and-initiatives/make-a-submission-to-the-bushfire-inquiry/nsw-independent-bushfire-inquiry-terms-of-reference.

*2339 DOPPLER RADARS BREWARRINA AND HILLSTON-IVANHOE—Mr Roy Butler asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) When will work commence to install the Doppler radars near Brewarrina and Hillston-Ivanhoe, as committed to in the 2019-20 NSW Budget?
 - (a) When will the radars come online?

Answer—

The Government has committed to funding the construction of three Doppler weather stations for the potential benefit of approximately 170,000 people living in Western New South Wales.

Indicative information regarding when the radars will be installed and operational is publicly available, and the Government will provide further updates on the radars as appropriate.

*2340 EARLY ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT VIA TELEHEALTH FOR POLICE AND AMBULANCE OFFICERS—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

Will consideration be given to extending the Police Ambulance Early Access to Mental Health Assessment via Telehealth program to the Western and Far West Local Health Districts considering the benefits for isolated communities?

Answer—

Yes. Planning has already been commenced by the Western NSW Local Health District to trial its Mental Health Emergency Care telehealth service in the community. I am advised the service will initially be piloted in Cowra for three months.

This will enable police and ambulance paramedics who are responding to a person in an emergency mental health situation to link to a mental health professional via video so that the person can be remotely assessed.

*2341 AMBULANCE VEHICLE NUMBERS—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) When NSW Ambulance reviews ambulance vehicle numbers, are waiting times due to inter-town call-outs considered as a factor for increasing the number of ambulances stationed in a particular town?
- (2) What is the method used for reviewing service times?

Answer—

(1) A range of factors are considered when reviewing NSW Ambulance resources, including the time taken for ambulances to return to station after responding to incidents in other towns.

(2) NSW Ambulance provides quarterly activity and performance data to the Bureau of Health

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Information (BHI). This includes response times.

*2343 REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Why are Disability Support Pension recipients and Carer Payment recipients aged over 65 not eligible to receive the regional seniors travel card?

Answer—

I am advised:

Eligibility criteria for the program is available on the Service NSW website. There are no plans to change the eligibility criteria at this time.

Carers and those on a disability pension are encouraged to check if they are eligible for existing support programs including the Companion Card, the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme and Community Transport.

Transport for NSW is currently reviewing the programs which support travel for carers and disability pensioners to ensure their effectiveness in regional New South Wales and to consider if there are ways to improve awareness of such programs.

The Government will continue to work to improve access to transport services for those with a disability and their carers across regional New South Wales, including by boosting public transport services in regional areas.

*2344 MANDATORY DRUG TESTING PUBLIC HOSPITAL STAFF NEW SOUTH WALES—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

(1) What is the Mandatory Drug Testing Policy for nurses, doctors and administration staff within all New South Wales public hospitals?

(a) When was this policy brought into practice?

Answer—

(1) and (1) (a) I refer the Member to the NSW Health Code of Conduct. Health practitioners requiring registration to practise in Australia are also bound by registration standards for their profession.

*2345 FURTHER GOVERNMENT WATER BUY BACKS—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

Will the Minister oppose any plans for further water buy backs from the Murrumbidgee River system by any department, whether state or federal?

Answer—

I oppose further water buy backs from the Murrumbidgee River system by any department, whether state or federal if these are not in the best interests of our regional communities and do not directly contribute to improving outcomes for our state.

*2346 CROWN LAND FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF RAIL SERVICES AND TRANSPORT HUB—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

Will Crown Lands be retained on and surrounding current rail infrastructure at Orange to enable future expansion of rail and other transport facilities and hub to service the needs of a growing community and those people traveling to or through Orange on interconnecting transport?

Answer—

I am advised:

Crown Lands has not received any request to dispose of or vest land surrounding the rail infrastructure at Orange.

*2347 CENTRAL WEST RAIL ROUTE—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) What initial works from the \$10 million budgeted during the 2019 NSW State Election are being carried out on the rail route to the Central West?

(2) Will additional funding be made available in the 2020-21 Budget for the rail route to the Central West?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Government has committed \$10 million towards planning on a route to the Central West.
- (2) Budget allocations for 2020-21 will be released as part of the State Budget in June 2020.

*2348 STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND—Mr Philip Donato asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

When will councils and applicant organisations in the Orange electorate be advised of the successful applications for Round 3 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund, proceeds of which are vitally important to boosting the drought-affected local economy, developing and supporting the community?

Answer—

More than 500 projects will be funded through Round Three of the Stronger Country Communities Fund with more than 250 projects dedicated to benefitting regional youth.

Successful projects are already being announced across regional New South Wales. It is anticipated that most notifications will be made by the end of April 2020.

*2349 CUMBERLAND COUNCIL PENALTY NOTICES—Ms Julia Finn asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Small Business—

- (1) How many penalty notices or fines were issued by Cumberland Council in each of the following financial years:
 - (a) 2017-18;
 - (b) 2018-19;
 - (c) 2019-20 (as at 25 February 2020)?
- (2) What was the accumulated amount in dollars of the penalty notices or fines issued by Cumberland Council in each of the following financial years:
 - (a) 2017-18;
 - (b) 2018-19;
 - (c) 2019-20 (as at 25 February 2020)?
- (3) How does this compare to those issued by other councils during the same period?

Answer—

(1)

Financial Year	Penalty Notices
2017/18	23,994
2018/19	26,365
2019/20*	17,576

(2)

Financial Year	Face Value (\$)
2017/18	5,003,277
2018/19	5,004,644
2019/20*	3,322,015

(3) Revenue NSW is responsible for the collection of fines only. It does not undertake a comparison of the number or value of fines issued by individual local councils.

Notes:

1. Data is as at 28 Feb 2020 and may change retrospectively as penalty notices progress through the fine lifecycle.
2. Report includes all notices with an offence date since 01 July 2017 and 25 February 2020 and uploaded to the fines database as at the reporting date.
3. Data includes all penalty notices issued by Cumberland Council.
4. *'Year to date' as at 25 February 2020.

*2350 FAIR TRADING NSW—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) What extra funding and resources has the Government provided to the Office of Fair Trading NSW?
- (2) Have there been any delays to Fair Trading NSW matters as a result of the bushfires?
 - (a) If there are delays to general Fair Trading NSW business, what is the extent of these delays?

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Answer—

- (1) It is impossible to answer this question given no time frame has been specified or context given.
- (2) The impacts of natural disaster declarations resulting from bushfires has had no impact on the day-to-day delivery of business by NSW Fair Trading.

*2351 WESTMEAD HOSPITAL WAITING TIMES—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What is the average waiting time at Westmead Hospital for:
 - (a) Knee replacements;
 - (b) Hip replacements;
 - (c) Cataract surgery;
 - (d) Glaucoma surgery?
- (2) How does this compare to average waiting times over the last five years?

Answer—

Data on elective surgery wait times at Westmead Hospital is updated regularly and published on the NSW Bureau of Health Information website.

*2352 AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many incidents did NSW Ambulance respond to in Granville electorate for the financial years:
 - (a) 2018-19;
 - (b) 2019-20 (as at 25 February 2020)?
- (2) What was the average response time from receipt of triple zero calls to the arrival on scene of paramedics during the 12 months before 30 June 2019:
 - (a) Across New South Wales;
 - (b) Across Sydney;
 - (c) In the Granville electorate?
- (3) What was the average response time from receipt of triple zero calls to the arrival on scene of paramedics during the period 30 June 2019 to 25 February 2020:
 - (a) Across New South Wales;
 - (b) Across Sydney;
 - (c) In the Granville electorate?
- (4) What was the average response time from receipt of triple zero calls to the arrival on scene of paramedics during the 12 months to 30 June 2019:
 - (a) Merrylands central business district (CBD);
 - (b) Granville CBD;
 - (c) Westmead CBD;
 - (d) Wentworthville CBD;
 - (e) Guildford CBD;
 - (f) Greystanes shopping centre?
- (5) What was the average response time from receipt of triple zero calls to the arrival on scene of paramedics during the period 30 June 2019 to 25 February 2020 :
 - (a) Merrylands CBD;
 - (b) Granville CBD;
 - (c) Westmead CBD;
 - (d) Wentworthville CBD;
 - (e) Guildford CBD;
 - (f) Greystanes shopping centre?

Answer—

Health services are not provided on the basis of electorate.

NSW Ambulance performance data is publicly available on the Bureau of Health Information website.

*2353 CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND CARE QUALITY RATINGS GUIDE—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) What guidance has been or will be issued to providers about where the new Children's Education and Care Quality Ratings Guide is required to be displayed in or around early childhood learning services?
- (2) Will the new Quality Ratings Guide be required to be visible to persons outside of a building housing an early childhood learning service?
- (3) How will the positioning of a new Quality Ratings Guide differ from the positioning of a previous assessment notice?
- (4) What legislative provision will govern the positioning of the new Quality Ratings Guide from 1 July 2020?

Answer—

(1) Under section 172 (d) of the National Law, services are required to display their rating 'so that it is clearly visible to anyone from the main entrance to the education and care service premises'. The introduction of the NSW Quality Ratings Guide does not change the current requirements to display quality ratings.

The Department of Education will provide advice to services regarding the rollout of the NSW Quality Ratings Guide.

(2) Services are expected to comply with section 172 of the National Law.

(3) Services are already required to display their rating in a prominent place.

(4) Under section 172 (d) of the National Law, services are required to display their rating 'so that it is clearly visible to anyone from the main entrance to the education and care service premises'.

*2354 COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL PLACES—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) How many community preschool places were there in New South Wales on 1 January 2019?
- (2) How many community preschool places were there in New South Wales on 1 January 2020?
- (3) How many community preschool places does the Minister expect there to be in New South Wales on 1 January 2021?

Answer—

(1) Data on the number of community preschool places on 1 January 2019 is not available. As of August 2018, there were 28,851 licenced community preschool places available.

(2) Data on the number of community preschool places on 1 January 2020 is not available. As of August 2019, there were 28,972 licenced community preschool places available.

(3) Since 2013 the Capital Works Grants Program has funded over 2,000 additional preschool places in New South Wales community preschools. The number of additional places between now and January 2021 is driven by a range of factors and the Department of Education is unable to predict this figure.

*2355 QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING SERVICES—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Are approved providers required to maintain an up to date Quality Improvement Plan if they opt to submit information via the self-assessment tool that was launched at the New South Wales Department of Education Roadshows in October 2019?
 - (a) If so, what is the purpose of the provider also completing the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) If not, what legislative provision has been made for this variation to the regulatory framework?

Answer—

The Department highlighted the importance of self-reflection in the assessment and rating process through the use of the ACECQA self-assessment tool. This was in response to strong sector demand for a more collaborative approach to assessment and rating.

Services that choose to supply information via the self-assessment tool are not required to submit a Quality Improvement Plan. The self-assessment tool involves services considering the quality of their practices, policies and procedures against the National Quality Standard, the National Law and National Regulations. This is in-line with the requirements of the Quality Improvement Plan outlined in Regulation 55 and National Quality Standard 7.2.1.

The regulations do not prescribe the format of the Quality Improvement Plan. Therefore, the self-assessment tool can be used as a tool for both self-assessment as well as a quality improvement plan.

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*2356 ERRONEOUS LAND TAX NOTIFICATIONS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Small Business—

- (1) As at 25 February 2020, how many households were issued erroneous land tax notifications as a result of their property being subject to subsurface acquisitions for the WestConnex M4-M5 project?
 - (a) How many notices were issued incorrectly?
 - (b) How many were mistakenly paid by landowners?
- (2) What actions has the Government taken to remedy the erroneous notifications?
- (3) Was the issue of these erroneous notifications limited to households impacted by the WestConnex M4-M5 project?
- (4) How many erroneous notifications were issued across New South Wales?
- (5) Was the error related to the privatisation of the Office of Land and Property Information?

Answer—

(1) (a) On 7 February 2020, Revenue NSW first become aware that erroneous land tax notifications had been issued following the assignment of new property identifiers by the Valuer General in connection with the WestConnex M4-M5 project. By 25 February 2020, an initial group of six customers had been identified as impacted.

Subsequently, further customers have been identified. On 13 March 2020, Revenue NSW was provided with a list from the Valuer General of 171 properties that had new property identification numbers created as a result of the WestConnex M4-M5.

(b) No erroneous land tax assessments have been paid by landholders.

(2) Revenue NSW has been working through the list of affected properties and contacting customers to confirm whether any exemptions, such as for the principal place of residence, should be applied and whether a reassessment should be issued. This process is ongoing.

(3) Yes.

(4) See (1) and (2) above.

(5) No

*2357 SCHOOL MAINTENANCE BACKLOG IN THE SUMMER HILL ELECTORATE—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) What is the current total maintenance backlog for schools in the Summer Hill electorate (as at 25 February 2020)?
- (2) What is the total amount budgeted for reducing the school maintenance backlog in schools in the Summer Hill electorate in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years?
- (3) How much has been spent on the school maintenance backlog in the Summer Hill electorate in each financial year from 2017-18 to 2019-20 (as at 25 February 2020)?
- (4) What is the total maintenance backlog for each school in the Summer Hill electorate (as at 25 February 2020)?

Answer—

(1) The maintenance backlog in the Summer Hill electorate for 2019-2020 is approximately \$6.87 million.

(2) The maintenance commitment for schools in the Summer Hill electorate in 2019-20 is approximately \$6.87 million. It is the Government's commitment to reduce the maintenance backlog to zero in 2019-2020 with this being completed by the end of the financial year.

(3) Expenditure to address the school maintenance backlog within the Summer Hill electorate exceeded \$6 million in 2017-18 and \$2.8 million in 2018-19. Thus far, expenditure in 2019-20 has exceeded \$3.8 million.

(4) The maintenance backlog for schools in the Summer Hill electorate in 2019-20 is as follows:

The 2019-20 State Budget continues the Government's record investment to address high-priority, planned and deferred maintenance in schools.

The maintenance liability in the Summer Hill electorate for 2019-20 was \$3.8 million and maintenance work has been committed on all 16 schools in the electorate.

A further \$662 million was committed to clear the existing school maintenance backlog in all New South Wales public schools by July 2020.

*2358 ELECTRIC SCOOTER WORKING GROUP—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) On how many occasions did the Government's electric scooter working group meet in total?
- (2) When will the recommendations of the working group be made public? .
- (3) What opportunities for feedback and consultation on these recommendations will be available for the public?
- (4) Which councils have been approached by the working group, the Department, the Minister or the minister's staff to discuss the possibility of an electric scooter trial?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Electric Scooter Working group has met several times and engaged with various local councils, industry representatives and safety experts to discuss the feasibility of a trial. The Government will consider the group's recommendations noting that the safety of our communities is paramount.

*2359 LEWISHAM TRAIN STATION—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) On how many occasions in the past six weeks has Lewisham Train Station been closed due to flooding (as at 25 February 2020)?
 - (a) On what dates was Lewisham Train Station closed?
 - (i) How long were these closures?
- (2) Why has the station flooded when the Government conducted maintenance and upgrade work including installing a sump pump in early 2019?
 - (a) Have these works been unsuccessful?
- (3) When will Lewisham Station's flooding problems be properly dealt with so that passengers are not inconvenienced with station closures during rain events?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Lewisham Station has not been closed due to flooding during this time.
- (2) The drainage works and the pump installation have improved the capacity of the drainage system to remove water from the underpass, however, during heavy rainfall, the underpass floods. Sydney Trains commissioned a hydrological study in mid-2019 which concluded that due to structural deficiencies with the railway track drainage system, water is entering the underpass from the tracks above rather than draining away.
- (3) Lewisham Station is rarely closed due to flooding and remained open during the recent inclement weather (January/February 2020). A scoping document and plan is under development to address the track drainage issue outlined earlier. This plan is anticipated to be finalised in mid-2020 along with a cost estimate for these works. The work would be complex in nature and is dependent on track closures due to the impact within the rail corridor.

*2360 AMENDMENT TO THE CRIMES ACT—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) Is the Government considering amending the Crimes Act 1900 to include the offence of looting?
- (2) Without this specific offence in the criminal code, how have NSW Police managed incidences of looting in bushfire affected communities over the summer?
- (3) How is the Government specifically acting to protect bushfire affected communities against looting?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are a number of existing offences in the Crimes Act 1900 that capture conduct that may amount to looting.

- Section 117 makes it an offence for a person to commit 'larceny'. Larceny is a serious indictable offence which is punishable by a maximum term of five years imprisonment.
- Section 112 provides for the offence of 'break and enter'. A person commits this offence if they break into a dwelling-house or building and commit a serious indictable offence, including larceny. This offence carries a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment.
- Section 148 makes it an offence to 'steal property in a dwelling-house' and is punishable by a maximum term of seven years imprisonment.

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Questions (2) and (3) should be directed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

*2361 OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS SERVICES AT NEW SOUTH WALES PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) On how many instances in the past 12 months have council run Out of School Hours (OOSH) services at New South Wales public schools been replaced in tender processes by:
 - (a) Private services;
 - (b) Not-for-profit services?
- (2) At what schools in the Summer Hill electorate are OOSH services due for tender in the next 12 months?
 - (a) What is the timeline for these tender processes?
- (3) What is the total number of OOSH services in New South Wales public schools currently run by:
 - (a) Private operators;
 - (b) Not-for-profit operators;
 - (c) Local councils?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Three.
- (b) Zero.
- (2)

School	Publish	Implement
Dobroyd Point Public School	June, 2020	12 October, 2020
Ferncourt Public School	July, 2020	9 November, 2020
Lewisham Public School	July, 2020	9 November, 2020
Marrickville Public School	August 2020	31 January 2021
Marrickville West Public School	July 2020	12 October 2020
Summer Hill Public School	September 2020	31 January 2021
Wilkins Public School	June 2020	12 October 2020
Yeo Park Infants School	June 2020	12 October 2020

- (3) (a) 330.
- (b) 389.
- (c) 46.

*2362 REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Why is there an indeterminate delay in expanding the Regional Seniors Travel Card to include Seniors holding a Gold Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) card?
- (2) What changes to the application process or systems are required to enable DVA Gold card holders to be able to apply for the card?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of amending these systems to enable Gold DVA Card holders to apply for the scheme?
- (4) What is the estimated total cost to the program of expanding eligibility to include DVA Gold Card holders?

Answer—

I am advised:

Applications for eligible veterans are expected to open in early April. Transport for NSW has been working with Service NSW and its banking partner to identify all of the changes required to extend the regional seniors travel card to veterans.

There are a number of changes to systems and processes to enable applications from new customer segments. This includes information technology, customer information, and legal documents.

Eligible seniors will have until 30 November 2020 to apply for the \$250 card and a minimum of 12 months to use their card after it is activated.

Cost of expanding the program to these categories will depend on a number of factors including uptake of the card.

*2363 EXPEDIATION OF AUSGRID WORKS AT RICHARDSON'S CRESCENT, MARRICKVILLE—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) What specific action has been undertaken to expedite the work Ausgrid must undertake to allow for a pedestrian crossing on Richardson's Crescent, Marrickville?
 - (a) What is the timeline for this work?

Answer—

The pedestrian crossing project on Richardsons Crescent, Marrickville is a matter for the Inner West Council. Any questions regarding this project and its progress should be directed to the Council.

*2364 REQUEST TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) Will the Attorney General follow the Victorian Attorney General and call on the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia to request that the Council of the Order of Australia rescind the admittance of Bettina Arndt as a Member of the Order of Australia?
- (2) Will the appointment of Ms Arndt to the Order of Australia undermine the work the Government is doing to prevent sexual assault and domestic violence?

Answer—

I wrote to the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia by letter dated 4 March 2020, as follows (omitting footnotes):

His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Dunrossil Drive

YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Your Excellency

Ms Bettina Arndt - Member of the Order of Australia

I request that you review the appointment of Ms Bettina Arndt as a Member of the Order of Australia. Ms Arndt was made a Member on 26 January, based on her service to 'gender equity through advocacy for men'.

I deeply respect, for example, those who advocate for male victims of domestic and family violence. I also deeply respect, for example, those who advocate for addressing men's mental ill health in our community.

However, statements made by Ms Arndt go well beyond such advocacy. We know the facts and figures. On average, one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner. One in six Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner. Ms Arndt's statements have the power to engender attitudes that are dangerous to women and their children. The values that underpin Ms Arndt's statements are not consistent with her retaining her Order of Australia.

While I have not reviewed all of Ms Arndt's prior statements, the following statements alone are sufficient to risk bringing the Order of Australia into disrepute:

1. In an interview with convicted sex offender Nicolaas Bester, uploaded in 2017, Ms Arndt described his 15-year-old victim as having engaged in "sexually provocative behaviour" and stated that school girls "exploit their seductive powers to ruin the lives of men." Ms Arndt appears to blame child victims for the abuse by adult perpetrators.

2. On 9 February 2020, in response to a positive and gender-neutral consent campaign run by Griffith University listing a series of innocuous propositions, Ms Arndt said on Twitter: "Young women at Griffith University are being taught to be uncaring, demanding bitches ... " None of the Griffith University propositions could be objected to by any reasonable person; everyone has the right to say "no".

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3. On 16 February 2020, in response to an article by Mr David Penberthy in The Australian, Ms Arndt said on Twitter: "How David Penberthy, author of today's vile hit job on me, fails to acknowledge his conflict of interest as the husband of former MP Kate Ellis? My campus work poses a direct threat to Ellis' longtime advocacy for victims of sexual assault. .. " Ms Arndt appears to characterise her own work as a "direct threat" to "advocacy for victims of sexual assault".

4. On 16 February 2020, Ms Arndt said on Twitter: "Everyone knows that the domestic violence industry is feminism's cash cow ... " This trivialises the extent and gravity of domestic and family violence. Domestic and family violence is a serious social ill that affects men, women and children in our society; Ms Arndt appears to trivialise it in favour of an attack on feminism.

5. On 19 February 2020, Ms Arndt said on Twitter: "Paid domestic violence leave is such a racket given that there is no evidence required f.or a woman to claim she is a victim and employers don't dare question such a claim ... " There is no evidence to support Ms Arndt's claim. The overwhelming evidence is of under-reporting of domestic and family violence.

6. On 20 February 2020, following criticism of comments by a Queensland Police officer that the police were "keeping an open mind" regarding the circumstances surrounding the brutal killing of Ms Hannah Clarke and her three children by her former partner, Ms Arndt said on Twitter: 'Congratulations to the Queensland police for keeping an open mind and awaiting proper evidence, including the possibility that Rowan Baxter might have been "driven too far." Cold-blooded murder could never be justified or explained on the basis that someone was "driven too far". A person could never be "driven to" douse his wife and children in petrol and burn them to death.

I understand the concerns of survivors about her appointment. Domestic and family violence and sexual assault is never acceptable. Survivors should never be blamed for the actions of perpetrators. I deeply regret that I am moved to make this objection but I do believe that in this instance a line has been crossed.

Yours sincerely

Mark Speakman

cc the Honourable Shane Stone AC QC

Chairman

The Council for the Order of Australia

The Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat

Government House

Canberra ACT 2600

*2365 ACTING CRIME COMMISSIONER PRESIDINGS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Over how many hearings at the Crime Commission has the Acting Crime Commissioner presided?

Answer—

I am advised:

None.

*2366 RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

What action will you take or have you taken in relation to the letter to you dated 6 February 2020 from Sue-Maree Olsen?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 18 February 2020, Ms Olsen was advised her correspondence had been forwarded to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services for consideration.

*2367 NSW CRIME COMMISSION STAFF—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

(1) Are employees at the NSW Crime Commission being transitioned to an award?

(a) If so,

- (i) When will this be completed?
- (ii) How will the change affect the Commission's budget?

Answer—

The NSW Crime Commission is working to transition all non-executive employees to an Award. The Commission anticipates the transition will be completed within the current financial year.

*2368 NSW CRIME COMMISSION ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER POSITION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

(1) How long has there been only one Assistant Commissioner at the NSW Crime Commission rather than two?

(a) Why has this been the case?

Answer—

I am advised:

There has been one Assistant Commissioner at the NSW Crime Commission since 1 February 2018, in order to allow for a review of the structure of the Commission to be undertaken.

*2369 NSW CRIME COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Why is the Acting Crime Commissioner incorrectly described as Commissioner in the NSW Crime Commission Annual Report 2018-19?

Answer—

I am advised:

Schedule 1 clause 2(3) of the Crime Commission Act 2012 states that a person acting in the office of Commissioner is taken to be the Commissioner.

*2370 RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS IN NSW CRIME COMMISSION 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

What is the Government's response to the recommendations made in the NSW Crime Commission Annual Report 2018-19 (page 33) to amend the Crimes Act and other legislation?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government is considering the NSW Crime Commission's recommendations.

*2371 STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS IN LIVERPOOL ELECTORATE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

How many State Emergency Service volunteers reside within the Liverpool electorate (as at 25 February 2020)?

Answer—

Refer to my answer to LA Q2332.

*2372 STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE CRIME COMMISSION ACT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

What is the status of the Statutory Review of the Crime Commission Act (as at 25 February 2020)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The statutory review is being finalised.

*2373 RURAL FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS IN LIVERPOOL ELECTORATE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

How many Rural Fire Service volunteers reside within the Liverpool electorate (as at 25 February 2020)?

Answer—

I am advised:

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As volunteers are not required to detail their state electorate with the NSW Rural Fire Service, this information is not available.

*2375 HOUSING AFTER BUSHFIRE AND FLOODING DAMAGE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

- (1) How many Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) tenants have been placed into temporary accommodation as a result of recent bushfire or flooding damage in New South Wales?
- (2) How many individuals have applied for social housing as a result of the recent bushfire devastation or flooding damage?
 - (a) Of these applicants, how many have been suitably housed in community housing or a DCJ housing property?

Answer—

(1) I am advised as at 2 March 2020, 7,928 people have been placed into emergency accommodation since the start of the season as a result of the bushfires. There have been 252 people provided emergency accommodation as a result of the recent floods.

(2) On 8 January 2020, the Government has established the Bushfire Housing Assistance Service. People who have been impacted by the bushfires can access emergency accommodation, a private rental bond loan and advance rent costs, and housing options from the private rental and short-term housing sector through the service.

A Bushfire Housing Assistance Response Team has been established to proactively assist the community on the ground in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern area of NSW. Since early January this team has received over 170 referrals and have actively case managed 150 clients to help them find suitable long term housing solutions.

Prior to this in October 2019, Northern NSW Housing Services (HS) redeployed the Assertive Outreach Team with the mobile office (van) to Casino, Rappville and Busby Flats areas to establish an additional outreach service. An HS mobile office also attended the Mid-North Coast in November 2019 and again in January 2020 for follow up support. In February 2020, the HS mobile office also attended the Central Coast to support people affected by flooding.

*2376 DISASTER WELFARE ASSISTANCE LINE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How many calls have been logged on the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line?
- (2) How many individuals have physically visited their local Department of Communities and Justice Housing office requesting disaster welfare assistance?

Answer—

As the NSW Government Disaster Welfare Assistance Line has been in operation for decades, this information is not available.

*2377 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND JUSTICE HOUSING—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) How many Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Housing properties were destroyed as a result of the recent bushfire events across New South Wales?
- (2) How many DCJ Housing properties were damaged as a result of the recent bushfire events across New South Wales?
- (3) How many DCJ Housing properties were destroyed as result of the recent floods in New South Wales?
- (4) How many DCJ Housing properties have been damaged from recent floods in New South Wales?
- (5) How many community housing properties have been destroyed as a result of the recent bushfire events across New South Wales?
- (6) How many community housing properties were damaged as a result of the recent bushfire events across New South Wales?
- (7) How many community housing properties have been destroyed or damaged as a result of the recent floods in New South Wales?

Answer—

I am advised by Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) that:

- (1) One LAHC property was destroyed by the recent bushfire events.

- (2) Eleven LAHC properties were damaged by the recent bushfire events.
- (3) No DCJ Housing properties were destroyed by the recent floods.
- (4) There have been no reports of DCJ Housing properties sustaining flood damage.
- (5) There have been no reports of total loss to properties owned by LAHC and managed by community housing providers, as a result of the recent bushfires.
- (6) There have been no reports of damage to properties owned by LAHC and managed by community housing providers, as a result of the recent bushfires.
- (7) There have been no reports of damage to properties owned by LAHC and managed by community housing providers, as a result of the recent floods.

*2378 JUNK FOOD ADVERTISING—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Has the amount of junk food advertising on Government owned infrastructure and rolling stock been reviewed?
 - (a) If so, what were the findings of this review and investigation?
- (2) What changes are planned in relation to this issue?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW requires that advertising content must comply with all applicable laws, accepted industry standards and voluntary codes of conduct established by the advertising industry.

Transport for NSW regularly reviews advertising on its assets where concerns are raised about content.

Advertising on Transport for NSW assets generates significant benefits for taxpayers. All advertising revenue is reinvested in the public transport network.

A new policy around advertising and health and wellbeing will come into effect from 1 July 2020. It provides some restrictions around the advertising of unhealthy food, for example, in the vicinity of schools, as well as providing some provision for essentially free advertising for the promotion of health and other things that organisations can make use of. Transport for NSW will comply with these new policies when they come into effect.

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*2379 EXPANSION OF THE CAPACITY OF THE ELECTRICITY GRID—Mr Edmond Atalla asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

What work is the Government and the electricity industry doing to expand the capacity of the electricity grid in New South Wales and for Australia?

Answer—

The Government's work to expand transmission capacity in New South Wales is outlined in the Transmission Infrastructure Strategy and the NSW Electricity Strategy.

Actions under these strategies include delivering three Renewable Energy Zones (REZ), in the State's Central-West, New England and South-West regions to help replace generation from traditional power stations as they retire over the coming decades.

These REZ are expected to unlock a significant pipeline of renewable energy and storage projects, while supporting up to \$23 billion of private sector investment in New South Wales regions and up to 2,000 construction jobs each year.

The Government is in the early stages of feasibility and planning for a 3,000-megawatt pilot REZ in the Central-West, which could power up to 1.3 million homes each year.

Further information on these strategies is available at energy.nsw.gov.au.

While these strategies are designed to complement the work of the national energy market, questions about expanding capacity of the electricity grid beyond New South Wales should be directed to the relevant jurisdiction.

*2380 REPORTING INCIDENTS TO THE NSW TRAFFIC INCIDENT REPORTING LINE—Mr Edmond Atalla asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

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What action is the Government taking to rectify the issue that the NSW Traffic Incident Reporting Line requires the person reporting an incident to use the numerical keypad to proceed and is unable to be used hands free, preventing drivers from reporting incidents unless they are able to park their car and use their keypads?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information about legal and illegal mobile phone use while driving is available on the Transport for NSW website.

*2381 UPGRADE FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS RAILWAY STATION—Mr Anoulack Chanthivong asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Considering that Kissing Point Wharf is wheelchair accessible and Macquarie Fields Railway Station is not, why is Kissing Point Wharf listed for an upgrade under the Transport Accessibility Program and Macquarie Fields Railway Station is not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Transport Access Program is a key initiative under the Transport for NSW Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2018-2022. The Transport Access Program demonstrates the Government's commitment to meeting the outcomes of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

The Government has committed more than \$2 billion in the Transport Access Program since 2011. To date, more than 470 projects have been completed or are underway. This includes accessibility upgrades such as lifts and ramps, improved interchanges, and commuter car parks.

The Transport Access Program assessment process uses evidence-based criteria, including current and future patronage. It takes into account the needs and demographics of customers who use the station. It also considers the location of important services such as hospitals or schools, and the accessibility of nearby transport interchanges. Improved accessibility at Macquarie Fields Station will be considered as part of this assessment process.

*2382 INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT BARDIA ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Anoulack Chanthivong asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

(1) When will the traffic management plan for the installation of traffic lights at Bardia Public School, at the intersection of Arthur Allen Drive and new MacDonald Road, be completed?

(2) Will traffic lights at Bardia Public School, at the intersection of Arthur Allen Drive and new MacDonald Road, be installed and operational before the end of the school year on 16 December 2020?

(a) If so, what is the project timeframe?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Education issued a traffic management report to Transport for NSW in August 2019.

(2) The Department is not responsible for the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Arthur Allen Drive and New MacDonald Road. The Department has been advised that the developer, Dahua Group, has submitted a design plan to Transport for NSW for approval.

(a) Dahua Group are best placed to provide a project timeframe.

*2383 TRANSPORT ACCESS PROGRAM—Mr Anoulack Chanthivong asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Considering that train station entries and exits data for 2016 to 2018, available on opendata.transport.nsw.gov.au, shows that Macquarie Fields Station had more entries and exits than each of the Hawkesbury River, Como, Clarendon and Denistone stations, why were these stations included in the Transport Access Program ahead of Macquarie Fields Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

I refer you to my previous answer, LA Q36.

*2384 GLENFIELD PRECINCT PLAN—Mr Anoulack Chanthivong asked the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Considering advice from Campbelltown City Council, tabled at its meeting 10 December 2019, that "Council indicate that [the] challenge with Greater Macarthur 2040 is that there are still no formal numbers reflecting the most recent planning for Glenfield as the new numbers remain confidential"; why are these new numbers confidential?
- (2) What is the number of dwellings contained in the most recent planning for Glenfield as at 26 February 2020?
- (3) When will the Glenfield Precinct Plan be released?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Education is finalising the operational and teaching requirements for the Hurlstone Agricultural High School site, which will determine the land available for housing purposes in the precinct.

Following the Department of Education confirming its requirements, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will finalise projected dwelling numbers for the precinct and consider the release of the draft Glenfield Precinct Plan for exhibition.

*2385 ADVANCED AGE DRIVING TESTS—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Customer Service—

- (1) Considering that in October the Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Roads and Infrastructure said Transport for NSW would investigate the Advanced Age Driving Test scheduling and locations to see if testing could be made more accessible for people in rural towns like Griffith, has Transport for NSW investigated this matter?
 - (a) Will Transport for NSW make any changes to scheduling and locations to improve accessibility for those in the Murrumbidgee region?

Answer—

- (1) Service NSW conducts Aged Driver Testing at Leeton Service Centre, Griffith Service Centre and Narrandera Service Centre. However on the 27th of March 2020 a decision was made that Aged Driver Testing has been deferred until further notice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - (a) The Southern Region is also serviced by a Service NSW Mobile Service Centre which visits itinerant locations every 8 weeks. Aged and practical Driver Testing Routes are planned for Coleambally and Jerilderie and Driver Testing will be available at these locations when the COVID-19 aged and practical Driver Testing restrictions are lifted

*2386 ABORIGINAL REPRESENTATIVE ON GRIFFITH HOSPITAL CONSULTATION—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Considering a 2019 coronial inquest into the death of an Aboriginal woman at Tumut hospital highlighted issues of "racism" and "implicit bias" in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District, why is there no Indigenous representation provided for in the terms of reference for community consultation for a new Griffith Base Hospital?
 - (a) Why is there no Indigenous representative on the newly-elected Griffith Local Health Advisory Committee?

Answer—

Aboriginal people and stakeholders are engaged with on the Griffith Base Hospital Redevelopment.

I am advised the Murrumbidgee Local Health District will continue efforts to also ensure an Aboriginal member is included on the Griffith Local Health Advisory Committee.

*2387 FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING BAN LIFTING—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Has the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment commented on the lifting of the water harvesting ban?
 - (a) If so, is the comment publicly available?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (2) Was the lifting of the 324 pump restrictions discussed with the President of the National Farmers Federation in February 2020?

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(a) If so, did the Minister have input into the decision to lift the 324 pump restrictions?

Answer—

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) comments on the lifting of the embargo can be found here: <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/water/temporary-water-restriction-order-partially-lifted>.

The President of the National Farmers Federation made representations to me regarding the Section 324 restrictions.

As I have previously made clear, decisions to lift 324 pump restrictions are made by with a Director in DPIE - Water in consultation with representatives from Fisheries, the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), and WaterNSW.

*2388 EQUITABLE PROTECTION FOR POLICE—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Considering LA Q9276, what steps have been taken since 19 September 2018, to resolve the provision of equitable protection for injured police officers by delivering the same level of income protection provided to police officers aged 59 and under, to those police officers aged 60 and over issue in a timely manner for the affected police officers, for whom this is a time critical matter?

Answer—

I am advised:

This issue is being considered as part of a broader review of the overall Police Blue Ribbon Insurance and workers compensation premiums.

*2389 PALLIATIVE CARE NURSES FOR ORANGE AND LACHLAN HEALTH DISTRICTS—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

Considering the recent announcement of a specialist palliative care nurse for Bathurst (Western Advocate, 11 February 2020), will consideration now be given to the placement of a specialist palliative care nurse or nurses from the pool of announced statewide boost of 300 specialist palliative care nurses (NSW Health, Media Release, 13 June 2017) to being permanently placed at the Orange and Lachlan Health Districts?

Answer—

An increase in the recruitment of specialist palliative care nursing FTE for Lachlan (Parkes and Forbes) is planned as part of the Government's commitment of 100 new palliative care nurses for New South Wales announced in 2019, over the next four years. In addition, 300 nurses and allied staff are being given palliative care training across the state

*2390 CENTRAL WEST POLICE DISTRICT—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Considering previous questions on notice regarding Central West Police District seeking permanent placement of a police dog and handler as this geographic location would facilitate rapid deployment across the Central West to support front-line police, will further consideration be given to supporting this request?

Answer—

I am advised recruitment has recently commenced to place a police dog and handler at Bathurst Police Station. There are no plans to additionally place a police dog and handler at Central West Police District at this time.

Local resources are also supplemented by specialist police including highway patrol, major crime squads and other resources which are managed centrally, but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to changing crime patterns and emerging issues

*2391 FINALISATION OF FAST RAIL STRATEGY—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Considering the announcement on 30 October 2019 that the Government's Fast Rail Strategy would be finalised by the end of 2019 (Blayney Chronicle, 30 October 2019):

(a) When will the Fast Rail Strategy will be made public?

(i) How can it be accessed?

(b) Was the Government appointed rail expert, Professor Andrew McNaughton, and his panel's assessment received and considered in the Fast Rail Strategy?

- (i) If so:
- (i) Will that assessment be made public?
 - (ii) How can that assessment be accessed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government's commitment to develop a blueprint for the delivery of a fast rail network is a major piece of work. This transformative vision will seek to link regional centres to each other and Sydney, potentially reducing travel times by 75 per cent and giving people greater choice about where they live, work and visit. The Government is taking the time to get this vision right. We will update the community as soon as we have more to say.

*2392 FORBES COURT HOUSE—Mr Philip Donato asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) Contrary to posted signage at the Forbes Court House, stating it is open each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, why has the Forbes Court House opened infrequently by visiting staff from Dubbo on sitting days, since December 2019, which causes police, legal representatives and community to contact Parkes Court House for documents and advise?
- (2) Why are Police at Forbes having difficulty in getting court list days at Forbes Court House?

Answer—

I am advised:

There has been no change to the sitting schedule at Forbes Courthouse, which sits one day in the first week of each month and three days in the third week of each month.

A relieving registrar has been attending Forbes Courthouse since December 2019 while the fulltime ongoing registrar has been on leave. The relieving registrar attends each day of these court sitting weeks except Tuesdays of the first week, when the registrar attends Condobolin for court sitting. On non-sitting weeks, the Forbes Courthouse Registry is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

I am not advised that police has concerns about list days at Forbes Courthouse.

*2393 SYDNEY HELICOPTERS—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How often has the Government engaged Granville based Sydney Helicopters in the period between October 2019 and 26 February 2020?
 - (a) How many of these were bushfire related?
 - (b) What services has Sydney Helicopters provided to the Government in this time?

Answer—

I am advised:

Sydney Helicopters were engaged by the NSW State Air Desk 52 times between 1 October 2019 and 26 February 2020. All engagements related to bushfires during this period.

Services provided included air attack supervision, incident observation, fire-bombing, aerial ignition, winching for remote area firefighting and refuelling.

*2394 RACETRACK INJURIES—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) How many people have been injured at racetracks across New South Wales in the each of following financial years:
 - (a) 2016-17;
 - (b) 2017-18;
 - (c) 2018-19;
 - (d) 2019 (as at 26 February 2020)?
- (2) Are there any departmental projects that are helping to reduce these numbers?

Answer—

Race meetings are conducted by racing clubs registered by the relevant controlling body: Racing NSW, Harness Racing NSW, or Greyhound Racing NSW).

The Department of Customer Service does not hold information on the number of people injured at New

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South Wales racetracks.

*2395 ASBESTOS AT REDHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) When was the asbestos register for Redhead Public School last updated and published on the Department of Education website?
- (2) Is there currently any friable, damaged or poor condition asbestos at the Redhead Public School site (as at 26 February 2020)?
- (3) What action has been taken to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Redhead Public School site in the last 12 months (as at 26 February 2020)?
- (4) What action is planned to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Redhead Public School site in the next 12 months (from 26 February 2020)?

Answer—

- (1) All asbestos registers were last updated in September 2019.
- (2) The Asbestos Register for Redhead Public School identifies friable asbestos was present in seven heaters. Four heaters remain on site. These are rated as low risk as the asbestos is encapsulated within sealed units. The Asbestos Register identifies two isolated areas in Building BOOB that have asbestos containing material with some damage. These are rated as low risk as they are under the floor in isolated areas.
- (3) The Department of Education is required to follow all required Asbestos Management Plans and to take the advice of the independent hygienist and SafeWork NSW in planning for the remediation of asbestos anywhere on school grounds. Non-friable fibre cement fragments were observed on the ground near Block E and Block J and were removed. An independent hygienist followed all required procedures for remediation in these areas. The independent hygienist provided a remediation scope, the area was encapsulated and a clearance certificate was issued at the conclusion of the works.
- (4) Although the heaters do not pose a risk, the Department plans to remove the remaining four heaters in accordance with the asbestos management program of works and continues to undertake all actions identified in the Redhead Public School site specific Asbestos Management Plan. The Department will continue to monitor and action where required all other asbestos identified in the Schools Asbestos Register. All works will be undertaken in accordance with the advice of an independent hygienist and with all required SafeWork NSW protocols and procedures.

*2396 ASBESTOS AT GARDEN SUBURB PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) When was the asbestos register for Garden Suburb Public School last updated and published on the Department of Education website?
- (2) Is there currently any friable, damaged or poor condition asbestos at the Garden Suburb Public School site (as at 26 February 2020)?
- (3) What action has been taken to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Garden Suburb Public School site in the last 12 months (as at 26 February 2020)?
- (4) What action is planned to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Garden Suburb Public School site in the next 12 months (from 26 February 2020)?

Answer—

- (1) All asbestos registers were last updated in September 2019.
- (2) The Asbestos Register for Garden Suburb Public School identifies friable asbestos present in one incinerator. This is rated as low risk as it is in encased material within a sealed unit. The Asbestos Register identifies one area in Building B00A where there is asbestos containing material with some damage. This is rated as low risk as it is under the floor in an isolated area.
- (3) The Department of Education is required to follow all Asbestos Management Plans and to take the advice of the independent hygienist and SafeWork NSW in planning for the remediation of asbestos anywhere on school grounds. Asbestos containing material that was present in wall and ceiling linings and in vinyl tiles was removed on three occasions from Blocks B, C and G under planned maintenance in the last 12 months. An independent hygienist followed all required procedures for remediation in these areas. Air monitoring was conducted during the removal works and clearance certificates were issued upon conclusion.
- (4) The Department continues to undertake all actions identified in the Garden Suburb Public School site specific Asbestos Management Plan. The Department will continue to monitor and action where required all other asbestos identified in the Schools Asbestos Register. All works will be undertaken

in accordance with the advice of an independent hygienist and with all required SafeWork NSW protocols and procedures.

*2397 ASBESTOS AT MEREWETHER PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) When was the asbestos register for Merewether Public School last updated and published on the Department of Education website?
- (2) Is there currently any friable, damaged or poor condition asbestos at the Merewether Public School site (as at 26 February 2020)?
- (3) What action has been taken to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Merewether Public School site in the last 12 months (as at 26 February 2020)?
- (4) What action is planned to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Merewether Public School site in the next 12 months (from 26 February 2020)?

Answer—

- (1) All asbestos registers were last updated in September 2019.
- (2) The Asbestos Register for Merewether Public School identifies one underfloor area with asbestos containing material that is in poor condition. This is rated as low risk.
- (3) The Department of Education is required to follow all Asbestos Management Plans and to take the advice of the independent hygienist and SafeWork NSW in planning for the remediation of asbestos anywhere on school grounds. Vinyl tiles with asbestos containing material were removed from Block A and B, and asbestos containing sheeting was removed from Block E, under planned maintenance. An independent hygienist followed all required procedures for remediation in these areas. Air monitoring was conducted during the removal works and clearance certificates were issued upon conclusion.
- (4) The Department continues to undertake all actions identified in the Merewether Public School site specific Asbestos Management Plan. The Department will continue to monitor and action where required all other asbestos identified in the Schools Asbestos Register. All works will be undertaken in accordance with the advice of an independent hygienist and with all required SafeWork NSW protocols and procedures.

*2398 ADULT CHANGE FACILITIES WOLLONGONG—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

- (1) How many adult change facilities to assist people with disabilities and their carers in accessing toilet facilities are installed in the Wollongong local government area?
 - (a) What is their specific location?
 - (b) Will additional funding be provided to install more?
 - (i) If so, when?
 - (ii) If so, where will they be located?

Answer—

(1) (a) I am advised a comprehensive and centralised list of accessible toilets and lift and change facilities is on the National Public Toilet Map at: <https://toiletmap.gov.au/Find>.

Responsibility for toilets and change facilities rests with multiple entities, such as councils, shopping centres, swimming pools, clubs and pubs. I am advised it is the responsibility of organisations to provide data to the National Public Toilet Map if they choose to make the facilities available to the public.

(i) and (ii) The provision of accessible public toilets in new buildings is determined by the requirements of the Australian Building Standards. Existing facilities have been funded from a variety of sources as part of the disability inclusion agenda of government agencies, local government, businesses and other community organisations. All 128 councils and eight Government agencies in New South Wales are required to have Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAPs). The Government encourages councils to plan for and improve disability access in line with their DIAPs.

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(Paper No. 50)

*2399 ELDERLY DRIVING TESTS—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

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- (1) Will Transport for NSW consider a change to the age at which a Multi Combination (MC) licence must undertake an annual practical licence testing from age 70 to age 75, considering the difficulty regionally-based older drivers have accessing approved testing facilities and the associated costs incurred?
 - (a) If so, will Transport for NSW then consider a requirement for a twice yearly medical review from age 70, recognising that an annual practical licence testing will increase to 75?
- (2) Will Transport for NSW's Centre for Road Safety release its unpublished accident data on which it bases its decision making processes in relation to older MC licence holders?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The Government is sympathetic to the challenges for regional drivers to access testing facilities and the additional costs incurred, particularly in light of the ongoing drought. However, Transport for NSW also has an obligation to ensure the safety of all road users. Multi-combination heavy vehicles are the largest and heaviest vehicles with regular access to the road network for example, road trains and B-doubles, and represent the highest risk vehicle class in New South Wales. People who drive these heavy vehicles are required to meet higher medical standards because of the demands of the work involved, the number of hours on the road and the serious consequences from crashes involving these kinds of vehicles.

Given the increased risk associated with driving these vehicles, a driving test is required every year from the age of 70. The free driving test is carried out by a Service NSW heavy vehicle driver tester.

Also, any MC licence holder has the option of downgrading to an HC licence (semi-trailers, and truck and dogs) and not require a driving test until the age of 80.

For these reasons, Transport for NSW has no plans to change the current licensing and fitness to drive requirements for MC class licence holders.

(2) Transport for NSW publishes heavy crash data which includes vehicle type and driver age on the Centre for Road safety website.

*2400 MENTAL HEALTH AT GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

How many presentations of people with a mental health related diagnosis occurred at Griffith Base Hospital in each year from 2014 to 2019?

Answer—

In the 2018-19 financial year, 586 mental health related presentations were recorded in the Griffith Base Hospital emergency department. Presentations increase and decrease from year to year. The lowest number of presentations of 490 occurred in the 2013-14 financial year.

Presentations do not necessarily reflect the number of people who present, as some people present more than once.

*2401 VACCINATION EDUCATION—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What assessment has been made of vaccination rates in New South Wales?
 - (a) What is the trend in uptake?
- (2) What assessment has been made of the causes and impacts of recent measles outbreaks in other jurisdictions?
- (3) What education programs does the Government provide to encourage and support vaccination?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to provide new education and promotion campaigns to ensure high vaccination rates and herd immunity for key infectious diseases?

Answer—

- (1) Vaccination uptake for children in New South Wales continued to increase throughout 2019, with 94.5 per cent of Aboriginal children and 94.2 per cent of non-Aboriginal children fully immunised at one year of age. At five years of age, 97.9 per cent of Aboriginal children and 94.5 per cent of non-Aboriginal children were fully immunised.
- (2) NSW Health closely monitors the epidemiology of measles locally, nationally, and internationally and assesses the risk of outbreaks occurring in other states, territories and countries, and their potential impact on New South Wales.

- (3) NSW Health provides scholarships to local health districts to support registered nurses and midwives to undertake immunisation education to become an authorised nurse immuniser. NSW Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) immunisation education modules have also been developed by NSW Health to support immunisation providers in New South Wales to deliver safe and effective immunisation programs.
- (4) In January 2020, NSW Health launched the latest Save the Date to Vaccinate campaign with key messages for parents about the importance of timely childhood vaccination.

*2402 HUMANE PEST CONTROL—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) What assessment has the Government made of pest control strategies like 1080 and pindone baiting, which are poorly targeted and cause animals to die in inhumane conditions?
- (2) What evidence has the Government assessed about alternatives to these inhumane baiting programs?
- (3) What work has the Government carried out into humane pest management including flock guardians and fertility control?
- (4) What strategies and targets has the Government implemented to cease use of inhumane pest management including 1080 and pindone baiting?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to cease inhumane baiting programs in New South Wales?

Answer—

- (1) The use of 1080 is regulated through the Pesticide Control (1080 Bait Products) Order 2017. Sodium fluoroacetate, the active ingredient in 1080 occurs naturally in many Australian plants. It is low in toxicity to native mammals compared to other mammals which makes it particularly suitable for use in Australia. Control and usage requirements pertaining to 1080 are regulated by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
- (2) The Government advocates using a range of pest animal control tools in an integrated fashion to achieve an appropriate level of reduction in the impact that pest animals cause to the economy, community and environment. These tool include baiting, ground shooting, aerial shooting, trapping, habitat management and the use of biocontrol agents.
- (3) Guardian animals are widely used by primary producers and are effective in some circumstances. The Government has contributed to research into fertility controls for pest animals through collaborations such as the former Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre. This research has not led to any widely applicable fertility control technology that could be used to manage widespread established pest animals in a cost effective manner.
- (4) The Government does not propose to cease the use of 1080 and pindone baiting.
- (5) The Government uses pest control strategies that have been assessed under a model for assessing the relative humaneness of pest animal control methods. This model is published and is available on the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy website at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/animal/welfare/aaws/humaneness-of-pest-animal-control-methods>.

*2403 311 BUS SERVICE RELIABILITY—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What assessment has been carried out regarding the service reliability of 311 buses?
- (2) What performance data does the Government have for 311 bus service reliability during peak travel time?
- (3) What performance data does the Government have for 311 bus service reliability during off peak travel time?
- (4) What complaints data does the Government have about 311 bus service reliability?
- (5) What steps have been taken to improve 311 bus service reliability during the current contract period?
- (6) What further action will be taken to improve 311 bus service reliability?

Answer—

I am advised

The 311 operates in many congested streets, and reliability has been impacted by all the recent construction work in the city and surrounding suburbs. Despite this, in the past 12 months it has had an on-time rate of well over 90 per cent during peak periods and over 95 per cent at other times.

Transport for NSW and the State Transit Authority continue to closely monitor the reliability of the 311 route. In the latter part of this year it will further improve reliability of this service by introducing a revised timetable to more closely reflect the changing condition in which it operates.

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*2404 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) What are the trends in domestic and family violence crime reports over the past decade?
- (2) What review of prevention programs has the Government carried out?
- (3) What assessment has the Government carried out into effective measures to prevent criminal domestic and family violence?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to expand and strengthen programs that prevent criminal domestic and family violence behaviour?

Answer—

According to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research's (BOCSAR) latest data, the rate of domestic violence related assaults recorded by the NSW Police over the decade to December 2019 has remained relatively stable. In 2010, the rate was 366.1 incidents per 100,000 population (at 26,154 incidents) compared with the 2019 rate of 390.4 incidents per 100,000 population (at 31,187 incidents). This increase may not necessarily be a reflection of incidents, but rather, an increase in reporting.

Evaluation is embedded in all Government funded domestic and family violence services. Evaluations can be accessed via the Women NSW website at: <https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/programs>.

The Government's response to addressing domestic and family violence is set out in the Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform (the Blueprint), available via: <https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/strategies-and-resources/nsw-domestic-and-family-violence/domestic-and-family-violence-blueprint>.

Primary prevention and early intervention are key strategies under the Blueprint and underpin the Government's response to domestic and family violence.

This is consistent with the Government's commitment to ensuring a strong evidence base for all our programs. Formal evaluations will continue to inform future decisions around programs and initiatives.

*2405 RETURN AND EARN COLLECTION POINTS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) What assessment has the Government made of TOMRA Cleanaway's compliance with return or collection points under the Return and Earn scheme's community access principles?
- (2) How many return or collection points operate in the Inner City:
 - (a) in the Sydney electorate;
 - (b) in the City of Sydney; and
 - (c) in the Woollahra Municipal Council?
- (3) What minimum number of return or collection points does the Government expect to be operating in the densely populated CBD and Inner City?
 - (a) Are these requirements currently met?
- (4) How many return or collection points are there in:
 - (a) the CBD;
 - (b) Pyrmont;
 - (c) Surry Hills;
 - (d) Paddington; and
 - (e) The Kings Cross, Woolloomooloo, Potts Point postcode 2011 area?
- (5) What action is being taken to improve access by increasing the number of return or collection points in the Inner City?
- (6) What plans does the Government have to ensure there are return or collection points at all major supermarkets and train stations?
- (7) What plans does the Government have to improve access to Return and Earn collection points in the Inner City?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment actively monitors the network operator's compliance with the requirements set out in the community access principles.

(2) (a) Four.

(b) 12

(c) One.

(3) The Government expects at least two Collection Points in the CBD.

(a) There is one collection point and the network operator is seeking suitable locations for more.

(4) (a) One.

(b) One.

(c) One.

(d) Nil.

(e) Two.

(5) and (7) The network operator, TOMRA Cleanaway, is responsible for establishing and managing the network of collection points across the state and is working with authorities and businesses in the Inner City, including the City of Sydney, to increase the number of collection points within this area.

(6) Some supermarkets and train stations are unsuitable return points.

*2406 SUSTAINABLE REBUILDING—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

(1) How will the Government ensure that rebuilding of bushfire damaged homes, infrastructure and facilities can be done sustainably, including:

- (a) using renewable energy;
- (b) using recycled materials;
- (c) undergrounding electricity and telecommunications;
- (d) using local businesses and suppliers;
- (e) employing local workers;
- (f) training local people; and
- (g) using locally produced materials and equipment?

(2) What plans does the Government have to inform affected communities about rebuilding sustainably?

Answer—

The bushfire recovery process is a joint effort by all levels of government, charitable and community organisations, and communities themselves. Infrastructure NSW has formed a Resilience Group to ensure that Government recovery efforts offer the best immediate and long-term response.

Specifically in relation to the use of local workers, in January 2020 the Minister for Finance and Small Business issued through the NSW Procurement Board a direction that all government agencies must use local businesses wherever possible as part of the bushfire recovery. Lang O'Rourke Australia have been selected as the managing contractor for clean-up and the contract specifies that local suppliers and subcontractors must be used, where possible, to help boost local economies.

The clean-up contract is consistent with standard Government contract requirements with 5 per cent of hours worked for apprentices and 5 per cent for trainees.

Additionally, a new business portal and a concierge service has been established to assist local and regional businesses gain access to government agency procurement opportunities in bushfire-affected areas.

Information is regularly published on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Bushfire Recovery site (www.planning.nsw.gov.au/bushfirerecovery) and directly communicated to the community via the Department's social channels, media engagement and ongoing regular meetings that the Department is hosting with Bushfire-affected councils.

The NSW Government Architect is engaged on a council-by-council basis to advise on rebuild.

*2407 SUGARY DRINK CONSUMPTION—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What assessment has the Government made of the effectiveness of price incentives for sugar consumption?
- (2) What assessment has the Government made of the Australian Capital Territory Healthy Choices labelling program?
- (3) Has consideration been given to research showing that health taxes on high sugar drinks reduced consumption in other jurisdictions?
- (4) What other evidence has the Government considered about measures to incentivise reduced sugar consumption?
- (5) What assessment has been made of impacts of the United Kingdom soft-drink tax leading to significant decreases in the amount of sugar manufacturers add to drinks?

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- (6) What consideration has been given to hypothecated health taxes on high sugar drinks to fund health promotion programs?
- (7) What discussions has the Government had with the Commonwealth and other States and Territories about health taxes on high sugar drinks?
- (8) What action will the Government take to implement incentives to reduce high sugar consumption?

Answer—

(1) to (8) The consideration of price incentives, such as an excise on sugar or sugar-sweetened drinks, are a Commonwealth Government responsibility. The Government is aware of activities occurring in other Australian jurisdictions and internationally.

New South Wales policies promote the availability of healthy food choices in public schools and health facilities, and healthy food and drink choices. New South Wales is working with other jurisdictions to develop the National Obesity Strategy, and supports activities via the food regulatory system to achieve public health objectives and reduce chronic disease related to obesity.

*2408 PERSON SEARCHES AND MOVE ON DIRECTIONS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How are arbitrary targets for police person searches and move on orders set and by whom?
- (2) How are these targets used as performance management tools?
- (3) What penalties apply if targets are not met?
- (4) Do these targets require officers to use these strategies without discretion?
- (5) Do the targets include demographic criteria such as gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality?
- (6) Do the targets focus this action on specific geographic precincts within commands?
- (7) What other criteria apply within the targets?
- (8) How are these targets linked to crime reports and intelligence?
- (9) What plans does the Government have to review this policy?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Police Force does not set arbitrary targets or indicators.
- (2) Community safety indicators are used by the executive of the NSW Police Force to monitor the performance of Police Area Commands (PAC) and Police Districts (PD).
- (3) None.
- (4) to (6) No
- (7) None.
- (8) The utilisation of police powers are regularly informed by local knowledge, information or intelligence in each PAC or PD.
- (9) Community safety indicators are not a Government policy. They are a performance review tool of the executive of the NSW Police Force.

*2409 MOOREBANK INTERMODAL TERMINAL—Mr Anoulack Chanthivong asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

What independent oversight and assessment was applied to the traffic-impact modelling for the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal?

Answer—

I am advised:

All traffic and transport assessments prepared by Government agencies and the proponent are available on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment planning portal.

*2410 DAPTO PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Will Dapto Public School's upgrade be delayed as a result of the development application for the project having to be placed on public exhibition for a third time?
- (2) What were the nature of submissions to the first two public exhibitions?
- (3) What specific changes were made to the development application prior to the second and third public exhibitions?
- (4) Is the Government confident that the local community will be supportive of the current plans for the

project?

Answer—

- (1) The current forecast completion date for the Dapto Public School upgrade is early 2021.
- (2) Submissions related to the scale of the upgrade, the impact on views from a number of properties, traffic concerns and the need for an additional school in West Dapto. These concerns were consistent throughout all exhibition periods.
- (3) Additional traffic modelling and reports, a peer review of the Statement of Environmental Effects and the relocation of the building further from the boundary.
- (4) The local community has been widely consulted and broadly supports the project.

*2411 PUBLIC SERVICE PRESENCE IN ENGADINE—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Customer Service—

- (1) Why has the Government decided to re-establish a Service NSW presence in Engadine?
- (2) Does the Government consider the decision to close the Engadine Roads and Transport Authority, subsequently removing the government services in the area, to be a mistake?

Answer—

- (1) Engadine has been chosen for the location of a new service centre following an evaluation of the existing service centre network against criteria such as population, proximity to the nearest service centre and capacity of existing neighbouring service centres.
- (2) Service NSW continuously adds services which result in greater customer traffic to our service centres. Additional customer volumes have resulted in the need to open new service centres in areas of high demand. It has been determined that a new service centre in Engadine is required to maintain acceptable service levels of surrounding service centres.

*2412 DAPTO PUBLIC SCHOOL INCREASE—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) How is the Government responding to community concerns regarding the impending increase in school population at Dapto Public School, following its upgrade?
- (2) Is the Government preparing to change any traffic or road conditions in the vicinity of the school to improve the safety of students at pick-up and drop-off times?
 - (a) If so, what specific changes will be made?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Education monitors population and development trends so that it can plan to meet enrolment needs in schools across New South Wales. The Department reviews the demographic need for school facilities on a continual basis. A number of strategies are used to manage enrolment demands in the short to medium term, including enforcing the Department's enrolment policy to restrict out of area enrolments and reviewing school catchment boundaries to improve utilisation across schools in a local area.
- (2) When the Council issues draft conditions, the Department will review these and respond appropriately.

*2413 SCHOOLS IN WEST DAPTO—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

How is the Government responding to the new Development Control Plan adopted by the Wollongong City Council in December 2019 and its calls to nominate eight sites for new schools in West Dapto?

Answer—

The Department of Education notes that Wollongong City Council may develop its own Development Control Plans. Should the Council wish to make its own planning provision for up to eight new school sites for the Department and/or non-government school providers to utilise in the future, it is the prerogative of Council to do so.

The Department's potential use of such sites will depend on a range of factors, such as; environmental due diligence, proximity to existing schools, student population projections, existing school infrastructure available, land size and land acquisition costs.

*2414 MY COMMUNITY PROJECT 2019—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Customer Service—

- (1) How many residents of the Shellharbour electorate voted in person at a Service NSW Centre for the

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2019 My Community Project?

- (2) How many residents of the Shellharbour electorate voted online for the 2019 My Community Project?
- (3) What were the equivalent above figures for the following electorates:
 - (a) Kiama;
 - (b) Wollongong?
- (4) What percentage of the total votes received in New South Wales for the My Community Project were submitted in person at a Service NSW Centre, as opposed to online?

Answer—

- (1) Six Shellharbour residents voted via a kiosk at Service Centres.
- (2) 686 -Voting only available online for My Community Project.
- (3) (a) 942
(b) 870
- (4) Total of 61,437 votes received for My Community Project with 922 (1.5 per cent) of votes received via a kiosk at Service Centres.

*2415 MURRUMBIDGEE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

How many classes at Murrumbidgee Regional High School did not have their regular teacher during the 2019 calendar year?

Answer—

Information is kept on teacher absences (leave) each day and not the individual classes that do not have their regular teacher.

There are many different types of leave that may necessitate a teacher not teaching their class including sick leave, short term leave, long service leave, leave without

pay, maternity leave, family and community leave, parental leave, annual leave, workers compensation, leave to work in other roles with the Department of Education and alternative duties.

When teachers are absent all classes are covered through a process of in-built relief or through employing a casual teacher. No class is left unsupervised.

In 2019, there were 24,880 classes taught from Year 7 to 12 across both sites of Murrumbidgee Regional High School.

The school total average for teacher sick and Family and Community Services (FACS) leave per employee is 8.9 days or 4.5%. For all teachers this would equal 1,119.6 classes for 2019.

The school total average days for all leave types per employee is 12.6%. For all teachers this would equal 3,134.88 classes for 2019.

In each category of leave and overall leave, Murrumbidgee Regional High School is lower than the state average for the total number of classes that did not have their regular teacher during the 2019 calendar year.

*2416 USE OF BABOONS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES—Ms Jenny Leong asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many baboons are being used for research purposes in New South Wales as at 27 February 2020?
- (2) How many individual baboons have been used for research purposes in the:
 - (a) 2019-20 financial year (to 27 February 2020);
 - (b) 2018-19 financial year;
 - (c) 2017-18 financial year?
- (3) What is the nature of research that the baboons are used for?
 - (a) Who in the Government has oversight of this?
 - (b) What ethical standards are in place to govern this research?
 - (c) In which facilities are the baboons housed?
- (4) How many baboons have been killed or caused harm as part of this research from 2018 to 2020 (as at 27 February 2020)?
- (5) How is animal medical research in New South Wales monitored and reported on?

(6) How many baboons have been located at or taken to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in the last 12 months (to 27 February 2020)?

Answer—

(1) to (5) These questions can be best directed to the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales.

The Animal Research Act 1985 ensures proper ethical consideration of the use of animals in research. Information is publicly available on the Department of Primary Industries' website.

(6) I am advised sixteen baboons have been transported to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) campus in this period. There is no permanent residential population of baboons kept on-site at RPA.

*2417 LICENSES TO HARM NATIVE ANIMALS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

(1) How many licences to harm native animals are currently valid in New South Wales, including licences to harm kangaroos (commercial and non commercial), flying foxes, protected animals, threatened species and ecological communities?

(2) What assessment is being done on the impact that this bushfire season's wildfires are having on these species and their populations' survival?

(3) What consideration will the Government give to temporarily cancel the licences that are not aimed at protecting human life until a comprehensive assessment on the impact of the wildfires on these species has been undertaken?

(4) What steps will be taken to ensure that the harming or killing of any native animal under license will not impact on the recovery of that species from the bushfires?

Answer—

(1) Public registers are maintained on the Department's website that provide information about commercial licences and licences to harm administered under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. This includes licences that have been granted, renewed, varied, suspended or cancelled. The registers are periodically updated. The next update for figures to March 2020 will be available shortly.

As at 11 March 2020 there were:

- 1041 landholders' licences to harm kangaroos (365 commercial licences and 676 non-commercial licences)
- two landholders' licences to harm flying-foxes
- 115 landholders' licences to harm other protected animals (on specific properties)
- 170 general licences to harm protected animals (on multiple properties)
- five airport licences to harm protected animals (for aircraft safety)
- 105 licences to pick or harm threatened species and ecological communities and were valid in New South Wales.

More than 230 of these licences authorise non-lethal methods such as catch and release or damage to habitat.

(2) The New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is systematically assessing the impacts of the fires for individual species using monitoring, mapping and species impact assessments. In January 2020, DPIE published an initial map showing the area burnt, using satellite imagery and data from the NSW Rural Fire Service. DPIE's initial analysis of threatened species in fire-affected areas was based on records of previous sightings and is published in the Wildlife and Conservation Bushfire Recovery: Immediate Response Plan January 2020.

DPIE will conduct ground-based post-fire surveys to confirm the extent and severity of impacts on native animals. This will include targeted surveys with a focus on threatened species.

(3) DPIE is seeking to find a balance between helping regional economies recover from the impacts of fire and drought, while also ensuring our native wildlife populations remain ecologically sustainable.

DPIE regularly assesses the impact of culling, drought and/or fire on native animal populations. Where required, DPIE may adjust or suspend licensing if the ecological sustainability of a native population may be threatened by one, or a combination of these elements. An example is in selected areas of western New South Wales where commercial licences have been suspended and licences to harm kangaroos are currently issued at significantly reduced numbers, due to the impact of drought.

Many licences to harm are granted for non-lethal methods of harm, such as catch and release of fauna or picking of vegetation.

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(4) Licences to harm native animals are assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account population estimates and landholder needs to determine how many animals may be harmed. Applications to cull animals may be refused or lower numbers granted following significant population declines, such as in some bushfire-affected areas. Most licences are granted for three months to enable regular re-evaluation of the situation.

The New South Wales commercial kangaroo harvest program annually surveys kangaroo populations and sets conservative quotas to ensure populations remain sustainable. Based on population thresholds specified in the New South Wales Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2017-2021, harvesting is currently suspended for some species of kangaroos in some zones. Although most of the recent bushfires were outside the zones where harvesting is permitted, as a precaution, an additional population survey will be conducted this year, and quotas will be adjusted if necessary.

*2418 HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL—Mr Anoulack Chanthivong asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) What funding has been allocated to upgrade Hurlstone Agricultural High School's swimming pool (as at 26 February 2020)?
- (2) Will an upgrade of the pool form part of the planned upgrade of the boarding facilities?
 - (a) If so, when will this take place?

Answer—

- (1) There has been no funding allocated to upgrade Hurlstone Agricultural High School's swimming pool as it does not form part of the project scope.
- (2) An upgrade of the pool was never a part of the project scope.

*2419 HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Anoulack Chanthivong asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) As at 25 February 2020, how many dedicated agricultural teaching staff are currently employed at Hurlstone Agricultural High School (HAHS) on a:
 - (a) Permanent full-time basis;
 - (b) Permanent part-time basis;
 - (c) Casual basis?
- (2) In each year from 2015 to 2019, how many dedicated agricultural teaching staff were employed at HAHS on a:
 - (a) Permanent full-time basis;
 - (b) Permanent part-time basis;
 - (c) Casual basis?
- (3) How many agriculture teachers at HAHS are directly involved with the dairy?
- (4) How many staff, excluding teachers, are employed at HAHS to manage the dairy?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Three.
- (b) None.
- (c) Two.
- (2) (a) 2015 - seven; 2016 - seven; 2017 - six; 2018 - six; 2019 - four.
- (b) None.
- (c) The Department of Education does not collect this data as casual engagements do not capture the competence (subject) codes of the positions that are being filled.
- (3) Four.
- (4) Five.

*2420 GENERAL DUTIES ROLES IN THE PORT STEPHENS HUNTER POLICE DISTRICT—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

How many SAP number positions, that are designated as General Duties, are actually working in General Duties roles in the Port Stephens Hunter Police District (as at 26 February 2020)?

Answer—

All police resources attached to Police Districts or Police Area Commands are flexible resources available to respond to incidents across the district. Local resources are also supplemented by specialist police (such as highway patrol, crime squads, and covert resources) which are managed centrally but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to crime patterns and emerging issues.

*2421 GENERAL DUTIES ROLES IN THE NEWCASTLE CITY POLICE DISTRICT—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

How many SAP number positions, that are designated as General Duties, are actually working in General Duties roles in the Newcastle City Police District as at 1 January 2020?

Answer—

All police resources attached to Police Districts or Police Area Commands are flexible resources available to respond to incidents across the district. Local resources are also supplemented by specialist police (such as highway patrol, crime squads, and covert resources) which are managed centrally but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to crime patterns and emerging issues.

*2422 NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS STAGE 5 WORKS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

Considering the proximity of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass Stage 5 to the John Hunter Hospital, the number of construction workers required for the Bypass construction, road closures and increased traffic along Lookout Road, what steps have been taken to ensure the Newcastle Inner City Bypass Stage 5 works are completed before the John Hunter Hospital upgrade starts?

Answer—

Construction of the John Hunter Hospital redevelopment can take place concurrently with construction of the Bypass. NSW Health is working closely with Transport for NSW to coordinate the two projects.

Further questions regarding the Bypass should be directed to the Minister for Transport and Roads.

*2423 PLANNED WATER OUTAGE IN WALLSEND CBD—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Considering the planned water outage in the Wallsend CBD on 25 February 2020, what is the Department's policy for the provision of notice to local residents and businesses?
- (2) Considering that no businesses in the Wallsend CBD reported that they had been given notice, what is the Department's policy about compensation for lost income for businesses as a result of a lack of notice before a planned outage?

Answer—

(1) Hunter Water is regulated by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), through a Governor issued Operating Licence. This Operating Licence outlines Hunter Water's System Performance and Water Continuity Standards.

(2) Consistent with its Operating Licence requirements, I am advised that Hunter Water notified the occupants of 16 properties of the 25 February 2020 Planned Water Supply outage via a letterbox drop on Monday 10 February 2020.

I am advised that a further six properties unfortunately experienced the outage due to a discrepancy between Hunter Water's GIS records and the actual network configuration. I am advised that Hunter Water has written to each of the impacted property owners offering its apologies and providing a goodwill account rebate.

*2424 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) What steps will be undertaken to strengthen the integrity of:
 - (a) The electoral process with respect to the 2020 New South Wales Local Government elections?
 - (b) Local Government across New South Wales?

Answer—

The Government has legislated a number of integrity measures since 2015 to tighten the rules governing councillor conflicts of interest and to strengthen the penalties for councillors who put their own private interests ahead of their community's.

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The Government has also stopped councillors in Sydney metropolitan councils and Central Coast and Wollongong City councils deciding development applications. These decisions are now made by independent panels.

A new Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in New South Wales has also been implemented to strengthen the ethical, accountable and transparent operation of local government across the State.

*2425 PROHIBITION OF PROPERTY DEVELOPERS AND ASSOCIATES AND REAL ESTATE AGENTS FROM CIVIC OFFICE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Local Government—

(1) Will the Government introduce legislation to prohibit property developers, associates of property developers, and real estate agents from running for or holding civic office, to take effect in time for the 2020 NSW Local Government elections?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer—

The Government will respond to the Local Government Amendment (Disqualification from Civic Office) Bill 2020 in due course.

*2426 POWER OUTAGES DURING THE FEBRUARY 2020 STORMS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

(1) How many homes in the Bankstown electorate were without power during the severe storms between 6 February 2020 and 10 February 2020?

(a) Has power been restored to all affected homes?

(b) What was the average wait time for power restoration?

Answer—

The referenced storms were one of the biggest storm events in the last 30 years and caused significant damage to the electricity networks. Over 5,000 hazards were reported across New South Wales, including 3,000 fallen powerlines, fallen trees and damaged wires that needed to be cleared before repairs could begin. More than 240,000 customers lost power with three quarters returned by the end of the day after the storm and the rest as quickly as possible once hazards were cleared.

I am advised that power has been restored to all affected homes.

However, as Ausgrid is not a state owned corporation any questions regarding the commercial operations of Ausgrid should be directed to the corporation.

*2427 COMPLAINTS TO ENERGY PROVIDERS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

How many complaints were received from residents within the Bankstown electorate regarding energy providers due to the recent storms?

Answer—

As Minister for Energy and Environment I am only able to respond in relation to complaints received by my office or the Energy, Environment and Science Group within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. I am unable to provide information in relation to complaints that were received by retailers, the Energy and Water Ombudsman, or other similar bodies.

*2428 BUDGET FOR THE SYDNEY METRO SOUTHWEST—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

(1) What is the initial budget for the Sydney Metro Southwest as separate from the Sydney Metro?

(a) What was the initial budget for the Sydenham to Bankstown conversion?

(2) What is the total forecast cost for the Sydney Metro Southwest as separate from the Sydney Metro?

(a) What is the forecast total cost for the Sydenham to Bankstown conversion?

(3) What was the initial budget for temporary transport during shut down periods of the existing T3 Bankstown Line?

(a) What is the forecast total cost for temporary transport during these periods?

Answer—

I am advised:

The upgrade and conversion of the 125 year old T3 Bankstown Line between Sydenham and Bankstown forms part of the broader funding envelope for the Sydney Metro City and Southwest Project. There is no separate budget allocation for this specific component.

*2429 BABOON MEDICAL PROCEDURE—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

How many days did the baboon who received a vasectomy at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital have to wait before his surgery?

Answer—

The vasectomy was undertaken on 27 February 2020 in a purpose built animal facility, not in the hospital.

*2430 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CANTERBURY RACECOURSE—Ms Sophie Cotsis asked the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) What are the Government's current plans for future development along the Canterbury Racecourse?
- (2) Are these plans publicly available?
 - (a) If so, where can they be accessed?
- (3) What community consultation has the Government undertaken in relation to the future of the Canterbury Racecourse as at 27 February 2020?
- (4) What community consultation will the Government undertake in future in relation to the future of the Canterbury Road Racecourse?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government does not have any plans for the future development of Canterbury Racecourse. The Canterbury Racecourse land is privately owned by the Australian Turf Club.

*2431 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CANTERBURY ROAD CORRIDOR—Ms Sophie Cotsis asked the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) What are the Government's current plans for future development along the Canterbury Road corridor (as at 27 February 2020)?
- (2) Are these plans publicly available?
 - (a) If so, where can they be accessed?
- (3) What community consultation has the Government undertaken in relation to the future of the Canterbury Road corridor as at 27 February 2020?
- (4) What community consultation will the Government undertake in future in relation to the future of the Canterbury Road corridor?

Answer—

I am advised:

The future development of the Canterbury Road Corridor is managed by Canterbury-Bankstown Council (Council). The Canterbury Road Review (the Review) was guided by a steering committee chaired by the then Department of Planning and Environment with representatives from Transport for NSW, the then Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and the Greater Sydney Commission. The Review was released in July 2017 and adopted by Council on 22 May 2018. The Government will support Council as required to implement the Review.

Information about the Review can be found on Council's website.

Questions regarding previous or future consultation on the Review or plans for the future development of the Canterbury Road corridor should be directed to Council.

*2432 EXPECTED POPULATION GROWTH CANTERBURY HOSPITAL—Ms Sophie Cotsis asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Has the Government undertaken an analysis of the impact of recent and expected population growth on Canterbury Hospital?
- (2) If the Government has undertaken an analysis:
 - (a) Is that analysis available publicly?
 - (b) What initiatives has the Government undertaken to respond to that analysis?

Answer—

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NSW Health uses population projections developed by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to inform planning.

Canterbury Hospital has been allocated \$6.5 million for the expansion of the Emergency Department, to improve the paediatric treatment area and create additional capacity.

*2433 WALLSEND SERVICE NSW CENTRE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Customer Service—

(1) Considering the recent unplanned closure of the Wallsend Service NSW centre, does the NSW Department of Customer Service have the ability to inform the public directly and in real time of any unplanned closures?

(a) If not, has the NSW Department of Customer Service investigated ways of informing the public directly via text message or social media?

Answer—

Service NSW publishes details about Service Centre closures on its website and social media channels. Service NSW also has the ability to communicate with customers via email.

*2434 AUSGRID LINESMEN IN THE HUNTER—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

(1) How many linesmen were employed by Ausgrid in the Hunter as at:

(a) 30 June 2007;

(b) 30 June 2011;

(c) 30 June 2015;

(d) 30 June 2019?

Answer—

The Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal (IPART) monitors compliance with Employment Guarantees provided in Schedule 4 of the Electricity Network Assets(Authorised Transactions) Act 2015, and details can be found on IPART's website.

As Ausgrid is not a state owned corporation, any questions regarding its commercial operations and records should be directed to the corporation.

*2435 SERVICE NSW CENTRE IN ROSELANDS—Ms Sophie Cotsis asked the Minister for Customer Service—

(1) When will the Government open a Service NSW Centre in Roselands?

(a) Where will this new Service NSW Centre be located?

(2) What consultation has been, or will be, undertaken to determine the location of this Service NSW Centre?

(a) How much will this initiative cost?

Answer—

A new Service Centre is due to open in Roseland during 2021. The location of the centre is yet to be confirmed. A thorough analysis will be under taken to determine the optimal location for the centre and the local community will be kept informed of the Government's decisions in this regard. The fit-out and leasing costs for the centre are yet to be determined.

*2436 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT RAILWAY CORRIDOR BETWEEN SYDENHAM AND BANKSTOWN—Ms Sophie Cotsis asked the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

(1) What are the Government's current plans for the future development along the railway corridor between Sydenham and Bankstown (as at 27 February 2020)?

(2) Are these plans publicly available?

(a) If so, where can they be accessed?

(3) What community consultation has the Government undertaken in relation to the future of the railway corridor between Sydenham and Bankstown as at 27 February 2020?

(4) What community consultation will the Government undertake in future in relation to the future of the railway corridor between Sydenham and Bankstown?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2016, the then Department of Planning and Environment worked with City of Canterbury-Bankstown and Inner West Councils to develop the Draft Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy (Strategy). A revised Strategy was released in 2017. However, in response to the two comprehensive consultation processes undertaken by the then Department of Planning and Environment, the Government and the two councils decided to take a revised approach to the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor. The previous 'Draft Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy' 2017 will not proceed in its exhibited form.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) has been working with City of Canterbury-Bankstown and Inner West Council to develop a high-level principles-based strategy for the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor.

Following development of the principles-based strategy, the Department will work with the Councils to develop an implementation plan. Council will lead implementation and rezoning.

A key component of the new approach is community participation. Details of future community consultation will be released as the strategy is developed.

*2437 GENERAL DUTIES ROLES IN THE LAKE MACQUARIE POLICE DISTRICT—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

How many SAP number positions, that are designated as General Duties, are actually working in General Duties roles in the Lake Macquarie Police District as at 1 January 2020?

Answer—

All police resources attached to Police Districts or Police Area Commands are flexible resources available to respond to incidents across the district. Local resources are also supplemented by specialist police (such as highway patrol, crime squads, and covert resources) which are managed centrally but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to crime patterns and emerging issues.

*2438 ASSISTANCE ON THE LIGHT RAIL NETWORK—Dr Marjorie O'Neill asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What support is provided on the light rail to assist those with access issues?
- (2) Are there guards and/or support staff located at each Light Rail stop to support those who have a disability and other passengers needing support or assistance?
- (3) Which disability advocacy groups have been consulted about the impact of reductions in services?
- (4) What will be done to ameliorate the impact of the removal of bus services for those with a disability or impairment?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The new Sydney Light Rail network has been designed to be fully accessible. Details are available on the Sydney Light Rail website.
- (2) Customer Service Officers are available across key locations during peak periods.
- (3) There are no plans to reduce light rail services.
- (4) As outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement in 2013, bus services in the South East will be adjusted to reflect changes in customer travel patterns. Feedback will be sought on any proposed changes.

*2439 393, 891 AND 893 BUS SERVICES—Dr Marjorie O'Neill asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) In each year from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019, how many passengers caught the following buses every week day, in both directions:
 - (a) 393 between Central and University of New South Wales (UNSW)?
 - (b) 891 express between Central and UNSW?
 - (c) 893 express between UNSW and Central?

Answer—

I am advised:

Demand for public transport between the CBD and the South East is growing with the introduction of light rail. The revised public transport plan for the South East will combine light rail and buses to meet this growth with additional capacity where it is most needed.

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Our plan for an integrated bus and light rail network will increase capacity by over 30 per cent in the morning peak, provide more express services and improve cross-regional connections.

Planning for these changes, which is not yet complete, is being informed by Opal data, customer feedback and changed customer travel patterns.

Around 15,000 people travel on buses from the South East to the CBD during the morning peak period (6.00-9.00am). Current bus capacity is around 23,000.

*2440 GREYHOUND WELFARE AND INTEGRITY COMMISSION DISCIPLINARY ACTION—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

(1) Considering that at the Draft NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice Parliamentary information session, which you attended, the Chief Executive Officer of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) provided information that 157 charges were found proven following disciplinary action from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019:

- (a) How many disciplinary actions were taken by GWIC from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019?
- (b) How many individuals were subject to disciplinary action by GWIC from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019?
- (c) How many charges were not proven following disciplinary action by GWIC from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019?

Answer—

I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (Commission) that:

- The previous statement that 157 charges were found proven for the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019 was incorrect, due to a reporting error, and has clarified that there were 141 charges found proven during this period.
- For the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019:
 - 95 disciplinary actions (including interim and final action) were undertaken;
 - 79 individuals were subject to disciplinary action;
 - six charges in five final disciplinary actions were found not proven; however, in each case the individuals involved had other charges proven against them as part of the same disciplinary action

*2441 INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS—Mr Paul Scully asked the Treasurer—

Does the \$90 billion figure quoted for the Government's infrastructure program include the most recent project cost increases, or is it based on the sum of announced expected project costs?

Answer—

The NSW Budget 2019-2020 Half-Yearly review projected \$97.3 billion of capital expenditure over the four years to 2022-23 across the general government and public non-financial sector, which includes all investment decisions.

*2442 DEMAND INDICATORS FOR THE WIN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE AND WIN STADIUM—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans—

(1) What are the demand indicators by event days for the following event types at the WIN Entertainment Centre for each year between the periods 2010-11 to 2018-19:

- (a) Music major event;
- (b) Music other;
- (c) Family events;
- (d) Sport major;
- (e) Sport other;
- (f) Exhibition, retail, expo;
- (g) Conferences;
- (h) Dinners/dances;
- (i) Hawks basketball;
- (j) Community?

(2) What are the demand indicators by event days for the following event types at WIN Stadium for each year between the periods 2010-11 to 2018-19:

- (a) Music major event;
- (b) Music other;
- (c) Family events;

- (d) Sport major;
 - (e) Sport other;
 - (f) Exhibition, retail, expo;
 - (g) Conferences;
 - (h) Dinners/dances;
 - (i) Hawks basketball;
 - (j) Community?
- (3) What are the forecast demand indicators by event days for the following event types at the WIN Entertainment Centre for each year between the periods 2020-2023:
- (a) Music major event;
 - (b) Music other;
 - (c) Family events;
 - (d) Sport major;
 - (e) Sport other;
 - (f) Exhibition, retail, expo;
 - (g) Conferences;
 - (h) Dinners/dances;
 - (i) Hawks basketball;
 - (j) Community?
- (4) What are the forecast demand indicators by event days for the following event types at WIN Stadium for each year between the periods 2020-2023:
- (a) Music major event;
 - (b) Music other;
 - (c) Family events;
 - (d) Sport major;
 - (e) Sport other;
 - (f) Exhibition, retail, expo;
 - (g) Conferences;
 - (h) Dinners/dances;
 - (i) Hawks basketball;
 - (j) Community?

Answer—

The Government is committed to maximising the use of its assets to optimise the return to the people of New South Wales. I am advised Venues NSW is guided by key demand indicators when securing different types of content across its venues, including WIN Stadium and WIN Entertainment Centre.

*2443 SENIORS TRAVEL CARD MAITLAND ELECTORATE—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) When will seniors living in the Maitland electorate holding a Gold Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) card be able to apply for the Regional Seniors Travel Card?
- (2) Will eligible DVA card holders be notified when they are able to apply?
 - (a) If so, how will they be notified?
- (3) Will the scheme's eligibility criteria be expanded to include seniors on a Disability or Carers Pension?
 - (a) If so, when?

Answer—

am advised:

Eligible veterans will be able to apply in early April. The exact date will be posted on the Service NSW website in the coming days.

Veterans can also register on the Service NSW website to receive an email or SMS alert when applications open.

There are no plans to further change the eligibility criteria at this time.

*2444 MAITLAND ELECTORATE SCHOOL MAINTENANCE—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

What is the maintenance backlog for schools in the Maitland electorate, disaggregated by school, as at 26

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February 2020?

Answer—

The Government committed a record investment of \$1.3 billion over five years for planned maintenance in schools.

A total of \$622 million was committed in the 2019-20 budget to clear the existing school maintenance backlog in all schools by July 2020.

The estimated total backlog maintenance being cleared at schools in the Maitland electorate in 2019-20 is approximately \$3 million.

Table: Planned maintenance at schools in the Maitland electorate.

School Name	Number of works identified	Works commenced	Works completed
Ashtonfield Public School	27	0	0
Bolwarra Public School	39	39	39
Francis Greenway High School	114	86	86
Gillieston Public School	51	39	39
Hunter River Community School	7	7	7
Largs Public School	23	23	23
Lochinvar Public School	33	33	20
Maitland East Public School	98	98	76
Maitland Grossmann High School	200	198	102
Maitland High School	194	194	123
Maitland Public School	140	140	130
Metford Public School	26	26	11
Millers Forest Public School	16	16	8
Morpeth Public School	23	23	23
Nillo Infants School	22	13	13
Rutherford High School	105	93	93
Rutherford Public School	89	88	83
Telarah Public School	129	129	59
Tenambit Public School	56	56	25
Thornton Public School	77	77	48
Woodberry Learning Centre	53	0	0
Woodberry Public School	52	52	32

*2445 NEWCASTLE COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) What additional resources are available to Newcastle council to enable the fast-tracked completion of their Coastal Management Program by 30 June 2020?
 - (a) How long are these resources available for?
 - (b) What additional resources have you provided as at 27 February 2020?

- (2) Considering your response in Question Time in the Legislative Assembly on 26 February 2020 that, "We have also spent something like \$2 million assisting the council with various projects as a result of erosion at Stockton Beach" what specific funding have you provided?

Answer—

- (1) The Government has provided City of Newcastle Council with funding for additional staff resources sought by the Council to expedite the completion of the coastal management program.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment continues to provide technical advice and additional support to help the Council expedite the preparation of the coastal management program.

- (2) Since 2011, the Government has provided the City of Newcastle with more than \$1.8 million. Details on these projects can be found at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/coasts/coastal-and-estuary-grants/grants-awards>.

*2446 NEW MAITLAND HOSPITAL STAFF PARKING—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Has provision been made for medical professionals and staff parking on the site at the New Maitland Hospital?

- (a) If so, will this be a separate and secure parking area as currently exists at the Maitland Hospital site?

Answer—

All on-site parking facilities at the new Maitland Hospital have been designed in accordance with the relevant Government policies to be safe and secure for staff and visitors.

*2447 TRAFFIC COUNT NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY MAITLAND RAILWAY ROUNDABOUT—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) When was the most recent traffic count conducted by Transport for NSW / Roads and Maritime Services on:

- (a) The New England Highway in the vicinity of the Maitland Railway Roundabout (intersection of Cessnock Road and Church Street, Maitland);
(b) Cessnock Road;
(c) The intersection of Church Street and New England Highway?

- (2) What was the most recent traffic count for the three locations listed in (1)?

- (3) How does that compare with previously collected data for these locations?

- (4) Has any traffic count been undertaken at these locations between 1 January and 26 February 2020 to assess the impact of activating the traffic control light on the Maitland Railway Roundabout?

- (5) What has the data shown in regard to current traffic movements on the New England Highway, Cessnock Road and Church Street?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The statistics from the latest counts are summarised below:

Location	Latest Count	Total Volume
New England Highway west of Cessnock Road	August 2014	26,500 vehicles per day
Cessnock Road south of New England Highway	August 2014	13,650 vehicles per day
Intersection of New England Highway/Church Street	March 2017	3491 vehicles per hour (AM)* 3777 vehicles per hour (PM)*

- (3) Comparisons of each count are summarised below:

Cessnock Road south of New England Highway

Date	Eastbound	Westbound
June 2013	5,600	5,500
August 2014	7,000	6,650
Difference	1,400	1,150

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New England Highway West of Cessnock Road per day

Date	Eastbound	Westbound
June 2013	18,500	11,400
August 2014	11,000	15,500
Difference	7,500	4,100

The volumes at the intersection changed between the two time periods, as shown in the table below. There has been an average increase of 3 per cent per year between 2015 and 2017 (4 per cent in the AM period and 2 per cent in the PM period). Please note, the eastbound through movement has been excluded from the 2015 count as it was not recorded in 2017 (with the overpass in place).

The comparisons for New England Highway/Church Street are:

Peak Period	March 2015 Count per hour	March 2017 Count per hour	Difference
AM	3,210	3491	281
PM	3,661	3,777	116

(4) No.

(5) Traffic data has not been collected between 1 January 2020 and 26 February 2020, so a comparison of traffic data cannot be made. Observational data (monitoring the traffic queue length) for westbound and eastbound traffic has been the only comparison done at this time.

*2448 MOBILE PHONE DETECTION CAMERA TRIAL—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many images were taken during the mobile phone detection camera trial?
 - (a) How many warning letters were subsequently sent to motorists who allegedly offended?
 - (b) Did any of the warning letter recipients challenge the allegation they were using a mobile phone at the time of detection?
- (2) Which Government department is handling verification of the mobile phone detection camera images?
 - (a) How many staff are assigned to assess and verify the images for mobile phone offences?
- (3) What happens to images of non-offending motorists captured by the detection cameras?
 - (a) How long are these images held?
 - (b) Is there a procedure for the destruction of the images?
- (4) Will any changes be made to the camera technology or offence handling procedures as a result of the trial?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 24, 198, 875 images were taken for the trial period between January 2019 and June 2019.
 - (a) No warning letters were issued during this trial period.
 - (b) Nil - there were no warning letters issued during the trial period.
- (2) Transport for NSW.
 - (a) There are 6 Adjudication Officers assigned to assessing images.
- (3) Images that do not demonstrate any offences are irretrievably deleted from the system.
 - (a) Images captured roadside that show no non-compliance are deleted within one hour. Images that are referred by the AI for human review, and are subsequently rejected as displaying no mobile phone use, are deleted within 72 hours as approved by the New South Wales Privacy Commissioner.
 - (b) Yes, controls are in place to ensure that captured images, not detecting an offence, are deleted.
- (4) Transport for NSW will continue to look at the benefits of new technology as it emerges, including those that would further enhance privacy protections.

*2449 MAITLAND ELECTORATE SCHOOL ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) When was the most recent assessment conducted on the state of asbestos containing materials at the following schools:

- (a) Francis Greenway High School, Woodberry;
 - (b) Gillieston Public School, Gillieston Heights;
 - (c) Millers Forest Public School;
 - (d) East Maitland Public School?
- (2) Did any of the inspections require asbestos management plans at each school site to be updated with new information?
- (a) If so, what changes in asbestos conditions were discovered?
- (3) As at 27 February 2020, what is the current remediation priority at the four schools listed in (1)?
- (a) Is any remediation work being prioritised for these school sites?
 - (i) If so, when will the work be undertaken?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Francis Greenway High School - 18 September 2019
 - (b) Gillieston Public School - 17 September 2019
 - (c) Millers Forest Public School - reviewed 17 June 2016, issued 17 September 2019
 - (d) East Maitland public School - 17 September 2019
- (2) No.
- (3) (a) Francis Greenway High School - scoping and planning currently underway to remove asbestos containing heating units within building E and ceiling linings in rooms CR1006 and DR0014. This work is expected to be undertaken in April 2020.
- (b) illieston Public School - no asbestos remediation work is currently planned at this site.
- (c) Millers Forest Public School - no asbestos remediation work is currently planned at this site.
- (d) Maitland East Public School - no asbestos remediation work is currently planned at this site.
- *2450 MAITLAND ELECTORATE SCHOOL ZONE SIGNS WITH FLASHING LIGHTS—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—
- (1) As at 27 February 2020, how many school zone signs without flashing lights are there currently in the Maitland electorate (please disaggregate by school)?
 - (2) What is the anticipated cost of the manufacture, installation and maintenance of a school zone sign with flashing lights?
 - (3) Does Transport for NSW have plans to install further school zone signs with flashing lights in the Maitland electorate?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) When?
 - (ii) At which schools?

Answer—

I am advised:

Please refer to the previous response LA Q2050.

- *2451 ASHTONFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL UPGRADE—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—
- (1) Has construction work commenced on the upgrade to Ashtonfield Public School?
 - (a) If so, on what date?
 - (b) If not, when will work start?
 - (2) What is the forecast completion date for this upgrade?
 - (3) Will Ashtonfield Public School receive its Cooler Classrooms Fund upgrade as part of this upgrade?
 - (a) If not, what air conditioning installation will be carried out as part of the upgrade project?

Answer—

- (1) No. Construction is currently due to commence in late 2020.
- (2) Construction is currently due for completion in late 2021.
- (3) No. The due diligence report confirmed there are no Cooler Classrooms works required. All learning spaces and libraries identified within the scope of the Cooler Classrooms Program have existing air conditioning facilities.
 - (a) The upgrade includes air conditioning to all new learning spaces.

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*2452 NATURAL DISASTER AT MAITLAND—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How many requests for assistance did the State Emergency Service attend during rain and storm events in the Maitland electorate on:
 - (a) The weekend of 8 and 9 February 2020;
 - (b) The week commencing 10 February 2020?
- (2) On each day from 8 February 2020 to 11 February 2020, how many requests for assistance were for:
 - (a) Flooding;
 - (b) Water damage due to unserviceable or clogged guttering;
 - (c) Roof and structural damage;
 - (d) Fallen trees?
- (3) Were any flood boat rescues required due to vehicles being stranded in floodwater or people entering floodwater in the Maitland area?
- (4) How many claims for Disaster Welfare Assistance have been lodged from the Maitland electorate (postcodes 2320, 2321, 2322, 2324 & 2421) as a result of Maitland's natural disaster declaration on 12 February 2020 (to 26 February 2020)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW State Emergency Service does not record statistics by electorate.

The following statistics are based upon the list of postcodes in question four.

(1) (a) 34.

(b) 11.

(2) 8 February 2020

(a) One.

(b) Two.

(c) One.

(d) One.

9 February 2020

(a) Three.

(b) Six.

(c) 17

(d) Two.

10 February 2020

(a) Zero.

(b) Zero.

(c) One.

(d) Zero.

11 February 2020

(a) One.

(b) Two.

(c) Zero.

(d) Zero.

(3) Two.

(4) As at 13 March 2020, none.

*2453 ADDITIONAL WEDDING VENUES IN THE ILLAWARRA—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Customer Service—

- (1) Under what criteria did Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) choose Pepe's in Wollongong as an additional wedding venue in June 2018?

- (a) Was there a tender process to determine this?
- (b) If so, how many tenders were received?
- (2) Were any tenders received from venues outside of Wollongong Central Business District?
 - (a) If there was no tender process, why was this the case?
- (3) Was there consideration given that all BDM venues in the Illawarra are within a 2 kilometre radius?
- (4) Will the review of BDM marriage services, including venues, which is currently underway, recommend venues in areas of the Illawarra outside of the Wollongong Central Business District?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) A range of criteria are used to determine Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) wedding venues, including size, location and cost. In the case of Pepe's, I am advised that its services were procured through direct negotiations and that these arrangements were informed by advice from the Department of Justice Office of General Counsel, which had regard to applicable procurement rules.

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Yes.
- (a) Not applicable.

*2454 INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA PROJECTS—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What is the timeframe for the Government to "identify initiatives and develop options" as part of Stage 2 of Infrastructure Australia's Assessment Framework in the report released on 26 February 2020 for the following projects:
 - (a) Wollongong-Sydney rail line upgrades;
 - (b) Picton Road safety and capacity;
 - (c) Freight rail access to Port Kembla?
- (2) Will the Government provide Infrastructure Australia with proposals and options for the following projects for inclusion in its 2021 Priority List:
 - (a) Wollongong-Sydney rail line upgrades;
 - (b) Picton Road safety and capacity;
 - (c) Freight rail access to Port Kembla?
- (3) If the projects in (2) are not provided with proposals and options, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on the suite of transport strategies and plans for New South Wales is available and updated periodically on the future transport website.

*2455 MALDON-DOMBARTON RAIL LINK PROJECT—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Is the Maldon-Dombarton rail link still under consideration as a project to improve freight rail access to the Port of Port Kembla as noted in the Infrastructure Australia Priority List 2020 released on 26 February 2020?
 - (a) If not, what are the reasons for the discontinued consideration of this project?
- (2) What is the cost of an enhancement to the following train lines as noted in the Infrastructure Australia Priority Lists 2020 for improved freight rail access to Port Kembla:
 - (a) Illawarra Line;
 - (b) Moss Vale-Unanderra Line?
- (3) What are the options for the "future development of an alternative rail alignment to the port" under consideration by the Government?

Answer—

I am advised:

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Information on the suite of transport strategies and plans for NSW is available and updated periodically on the Future Transport 2056 website.

*2456 ILLAWARRA ESCARPMENT CONSERVATION AREA—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

Considering the answer to LAQ2130 that stated the Illawarra Escarpment Conservation Area has only had one hazard reduction burn conducted by National Parks and Wildlife over the last ten years, what plans are underway to increase hazard reduction activity following the 2019-20 bushfire crisis in this area?

Answer—

The National Parks and Wildlife Service intends to complete two hazard reduction burns in the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area this financial year, providing the conditions are suitable.

The scheduled hazard reduction burns are located at Mount Mitchell, between Stanwell Park and Coalcliff, and Regent Mountain near Bulli Pass.

Hazard reduction burns are discussed and approved through the Illawarra Bush Fire Management Committee.

In addition, the development of future fire management (including hazard reduction) actions and strategies will be informed by the report of the Independent Inquiry into the Bushfire Season 2019-20.

*2457 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM—Mr David Mehan asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

What funding has been provided to the Central Coast Council or its predecessor, Wyong Shire Council from the Floodplain Management Grants program since the Council adopted the Tuggerah Lakes Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, dated November 2014?

Answer—

Since 2014 Central Coast Council, and its predecessor Wyong Shire Council, received 11 grants totalling approximately \$1 million from the Floodplain Management Grants program. This includes all floodplain management grants awarded to Central Coast Council and Wyong Shire Council, not only those specifically related to the Tuggerah Lakes estuary system.

*2458 TRANSPORT FOR NSW OWNED LAND—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

What land does Transport for NSW own in the Gosford CBD?

Answer—

I am advised:

Government Agencies with the Transport Cluster collectively own around 50 per cent of all Government-owned land throughout New South Wales.

*2459 SCHOOL MAINTENANCE—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

(1) Which Central Coast schools received maintenance work during the 2019- 2020 school holidays?

(a) What amount was spent at each school?

(2) Which schools are due to receive maintenance work in the 2020 school year?

Answer—

(1) School	LGA	Approved cost of planned maintenance work undertaken during the 2019-20 school holidays
Avoca Beach Public School	Gosford	\$46,858
Bateau Bay Public School	Wyong	\$94,559
Berkeley Vale Public School	Wyong	\$307,362
Brisbane Water Secondary College (Woy Woy Campus)	Gosford	\$323,125

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Brooke Avenue Public School	Wyong	\$245,548
Budgewoi Public School	Wyong	\$219,577
Chittaway Bay Public School	Wyong	\$376,479
Copacabana Public School	Gosford	\$97,997
Empire Bay Public School	Gosford	\$132,219
Erina Heights Public School	Gosford	\$893,407
Ettalong Public School	Gosford	\$324,529
Gorokan Public School	Wyong	\$73,349
Gosford East Public School	Gosford	\$676,459
Gosford High School	Gosford	\$457,406
Gosford Public School	Gosford	\$58,014
Gwandalan Public School	Wyong	\$98,470
Henry Kendall High School	Gosford	\$141,982
Jilliby Public School	Wyong	\$81,492
Kanwal Public School	Wyong	\$733,724
Killarney Vale Public School	Wyong	\$55,921
Kincumber Public School	Gosford	\$199,353
Lake Munmorah High School	Wyong	\$105,112
Lake Munmorah Public School	Wyong	\$80,474
Lisarow High School	Gosford	\$374,503
Lisarow Public School	Gosford	\$93,347
Manning Park Public School	Wyong	\$169,838
Narara Public School	Gosford	\$21,089
Niagara Park Public School	Gosford	\$66,243
Northlakes High School	Wyong	\$775,529
Northlakes Public School	Wyong	\$296,744
Ourimbah Public School	Wyong	\$124,643
Peats Ridge Public School	Gosford	\$93,945
Point Clare Public School	Gosford	\$71,181
The Entrance Public School	Wyong	\$209,375
Toukley Public School	Wyong	\$558,074
Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College (The Entrance Campus)	Wyong	\$911,382
Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College (Tumbi Umbi Campus)	Gosford	\$52,222
Tuggerah Public School	Wyong	\$162,744
Tuggerawong Public School	Wyong	\$289,286
Umina Public School	Gosford	\$105,141
Valley View Public School	Gosford	\$196,115
Wyong Creek Public School	Wyong	\$174,073

(2) All Central Coast government schools will receive maintenance in the 2020 school year, under

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statutory and preventative maintenance, planned maintenance and/or reactive maintenance.

*2460 PUBLIC SERVICE DIVERSITY—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Premier representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What is the percentage of the public service that identify as Aboriginal?
- (2) What percentage of the senior executive of the public service identify as Aboriginal?
- (3) What are the commitments of Government to increase this percentage?

Answer—

- (1) The estimated percentage of the public sector that identify as Aboriginal is 3.5 per cent.
- (2) The estimated percentage of the senior executive of the public sector that identify as Aboriginal is 1.3 per cent.
- (3) The Government commits to increase the number of Aboriginal senior leaders to 114 by 2025, which includes senior executives (currently 98 from a baseline of 57 in 2014).

*2461 STAFFING AT SERVICE NSW CENTRES—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Customer Service—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent staff are employed at the following Service NSW centres:
 - (a) Woy Woy;
 - (b) Gosford;
 - (c) Erina;
 - (d) Tuggerah;
 - (e) Toukley?
- (2) How many visits did the Woy Woy Service NSW centres have during 2019?
- (3) How many visits did the Gosford Service NSW centres have in each financial year from 2016-17 to 2018-19?
- (4) How many visits did the Erina Service NSW centres have in each financial year from 2016-17 to 2018-19?
- (5) How many visits did the Tuggerah Service NSW centres have in each financial year from 2016-17 to 2018-19?
- (6) How many visits did the Toukley Service NSW centres have in each financial year from 2016-17 to 2018-19?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Woy Woy 7.8
- (b) Gosford 16.2
- (c) Erina -14.8 FTE
- (d) Tuggerah 18.2 FTE
- (e) Toukley 13.4 FTE
- (2) Customers Served: 9,736, Kiosk 5,968, Total: 15,704 (Noting Woy Woy Service NSW opened on 2 August 2020).
- (3) to (6):

Financial Year 2016-17

Service NSW Centre	Customers Served	Kiosk	Total
Gosford	102,248	4,801	107
Erina	94,458	5,125	99,583
Tuggerah	103,436	1,788	110,924
Toukley	88,795	3,084	91,879

Financial Year 2017-18

Service NSW Centre	Customers Served	Kiosk	Total
Gosford	73,220	7,732	80,952
Erina	76,807	7,665	84,472
Tuggerah	94,668	13,206	107,874
Toukley	67,228	7,832	75,060

Financial Year 2018-19

Service NSW Centre	Customers Served	Kiosk	Total
Gosford	63,429	13,828	77,257
Erina	73,903	11,965	85,868
Tuggerah	92,136	18,275	110,411
Toukley	60,553	12,965	73,518

*2462 DRAMA IN SCHOOLS—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Which schools on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie offer Drama to Year 9 and 10 students?
- (2) Which schools on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie offer Drama to High School Certificate students?
- (3) How many students on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie undertook Drama during Years 9 and 10 in each year from 2012 to 2019?
- (4) How many students on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie undertook High School Certificate Drama in in each year from 2012 to 2019?

Answer—

- (1) In 2019, the following schools on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie had students complete a Stage 5 Drama course:
 - Avondale School
 - Brisbane Water Secondary College, Woy Woy Campus
 - Central Coast Adventist School
 - Central Coast Grammar School
 - Central Coast Steiner School
 - Charlton Christian College
 - Erina High School
 - Gorokan High School
 - Gosford High School
 - Green Point Christian College
 - Henry Kendall High School
 - Kariong Mountains High School
 - Kincumber High School
 - Lisarow High School
 - Morisset High School
 - Narara Valley High School
 - St Edward's Christian Brothers' College
 - St Joseph's Catholic College
 - St Paul's Catholic College
 - St Peter's Catholic College
 - St Philip's Christian College - Gosford
 - Terrigal High School
 - Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College, Tumby Umbi Campus
 - Wadalba Community School
 - Wyong Christian Community School
- (2) In 2019, the following schools on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie had students complete a Higher School Certificate (HSC) Drama course:
 - Brisbane Water Secondary College, Woy Woy Campus
 - Central Coast Adventist School
 - Central Coast Grammar School
 - Erina High School
 - Gorokan High School
 - Gosford High School
 - Green Point Christian College
 - Henry Kendall High School
 - Kincumber High School
 - Lake Macquarie High School
 - Lakes Grammar - An Anglican School
 - MacKillop Catholic College
 - Narara Valley High School

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- St Edward's Christian Brothers' College
- St Joseph's Catholic College
- St Paul's Catholic College
- St Peter's Catholic College
- St Philip's Christian College - Gosford
- Terrigal High School
- Toronto High School
- Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College, The Entrance Campus
- Wadalba Community School
- Wyong High School

- (3) The following table shows how many students on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie completed a Stage 5 Drama course between 2012 and 2019:

Year	Number of students
2012	570
2013	639
2014	576
2015	532
2016	518
2017	378
2018	423
2019	372

- (4) The following table shows how many students on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie completed an HSC Drama course from 2012 to 2019:

Year	Number of students
2012	290
2013	208
2014	264
2015	250
2016	210
2017	227
2018	217
2019	185

*2463 MEDICINAL CANNABIS—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many people are taking part in the medicinal cannabis trial as at 27 February 2020?
- (2) How long with the trial continue?
- (3) How many doctors in New South Wales are eligible to prescribe medicinal cannabis as at 27 February 2020?
- (4) When will the findings of the trial be released?

Answer—

(1) I am advised that as of 31 January 2020, over 200 patients had accessed cannabis medicines through Government funded clinical trials for children with severe epilepsy, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and palliative care. In February 2020 a clinical trial of cannabis medicines for symptom control in advanced cancer commenced.

(2) and (4) Indicative timeframes for the completion of current clinical trials range from late 2020 to 2023. Trial findings are usually published around six to 12 months after recruitment for the clinical trial has closed.

(3) All doctors in New South Wales are eligible to seek approval to prescribe a cannabis medicine.

*2464 SNOWY HYDRO FUNDING—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) How much of the Snowy Hydro funding has been spent on the Central Coast since former Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast, The Honourable Scot MacDonald announced funding would be directed to the region?
 - (a) What projects have been funded?

Answer—

(1) The Government has committed to investing 100 per cent of the Snowy Hydro proceeds into transformative infrastructure for regional New South Wales. The Central Coast local government area is considered an eligible location.

(a) Updates on Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund projects can be found online (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/regional-nsw/snowy-hydro-legacy-fund>).

*2465 LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSIONER—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

What is the appointment process for the Legal Services Commissioner?

Answer—

I am advised:

The appointment process for the New South Wales Legal Services Commissioner is contained within section 22 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014 (NSW) accessible at: <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act2014/16/part3/div2>

*2466 MUSIC IN SCHOOLS—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Which schools on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie offer Music to Year 9 and 10 students?
- (2) Which schools on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie offer Music to High School Certificate (HSC) students?
- (3) How many students on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie undertook Music during Years 9 and 10 in each year from 2012 to 2019?
- (4) How many students on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie undertook HSC Music in in each year from 2012 to 2019?

Answer—

(1) In 2019, the following schools on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie had students complete a Stage 5 Music course:

- Avondale School
- Brisbane Water Secondary College Woy Woy Campus
- Central Coast Adventist School
- Central Coast Grammar School
- Central Coast Steiner School
- Charlton Christian College
- Erina High School
- Girrakool School
- Gorokan High School
- Gosford High School
- Green Point Christian College
- Henry Kendall High School
- Heritage College Lake Macquarie
- Kariong Mountains High School
- Kincumber High School
- Lake Macquarie High School
- Lakes Grammar - An Anglican School
- Lisarow High School
- MacKillop Catholic College
- Morisset High School
- Narara Valley High School
- St Edward's Christian Brothers' College

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- St Joseph's Catholic College
 - St Paul's Catholic College
 - St Peter's Catholic College
 - St Philip's Christian College - Gosford
 - Terrigal High School
 - Toronto High School
 - Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College, Berkeley Vale Campus
 - Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College, Tumbi Umbi Campus
 - Wadalba Community School
 - Wyong Christian Community School
- (2) In 2019, the following schools on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie had students complete a Higher School Certificate (HSC) Music course:
- Avondale School
 - Brisbane Water Secondary College, Woy Woy Campus
 - Central Coast Adventist School
 - Central Coast Grammar School
 - Charlton Christian College
 - Erina High School
 - Five Islands School
 - Gorokan High School
 - Gosford High School
 - Green Point Christian College
 - Henry Kendall High School
 - Kariong Mountains High School
 - Kincumber High School
 - Lake Macquarie High School
 - Lakes Grammar - An Anglican School
 - Lisarow High School
 - MacKillop Catholic College
 - Morisset High School
 - Narara Valley High School
 - St Edward's Christian Brothers' College
 - St Joseph's Catholic College
 - St Paul's Catholic College
 - St Peter's Catholic College
 - St Philip's Christian College - Gosford
 - Terrigal High School
 - Toronto High School
 - Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College, The Entrance Campus
 - Wadalba Community School
 - Wyong Christian Community School
 - Wyong High School
- (3) The following table shows how many students on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie completed a Stage 5 Music course between 2012 and 2019:

Year	Number of students
2012	728
2013	712
2014	613
2015	652
2016	647
2017	677
2018	560
2019	584

- (4) The following table shows how many students on the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie completed

an HSC Music course between 2012 and 2019:

Year	Number of students
2012	279
2013	276
2014	301
2015	269
2016	250
2017	243
2018	257
2019	257

*2467 LAND AND HOUSING CORPORATION ASSETS IN SOUTHERN WOLLONGONG REGION—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) How many modifiable, ground floor, two bedroom stand-alone houses with few steps or no steps in the southern Wollongong region are currently owned by Land and Housing Corporation?
- (2) How many of these properties are currently unoccupied (as at 27 February 2020)?
- (3) Are there any plans by the Government to purchase or build more low density, ground floor housing in the southern Wollongong region?
 - (a) If so, what are these plans?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (4) Are there any plans to sell any low density, ground floor housing in the southern Wollongong region?
 - (a) If so, what are these plans?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) owns 445 two-bedroom cottages in the Wollongong State Electorate. Of these, approximately 250 have five steps or less.
- (2) Three properties were identified as vacant as at the end of February 2020.
- (3) LAHC continually reviews its portfolio to ensure housing is fit-for-purpose. This review includes housing in Southern Wollongong, and when new housing is built in Southern Wollongong it is typically one or two storey with all ground floor dwellings having level entry.
 - (a) In October 2019, LAHC notified local residents about plans to develop a two-storey building containing eight new dwellings at 42 to 44 Blackman Parade, Unanderra. Four of these dwellings will have ground floor access. Construction is forecast to commence in mid-2020.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (5) There are no current plans by LAHC to sell any low density, ground floor housing in the southern Wollongong region.
 - (a) Not applicable.

*2468 REAL TIME INFORMATION DURING POWER OUTAGES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Considering the recent planned and unplanned power outages in the Wallsend electorate, does Ausgrid or the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment have the ability to inform the public directly and in real time of an outage?
 - (a) If not, has Ausgrid or the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment investigated ways of informing the public directly via text message or social media?

Answer—

Yes, Ausgrid maintains a real time outage map on its website. Ausgrid provides real time updates to its customers through text messages, its website and call centre, as well as social media and traditional media.

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*2469 REAL TIME INFORMATION DURING WATER OUTAGES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Considering the recent planned and unplanned water outages in the Wallsend electorate, does Hunter Water Corporation or Department of Planning, Industry and Environment have the ability to inform the public directly and in real time of an outage?
 - (a) If not, has Hunter Water Corporation or the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment the investigated ways of informing the public directly via text message or social media?

Answer—

Hunter Water provides 'live' updates on water service interruptions via its dedicated outages webpage (www.hunterwater.com.au/outages). Major outages are also notified via Hunter Water's Facebook and Twitter.

*2470 ASBESTOS AT KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) When was the asbestos register for Kotara High School last updated and published on the NSW Department of Education website?
- (2) Is there any friable, damaged or poor condition asbestos at the Kotara High School site as at 27 February 2020?
- (3) What action has been taken to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Kotara High School site in the last 12 months (to 27 February 2020)?
- (4) What action is planned to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Kotara High School site over the next 12 months?

Answer—

- (1) All Asbestos Registers were last updated in September 2019.
- (2) The publicly available Asbestos Register for Kotara High School does not identify any friable asbestos at the school. The school Asbestos Register identifies one area where there is asbestos containing material that is in 'poor condition' in vinyl floor tiles in Building C. In another area within Building A where there is compressed AC sheeting there is 'some damage'.
- (3) Items identified in the Asbestos Register are inspected periodically where risk assessments indicate the need for re-assessment.
- (4) The Department of Education has a rigorous system of maintenance, monitoring and management of asbestos at all government schools across the State. The Department's Asbestos Management Plan requires it to monitor the condition of asbestos where risk assessment indicates the need for re-assessment. All works will be undertaken in accordance with the advice of an independent hygienist and with all required SafeWork NSW protocols and procedures.

*2471 ASBESTOS AT KOTARA SCHOOL—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) When was the asbestos register for Kotara School last updated and published on the NSW Department of Education website?
- (2) Is there any friable, damaged or poor condition asbestos at the Kotara School site as at 27 February 2020?
- (3) What action has been taken to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Kotara School site in the last 12 months (to 27 February 2020)?
- (4) What action is planned to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Kotara School site over the next 12 months?

Answer—

- (1) All asbestos registers were last updated in September 2019.
- (2) The publicly available Asbestos Register for Kotara School does not identify any friable asbestos at the school. The Asbestos Register identifies one area where there is asbestos containing material that is in 'poor condition' in an underfloor void area of Building C and one area where there is asbestos containing material that has 'some damage' in the ceiling structure/linings of Building B.
- (3) Asbestos containing material in Building B was removed during planned maintenance works 2019-20. Items identified in the Asbestos Register are periodically inspected where risk assessments indicate the need for re-assessment.
- (4) The Department of Education has a rigorous system of maintenance, monitoring and management of asbestos at all government schools across the State. The Department's Asbestos Management Plan

requires it to monitor the condition of asbestos where risk assessment indicates the need for re-assessment. All works will be undertaken in accordance with the advice of an independent hygienist and with all required SafeWork NSW protocols and procedures.

*2472 ASBESTOS AT BELAIR PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) When was the asbestos register for Belair Public School last updated and published on the NSW Department of Education website?
- (2) Is there any friable, damaged or poor condition asbestos at the Belair Public School site as at 27 February 2020?
- (3) What action has been taken to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Belair Public School site in the last 12 months (to 27 February 2020)?
- (4) What action is planned to monitor and/or remove asbestos at the Belair Public School site over the next 12 months?

Answer—

- (1) All of the Department of Education's asbestos registers were last updated in September 2019.
- (2) The publicly available Asbestos Register for Belair Public School does not identify any friable asbestos at the school. The Asbestos Register identifies two areas where there is asbestos-containing material in 'poor condition'. These areas are an underfloor void and an exterior ceiling void. These areas are isolated and cut-off from students and staff access because they are beneath the floor and above the ceiling. The Asbestos Register indicates one area, an external underfloor void, has 'some damage.' This area is isolated and cut-off from students and staff access because it is beneath the floor.
- (3) In September 2019, the Department removed asbestos-containing material in floor tiles. Additionally, items identified in the asbestos register are inspected periodically where risk assessments indicate the need for re-assessment.
- (4) Asbestos is controlled and managed in accordance with the Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan and SafeWork NSW regulations and related legislation. The prioritised asbestos-containing items will be removed in accordance with the Department's Asbestos Management Plan following a hygienist's risk assessment.

*2473 REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD EXCLUSIONS—Ms Janelle Saffin asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Why is the Government excluding senior disability pensioners and senior carers from the \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card?

Answer—

I am advised:

I refer you to the answer to LA Q2288.

*2474 STOCKTON BEACH GRANTS—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) Considering grants to undertake short-term works on Stockton Beach, how many applications from Newcastle council are yet to be determined as at 27 February 2020?
 - (a) When were these grant applications submitted?
 - (b) When will these grant applications be determined?
 - (c) What has been the delay in determining these grants?
- (2) Considering your commitment on your most recent visit to Stockton, why have these grants not been prioritised?

Answer—

As at 3 March 2020 all grant applications have been determined and communicated to Council.

*2475 DE BURG TRUSS BRIDGE—Ms Janelle Saffin asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Will the Government consider intervening in the planned demolition for the historic De Burgh Truss Bridge, due to its cultural significance to the indigenous and non-indigenous communities of the Upper Clarence?
- (2) Does the Government plan to reverse its August 2016 decision to delist the bridge from the State Heritage Register?

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- (a) If so, will the Government consider allocating funds to maintain it as a pedestrian bridge and tourism attraction as expressed by a majority of Tabulam residents?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Transport for NSW has carried out extensive consultation with key stakeholders and the community regarding the removal of the existing bridge.

While Transport for NSW recognises the significance of the existing bridge to the community, it does not plan to intervene on its planned demolition.

Transport for NSW is investigating ways to remember the existing bridge and maintain the link between it and the heritage values of Tabulam.

(2) This is a matter for the Special Minister of State and the Minister for the Public Service, Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts.

*2476 REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD WAITING TIMES—Ms Janelle Saffin asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Why do veterans and war widows have to wait between two and two and a half months to receive the Regional Seniors Travel Card?

(2) Will the Government immediately implement a manual system to accept applications for the \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card and issue the card without further delay, if the applicant has a Department of Veterans' Affairs card?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Applications for eligible veterans are expected to open in early April.

Transport for NSW is working with Service NSW and our banking partner to identify all of the changes required to extend the regional seniors travel card trial to more veterans.

This requires changes to a number of elements to the current systems and processes which have a level of complexity with them and take time to ensure we have these right before customers can apply.

There is still plenty of time as seniors have until 30 November 2020 to apply for the \$250 card. Seniors have a minimum of 12 months to use their card after it is activated.

(2) Manual processing of the cards is not a viable option given the volumes and the complexity in ensuring applicants are eligible.

*2477 TEMPORARY TRANSPORT SERVICE PLAN—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

(1) Considering the response to LA Q1136, has the Temporary Transport Service Plan, detailing alternative transport routes during Sydenham to Bankstown possession periods, been finalised?

(2) What community consultation has taken place as at 26 February 2020?

Answer—

I am advised:

Prior to the first possession of the T3 Bankstown Line in December 2019, Transport for NSW communicated the temporary transport changes to customers. Brochures and posters were translated into multiple languages, and bilingual staff in pink shirts provided customer service on the ground. This was in addition to carrying out early engagement with stakeholders, briefing journalists, and rolling out a geo-targeted marketing campaign. The campaign was effective in driving awareness with almost 30,000 clicks to the transportnsw.info homepage where customers could proactively plan their trip.

There are various possession types for the T3 Bankstown Line. Temporary transport plans will be shaped to suit the possession type and will build upon lessons learnt from previous plans.

Customers will be provided with plenty of advance notice and will be well informed before any possessions of the T3 Bankstown Line for upgrades to metro standards. Customer notifications and consultation will be tailored based on the level of disruption, which is consistent with what has occurred to date.

*2478 FUNDING MODEL FOR THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Premier representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Will the Government review the funding model for the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), to ensure that ICAC can carry out its functions and operate independently, as recommended in the Committee on the ICAC's Report 1/57 - November 2019 of the Review of the 2017-2018 Annual Report of the ICAC and the inspector of the ICAC?

Answer—

The Government has requested that the Auditor-General undertake an independent review of the effectiveness of the financial arrangements and management practices of integrity agencies, including the Independent Commission Against Corruption. The Auditor-General is expected to report in early 2020.

The Public Accountability Committee of the Legislative Council has also tabled its first report on the Budget process for independent oversight bodies, including the ICAC, and the Parliament of New South Wales.

The Government will carefully consider the reports of the Auditor-General and the Parliamentary Committee in relation to these issues.

*2479 T3 BANKSTOWN LINE METRO CONVERSION CLOSURES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) When will the next temporary closure of the T3 Bankstown Line for the Metro conversion take place?
- (2) When will dates of later possession periods be made publicly available?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is published well in advance of any closure.

*2480 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR BANKSTOWN-LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What additional resources have been allocated to Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital to ensure it has the capacity to effectively deal with any outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as at 26 February 2020?
- (2) What measures have been implemented at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital since 31 December 2019 (to 26 February 2020) in order to protect hospital staff, patients and visitors, particularly those who are at most risk of serious infection, from the Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Answer—

Hospitals' Pandemic Plans are continuously updated as new information relating to COVID-19 becomes available, while remaining in line with the State Pandemic Plan. All New South Wales public hospitals are consulting with their local health district for the planning of resources.

*2481 PRIVATISATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Will the Government's remaining stakes in Ausgrid and Endeavour Energy be leased or sold?
- (2) Will the Government's remaining stake in Westconnex be leased or sold?
- (3) Will the Government privatise Hunter Water?
- (4) Can the Treasurer rule out any further privatisation in New South Wales in this term of Government?

Answer—

There are currently no plans to lease or sell its stakes Ausgrid and Endeavour Energy or privatise Hunter Water.

The Treasurer announced on 6 March 2020 a scoping study into the future ownership of the State's 49 per cent stake in WestConnex.

The Government is always looking for better ways to improve the delivery of services for the people of New South Wales and ensure that critical infrastructure projects are delivered.

*2482 NSW PORTS LEASES—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Treasurer—

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- (1) Did the Government inform the Parliament of its intention to pay a future lessee in the respect of containers shipped through the Port of Newcastle prior to leasing Port Botany and Port Kembla on 31 May 2013?
 - (a) If so, when was the Parliament informed?
- (2) As at 31 May 2013, did the Ports Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012 authorise the Government to pay NSW Ports Pty Ltd in respect of containers being shipped through the Port of Newcastle?
 - (a) If so, which section of the Act was this authorisation found?
- (3) Prior to leasing the Port of Newcastle on 31 May 2014, did the Government inform Parliament that the Government intended to obtain the funds required to pay NSW Ports Pty Ltd from the lessee of the port of Newcastle?
 - (a) If so, when was the Parliament informed?
- (4) As at 31 May 2014, did the Ports Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012 authorise the Government to pay NSW Ports Pty Ltd in respect of containers being shipped through the Port of Newcastle?
 - (a) If so, which section of the Act was this authorisation found?

Answer—

(1) Please refer to the answer to question 106 of the supplementary questions by the Treasurer for the 2019-20 Budget Estimates and the findings of the Parliamentary Inquiry on 'Impact of Port of Newcastle sale arrangements on public works expenditure in New South Wales' in relation to the disclosure of the Port Commitment Deeds.

(2) In regards to the second question, this matter is currently the subject of court proceedings and is therefore subject to the sub judice convention.

(3) and (4) For questions three and four, please refer to the above answers respectively.

*2483 FLAMMABLE CLADDING IN NEWCASTLE—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) Are there any buildings in the Newcastle electorate that contain flammable cladding?
 - (a) If so, where are these buildings located?
- (2) Is this information available to the public?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) to (2) The Government takes any potential fire safety risks of combustible cladding very seriously and established an interagency taskforce to focus on this issue. Information on the action taken by New South Wales Cladding Taskforce and current status of building assessments can be found on the NSW Department of Customer Service website.

Additional information, including building locations, is not to be made public in accordance with the advice of NSW Fire and Rescue and NSW Police.

This position was upheld by an Independent Legal Arbiter, whose report was presented to the Legislative Council Privileges Committee.

*2484 NEWCASTLE POLICE—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How many of the 1,500 new police officers will be allocated to the Newcastle City Police District?
- (2) How many new police officers have been allocated to the Newcastle City Police District, or former Newcastle Local Area Command in each year from 2015 to 2020 (to 27 February 2020)?
- (3) Of the 246 police officers currently operating in the Newcastle City Police District, how many are allocated to:
 - (a) General duties;
 - (b) Non-frontline services?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on the number of probationary constables that have attested from the Police Academy, as well as the location at which they will commence service, is made publicly available by the NSW Police Force at the time of each Attestation.

All police resources attached to Police Districts or Police Area Commands are flexible resources available to respond to incidents across the district. Local resources are also supplemented by specialist police (including highway patrol, crime squads, covert resources, and more), which are managed centrally but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to crime patterns and emerging issues.

*2485 JENNY'S PLACE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTRE—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) Has consideration been given to fund Jenny's Place Domestic Violence Resource Centre?
 - (a) If not, why?

Answer—

I am advised:

Yes.

The Government acknowledges the important services provided by Jenny's Place to the Newcastle community in providing housing support, counselling and case management services through funding made available by the Government.

The Government continues to fund Jenny's Place \$1.4 million every year to deliver specialist homelessness services in the Newcastle area. That investment is part of the millions of dollars the Government invests in the delivery of specialist domestic violence supports and mainstream supports in the Hunter region.

The Domestic Violence Resource Centre was sponsored by Port Waratah Coal but it was unsuccessful in securing further corporate funding. The Government has offered the Domestic Violence Resource Centre \$25,000 to support it to develop a business plan and a model that might secure corporate sponsorship once more.

*2486 REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENTS—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

When will the Minister provide a response to the representations I made to the Minister on 28 October 2019 on behalf of a constituent?

Answer—

This matter has been referred to the Minister for Local Government.

*2487 CALLAGHAN COLLEGE WARATAH TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS ASBESTOS REGISTER—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Is friable asbestos present in the music storeroom of Callaghan College Waratah Technology Campus?
 - (a) If not, why was it listed on the school's public asbestos register?
- (2) Was the music storeroom adequately tested before the presence of friable asbestos was listed on the school's asbestos register?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) Is any friable asbestos present at the school as at 27 February 2020?

Answer—

- (1) The ceiling in the Callaghan College Waratah Technology Campus music room is vermiculite. The Department initiated a process of testing of vermiculite ceilings to verify if they contained asbestos with remediation works to be undertaken if identified. The Department listed all vermiculite ceilings on the Asbestos Register as potentially containing asbestos. This was done as a precautionary measure. The register is a technical document providing transparency to tradespeople working on school sites; the listing reflects the need to take appropriate measures to ensure safety. At the time that testing was carried out at Callaghan College, Waratah Technology Campus the room was inaccessible; it remained on the Asbestos Register as a precaution. Further testing was conducted by a Department Panel Hygienist. Four samples were taken and all samples returned as negative for asbestos. Testing included the ceiling of the music storeroom.
- (2) No, the ceiling was inaccessible at the time of previous testing.
- (3) There is no known friable asbestos at this site.

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*2488 VEHICLE REGISTRATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many passenger vehicles are registered in New South Wales as at 27 February 2020?
- (2) How many electric passenger vehicles are registered in New South Wales as at 27 February 2020?
- (3) How many hybrid passenger vehicles are registered in New South Wales as at 27 February 2020?
- (4) How many passenger vehicles are registered, on average, a year from 2009 to 2020 (to 27 February 2020)?
- (5) How many registered passenger vehicles are over 10 years old as at 27 February 2020?
- (6) What is the average age of a passenger vehicle registered in New South Wales as at 27 February 2020?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information about vehicle registration is available on the Transport for NSW website. Data is updated quarterly, the next update is scheduled for May 2020.

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*2489 TOORALE WATER DIVERSIONS—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

Considering the move to install permanent water diversions on Toorale Station, will the Government move to reopen the Water Sharing Plan for the Intersecting Streams Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2011 so the diversions can be accounted for and the community can be consulted?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Intersecting Streams Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2011 Water Sharing Plan accounts for unregulated access licences in the water source. The use of water at Toorale does not change the nature of the water sharing plan.

*2490 MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICERS—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Considering the announcement by the Government that every New South Wales public high school in regional New South Wales will be provided two dedicated mental health experts, when will these positions commence at the following schools:
 - (a) Baradine Central School;
 - (b) Binnaway Central School;
 - (c) Bourke High School;
 - (d) Brewarrina Central School;
 - (e) Broken Hill High School;
 - (f) Cobar High School;
 - (g) Collarenebri Central School;
 - (h) Condobolin High School;
 - (i) Coolah Central School;
 - (j) Coonabarabran High School;
 - (k) Coonamble High School;
 - (l) Dunedoo Central School;
 - (m) Gilgandra High School;
 - (n) Goodooga Central School;
 - (o) Gulargambone Central School;
 - (p) Lake Cargelligo Central School;
 - (q) Lightning Ridge Central School;
 - (r) Ivanhoe Central School;
 - (s) Mendooran Central School;
 - (t) Menindee Central School;

- (u) Narrabri High School;
- (v) Nyngan High School;
- (w) Tottenham Central School;
- (x) Tullibigeal Central School;
- (y) Walgett Community College High School;
- (z) Warren Central School;
- (aa) Wee Waa High School;
- (ab) Wilcannia Central School;
- (ac) Willyama High School?

Answer—

The Government's \$88 million election commitment will be phased in between 2020 and 2023, and provides a full time counselling allocation and a full time student support officer for every public high school by June 2023. Central schools with a high proportion of students enrolled in high school age groups will also be allocated a student support officer.

High schools which will have their existing part time school counselling allocation increased to full time from July 2021 are listed below:

- Bourke High School
- Broken Hill High School
- Cobar High School
- Condobolin High School
- Coonabarabran High School
- Coonamble High School
- Gilgandra High School
- Narrabri High School
- Nyngan High School
- Walgett Community College High School
- Wee Waa High School
- Willyama High School

Central schools with existing part time school counselling allocations which will have their model of allocation reviewed in 2021 are listed below:

- Baradine Central School
- Binnaway Central School
- Brewarrina Central School
- Collarenebri Central School
- Coolah Central School
- Dunedoo Central School
- Goodooga Central School
- Gulargambone Central School
- Ivanhoe Central School
- Lake Cargelligo Central School
- Lightning Ridge Central School
- Mendooran Central School
- Menindee Central School
- Tottenham Central School
- Tullibigeal Central School
- Warren Central School
- Wilcannia Central School

Schools where the student support officer position will commence from Term 3, 2020 are listed below:

- Broken Hill High School
- Bourke High School
- Cobar High School
- Condobolin High School
- Coonabarabran High School
- Coonamble High School
- Gilgandra High School
- Narrabri High School
- Nyngan High School

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- Walgett Community College
- Wee Waa High School
- Willyama High School

The Central schools with greater numbers of high school students which will receive a student support officer are Lake Cargelligo Central School, Lightning Ridge Central School and Coolah Central School. Lake Cargelligo Central School will have a student support officer position from Term 3, 2020, and Lightning Ridge Central School and Coolah central School will have a student support officer position from Term 3, 2021.

*2491 WHITE CLIFFS NATIVE TITLE CLAIM BY THE BARKANDJI NATIVE TITLE GROUP—Mr Roy Butler asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) Considering that in 2015 the Barkandji Native Title Group Aboriginal Corporation registered a native title claim, what is the status of the application (as at 3 March 2020)?
- (2) Has a determination been reached (as at 3 March 2020)?
 - (a) If not, when is a decision likely to be made?

Answer—

I am advised:

As at 22 August 2017, the Barkandji Native Title Determination Application, known as Barkandji #8 (Federal Court proceedings NSD6084 of 1998) had been finalised and a determination of the proceedings has been reached.

This information is publicly available on the National Native Title Tribunal website at the links provided below:

http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/NativeTitleClaims/Pages/Determination_details.aspx?NNTT_Fileno=NCD2015/001

http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/NativeTitleClaims/Pages/Determination_details.aspx?NNTT_Fileno=NCD2017/001

*2492 WATER PORTFOLIO—Mr Roy Butler asked the Premier—

Considering the complexity of water management in New South Wales and the onerous requirement of the portfolio, will the Premier create a standalone Minister for Water?

Answer—

New South Wales has a Minister for Water.

*2493 ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Premier—

- (1) Do you support the Deputy Premier's statement in his media release dated 27 February 2020 for a royal commission into the Murray-Darling Basin Plan?
- (2) Does the New South Wales Cabinet approve of this policy position?

Answer—

The New South Wales Government will continue to advocate on behalf of its citizens in relation to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

*2494 MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN ROYAL COMMISSION—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) What actions have you taken since your media release on 27 February 2020 calling for a royal commission into the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and a national water register?
 - (a) On what date did you meet with the Commonwealth Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia to make the case for these policy positions?
 - (i) What advocacy will you be doing in the future?

Answer—

As Leader of the NSW Nationals I have publically called for a Royal Commission into the Murray Darling Basin Plan and the Murray Darling Basin Authority and support additional transparency measures across the Murray Darling Basin through the establishment of a National Water Register.

I have made that position clear in recent meetings and conversations with my federal counterparts.

All meetings in my diary are publicly disclosed.

The NSW Nationals will continue, as we always have done, to work on behalf of the people of regional New South Wales.

*2495 GENERAL PRACTITIONERS WENTWORTH—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Considering the town of Wentworth has just lost its last remaining General Practitioner, what is NSW Health doing to help the town retain a general medical service?
 - (a) Why have you not answered my letter dated 3 October 2019 on behalf of the Wentworth District Community Medical Centre Establishment Group on this matter?

Answer—

- (1) The funding of GP services is a Commonwealth responsibility. Far West Local Health District is committed to working with partner organisations including the NSW Rural Doctors Network, Western NSW Primary Health Network and Wentworth Shire Council on the provision of health services in Wentworth.
 - (a) The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, responded to you on my behalf on 20 November 2019.

*2496 NSW FAIR TRADING WAIT TIMES—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) What is the current expected waiting time for a complaint to be responded to and resolved by NSW Fair Trading (as at 3 March 2020)?
- (2) Are there any known delays or blowouts?
 - (a) What are the reasons for the delays or blowouts?
- (3) Is there a strategy to communicate any delays to the public?

Answer—

- (1) Statistical reporting is completed at the end of each month. At the end of February 2020, 90 per cent of consumer complaints were finalised within 30 days.
- (2) The recent bushfires, storm and flood events have affected complaint lodgements, and the impact on COVID-19 on consumer transactions has required additional community support from Fair Trading, however, response times have not been impacted.
- (3) If a complaint is not finalised within 30 days, Fair Trading contacts the parties to advise of the actions being taken.

*2497 NSW FAIR TRADING STAFFING—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) How many staff working at NSW Fair Trading (as at 3 March 2020) are:
 - (a) Full-time;
 - (b) Part-time?
- (2) How many staff are on contracts (as at 3 March 2020)?
- (3) What is the total number of staff for NSW Fair Trading (as at 3 March 2020)?
 - (a) How many of these are inspectors or frontline workers?
 - (i) How do these numbers compare to staff numbers at the same time 12 months ago (from 3 March 2020)?

Answer—

- (1) (a) 429 staff.
(b) 38 staff.
- (2) Six staff are on contracts.
- (3) As at 29 February 2020, there was a headcount of 57 inspectors across various roles with additional staff trained to provide frontline services. This is an increase on 2019 figures.

*2498 SAFEWORK NSW STAFFING—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) How many staff working at SafeWork NSW (as at 3 March 2020) are:

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- (a) Full-time;
- (b) Part-time?
- (2) How many staff are on contracts (as at 3 March 2020)?
- (3) What is the total number of staff for SafeWork NSW (as at 3 March 2020)?
 - (a) How many of these are inspectors?
 - (i) How do these numbers compare to staff numbers at the same time 12 months ago (from 3 March 2020)?

Answer—

- (1) (a) 484 (excluding contractors).
- (b) 35.
- (2) Six.
- (3) 525 (including contractors)
- (a) 286.
- (i) These figures represent an increase on 2019 figures.

*2499 SAFEWORK NSW INSPECTIONS—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) How many SafeWork NSW inspections took place between 1 November 2019 and 3 March 2020?
 - (a) Where did these take place?

Answer—

(1) Safework conducts a range of active and reactive actions including workplace incident attendance, project activities, verification audits, and proactive and reactive requests for service. In 2018-19, inspectors conducted 43,201 such interactions, and a further 23,672 interactions in the period July-December 2019. Accordingly, SafeWork NSW is currently on track to conduct a similar or higher number of inspector interactions compared to previous years.

There were 5,175 in person inspections in the period requested.

- (a) As these may relate to ongoing investigations, it would be inappropriate to publish these locations.

*2500 DAMAGE TO COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL HOUSING—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) How many reports of water damage, flooding or storm damage have been received for community and social housing stock in the last three months (to 3 March 2020)?
 - (a) How many of these are from the Granville electorate?
 - (i) How many of these remain unresolved or ongoing?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Nil.

*2501 PUBLIC HOUSING PLANS FOR THE GRANVILLE ELECTORATE—Ms Julia Finn asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Are there any plans to sell or redevelop any public housing stock in the Granville electorate?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) How many premises will be sold or redeveloped?
 - (ii) Where are these premises located?
- (2) What are the Government's plans to develop or build more public housing stock in the Granville electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) continually reviews its housing portfolio to ensure houses are fit-for-purpose and meet the needs of tenants.

- (a) (i) LAHC currently has plans to sell on property in the Granville electorate which is currently vacant, and to redevelop two sites to provide new fit-for-purpose social housing.

(a) (ii) The two sites for redevelopment are at Westmead and South Wentworthville. The property for sale is in Mays Hill

(2) LAHC is constantly reviewing its portfolio for current and future use, and continually reviews its housing portfolio to ensure houses are fit-for-purpose and meet the needs of tenants.

*2502 SERIOUS INCIDENTS IN EDUCATION SERVICES—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

(1) How many serious incidents, as defined under Regulation 12 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, occurred in each of the following categories of Early Childhood Learning National Quality Framework Approved Services in the period between 1 January 2020 and 1 March 2020:

- (a) Family Day Care Services;
- (b) Preschools;
- (c) Out of school hours care or before and after school services;
- (d) Long day care services;
- (e) Other services?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Family Day Care Services - 19
- (b) Preschools - 62
- (c) Out of school hours care or before and after school services - 278
- (d) Long day care services - 575
- (e) Other services - two.

*2503 EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES WITHOUT RATINGS—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

(1) How many Early Childhood Learning National Quality Framework Approved Services in each of the following categories did not have a rating, or had a provisional rating, on 1 March 2020:

- (a) Family Day Care Services;
- (b) Preschools;
- (c) Out of school hours care or before and after school services;
- (d) Long day care services;
- (e) Other services?

Answer—

(1) Services do not receive their first Assessment and Rating until they have been open for at least 12 months. This allows services to establish their teaching practices before they are assessed. Services do not receive provisional ratings. A service on the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) National Register listed as 'Provisional - Not Yet Rated' means they do not have a rating. The number of services with no ratings:

- (a) Family Day Care Services - 12
- (b) Preschools - 18
- (c) Out of school hours care or before and after school services - 160
- (d) Long day care services - 240
- (e) Other services - 0

*2504 CONFIRMED BREACHES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

(1) How many confirmed breaches, as defined by the Report on Government Services performed by the Productivity Commission, occurred in each of the following categories of Early Childhood Learning National Quality Framework Approved Services in the period between 1 January 2020 and 1 March 2020:

- (a) Family Day Care Services;
- (b) Preschools;
- (c) Out of school hours care or before and after school services;

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- (d) Long day care services;
(e) Other services?

Answer—

The Department is unable to calculate the number of confirmed breaches using the Report on Government Services definition due to changes to some data categories in the National Quality Agenda IT System on 1 July 2019.

- *2505 ICARE COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDING—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

What funding, if any, is provided by your Department to iCare Community Services?

Answer—

I am advised iCare Community Service is a Commonwealth funded organisation.

- *2506 SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTS INCITING VIOLENCE CRIMES ACT CHARGES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Would police consider charging New South Wales based perpetrators for public comments posted on social media that incite the violence referenced in section 93Z of the Crimes Act?

Answer—

I am advised:

Yes.

- *2507 ESAFETY COMMISSIONER PROTOCOLS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Have protocols been established between NSW Police and the eSafety Commissioner's office in relation to the application of section 93Z of the Crimes Act?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are currently no protocols between the NSW Police Force and the Australian eSafety Commissioner in relation to the application of section 93Z of the Crimes Act 1900.

Threats of violence should be reported to police.

- *2508 TERRORISM OFFENCES AND SECTION 93Z OF THE CRIMES ACT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Are the officers who investigate potential terrorism offences also responsible for investigating potential breaches of section 93Z of the Crimes Act?

Answer—

I am advised:

No.

- *2509 ONLINE INCITEMENT INVESTIGATION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

What steps and process of investigation are taken by NSW Police upon receiving a complaint about online incitement (such as that referred to in section 93Z of the Crimes Act)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The assessment and investigative procedures for all types of hate motivated incidents are the same. Any suspected hate motivated incidents, including online communications, being investigated by police are reported to the Engagement and Hate Crime Unit as a potential hate crime.

The Engagement and Hate Crime Unit reviews all reported incidents and generally classifies them within the following categories:

- Bias Crime
- Suspected Bias Crime
- Bias Incident

- Not a Bias Crime
- Insufficient Information

The Engagement and Hate Crime Unit will then advise the investigating police of the outcome, and provide them with any relevant advice and guidance as to next steps.

*2510 DOWNING CENTRE UNUSABLE URINAL—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

Why has a urinal on level 5 of the Downing Centre been unusable for a lengthy period of time?

Answer—

I am advised:

The urinal is located on level five of the Downing Centre was unusable due to a leaking issue, which was being assessed. The urinal was restored for public use on 6 March 2020.

*2511 HATE CRIMES UNIT NSW POLICE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Is there a specific hate crimes unit within NSW Police?

Answer—

I am advised:

Yes. Information can be found at https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/crime/hate_crimes

*2512 CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Does the Minister accept the science of climate change in relation to his portfolio?

Answer—

I am advised:

Yes.

*2513 ASSAULT OF PREGNANT MUSLIM WOMAN CHARGES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

(1) Was section 93Z of the Crimes Act considered as a charge to be laid concerning the incident that occurred in November 2019 in Parramatta when a heavily pregnant Muslim woman was repeatedly punched and stomped on following the offender making anti-Muslim comments?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

Where an offender goes beyond threatening or inciting violence and actually engages in violence, police are advised to charge an offender with offences connected to the substantive act of violence.

Section 21A(2)(h) of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 states that in determining the appropriate sentence for an offence, the court is to take into account the aggravating factors that are relevant and known, including if the offence was motivated by hatred for or prejudice against a group of people to which the offender believed the victim belonged (such as people of a particular religion, racial or ethnic origin, language, sexual orientation or age, or have a particular disability). Police document hate motivations in their Facts Sheet to the court, to enable the court to consider this as an aggravating feature of the crime.

*2514 THIRROUL PUBLIC SCHOOL HALL—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

(1) Is Thirroul Public School entitled to a school hall based on their enrolments and projected growth?

(a) If so:

(i) What planning work has taken place in relation to this project (as at 3 March 2020)?

(ii) Is there funding for this project?

(i) If not, why not?

(iii) When is the project due to commence?

Answer—

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(1) Thirroul Public School is entitled to a Type One (100 m²) small school community hall.

(a) The Asset Management Unit of School Infrastructure NSW has nominated the project for inclusion in a future capital works program. It will be assessed for funding against competing projects in schools across the State. As there are many competing priorities for funding of school projects, a timeframe as to when funding may be approved cannot be provided. A project commencement date is not available at this stage.

*2515 CORONAVIRUS CONTAINMENT NEW SOUTH WALES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many masks are available in New South Wales to help stop the spread of the coronavirus (as at 3 March 2020)?
- (2) How many bottles of hand sanitiser are available from NSW Health to help stop the spread of the coronavirus (as at 3 March 2020)?
- (3) What additional training has been given to health workers in New South Wales to prevent the spread of the coronavirus?
- (4) What is NSW Health doing to protect staff at hospitals from the coronavirus?
- (5) How many isolation rooms are available at each New South Wales Hospital (as at 3 March 2020)?

Answer—

(1) to (4) Supply chains are under extreme pressure globally due to unprecedented levels of demand. NSW Health continues to source the required personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand sanitisers to meet ongoing needs.

The Government is working to procure supplies of PPE and is also engaging with industry to pursue further onshore manufacturing options.

Additional training modules for NSW Health staff are available. These modules include information and procedures for infection control, the use of PPE, and interacting with patients. All staff in healthcare facilities undertake mandatory training in Infection Prevention and Control and Hand Hygiene. Staff required to use or wear PPE also complete PPE mandatory training.

(5) Public hospitals within New South Wales are well equipped to provide single rooms when required. The number in each hospital can fluctuate depending on need.

*2516 NEW INTERCITY FLEET TRAIN CARRIAGES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many new intercity fleet train carriages have arrived in New South Wales (as at 3 March 2020)?
- (2) How many are due to arrive in New South Wales by the end of 2020?

Answer—

I am advised:

The first two 10-carriage trains of the New Intercity Fleet trains arrived in December 2019.

Details of how many carriages will arrive this year should be available in the coming months.

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*2517 FAR WEST LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES DENTAL CARE—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What is the current wait time at the Far West Local Health Service for dental patient groups, in most need and at highest risk of disease, to be seen by a dental professional through the oral health care system (as at 4 March 2020)?
 - (a) What system is there in place to ensure those with non-urgent dental health care needs are seen in a reasonable timeframe, before the matter escalates in urgency?

Answer—

Public dental patients are allocated for care according to criteria that prioritises emergency situations, as well as patient groups in most need and at highest risk of disease.

Wait times are allocated according to a patient's clinical urgency, with the most urgent patients seen first.

Patients requiring emergency care are treated immediately and are not placed on a waiting list.

Patients whose situation worsens or deteriorates are advised to contact the public dental service to be re-prioritised appropriately. For example, if a patient develops serious pain they can be re-triaged and escalated according to their urgency.

*2518 WHITE CLIFFS MINING MANAGEMENT PLAN—Mr Roy Butler asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

Is the self-regulated White Cliffs Mining Management Plan, which has been operating since 1992, still recognised by the Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment?

Answer—

The White Cliffs Mining Management Plan has no legal status and the Mining Act 1992 and workplace health and safety laws take precedence over any other plans or documents.

The Resources Regulator within the Department is responsible for regulatory activities under these laws and does not regulate against any requirement detailed in the Plan. Similarly, the Regulator will not be constrained by anything contained in the Plan that is inconsistent with work, health and safety (WHS) or mining laws.

*2519 MOBILE PHONE DETECTION CAMERAS MACQUARIE FIELDS—Mr Anoulack Chanthivong asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Are any mobile phone use detection cameras operating in the Macquarie Fields electorate?
 - (a) If yes, where are they located?

Answer—

I am advised:

Cameras may be deployed in the Macquarie Fields electorate at any time.

*2520 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IN CANTERBURY AREA—Ms Sophie Cotsis asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Will the Department of Education build a school hall for Canterbury Boys High School considering the correspondence I received last year which stated that the Department of Education was investigating the issue?
- (2) Have funds been allocated for the upgrade of Canterbury South Public School considering the Budget Papers indicate that no funds have been allocated to this project?
 - (a) What is the current status of the planning process for upgrading Canterbury South Public School?
- (3) Why has no funding been provided to schools in the Canterbury area in this year's budget despite the projected population increase of 61,100 people in the area by 2031?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Education is currently investigating infrastructure and operational options to improve learning opportunities at Canterbury Boys High School and attract more students.

(2) Funding was allocated for the Canterbury South Public School redevelopment in the NSW Budget 2017-18.

(a) The Development Application is currently being finalised.

(3) Capital works funding was allocated in the NSW Budget 2017-18. In addition, maintenance funding is allocated annually to maintain and improve the facilities at existing schools.

*2521 GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL BIRTHS—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

How many births have there been at Griffith Base Hospital in each year from 2014 to 2019?

Answer—

I am advised the rate of births at Griffith over this time has remained relatively stable.

*2522 GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL COST OF OUTSOURCED STERILISATION SERVICES—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

What is the total dollar figure spent by Griffith Base Hospital to access sterilisation services from St

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Vincent's Community Hospital in 2019?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the response to LA Q1404.

*2523 FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING APPROVAL CONSULTATION—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

Which specific groups did you consult with before the approval to take from certain floodplains under Temporary Water Restriction (Northern Basin) (Floodplain Harvesting) Order 2020 was made on 22 February 2020?

Answer—

I am advised:

Any decisions by the Department to lift restrictions on the take of floodplain harvesting water were made based on flow forecasting provided by WaterNSW and by a panel comprising representatives from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Water, Department of Primary Industries Fisheries and WaterNSW

*2524 SAFETY UPGRADES TO SCHOOL CROSSING AT CANOWINDRA—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) What safety upgrades were recently made to the existing school crossing located at Tilga Street, Canowindra between Canowindra Public School and St Edwards Primary School?
- (2) What was the total cost of installing these recent safety upgrades?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Transport for NSW provided pedestrian-activated flashing lights at the Tilga Street school crossing to enhance visibility for users during school hours. The lights were specially designed for the site and installed in November 2019.

(2) The lights cost \$39,000.

*2525 REGIONAL SENIORS CARD EQUITABLE ACCESS—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Considering the Nationals' pre-2019 State election promise of a Regional Seniors Travel Card, which election marketing implied all regionally-based seniors would get as a \$250 travel card to use toward the significant fuel and travel costs of seniors in the country, why do the criteria preclude all but some seniors who receive a pension?
 - (a) Will you now consider amending the application criteria to equitably encompass all regionally-based seniors?

Answer—

I am advised:

More than 250,000 people across the State have successfully signed up for the Regional Seniors Travel Card so far, which will inject more than \$62 million into regional economies.

On 15 February, the Government announced eligibility for the card would be widened to include more seniors receiving pensions under the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Eligibility criteria is listed on the Service NSW website.

There are no plans to further change the eligibility criteria at this time.

*2526 ORANGE POLICE STATION REVIEW OF POLICE STAFFING—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How many jobs were attended by Orange police in the period between 1 January 2018 and 1 January 2019, as recorded on the NSW Police Force Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) System?
- (2) How many jobs were attended by Orange police in the period between 1 January 2019 and 1 January 2020, as recorded on the NSW Police Force CAD System?
- (3) How many jobs were attended by Bathurst police in the period between 1 January 2019 and 1 January 2020, as recorded on the NSW Police Force CAD System?
- (4) Does Bathurst Police Station have more General Duties officers than Orange Police Station?
 - (a) If so, how many more General Duty officers does Bathurst have than Orange?

- (5) How many mental health related jobs did police in the following areas attend between 1 January 2019 and 4 March 2020:
- Orange;
 - Sydney City;
 - Kings Cross;
 - Sutherland;
 - Dubbo;
 - Bathurst?
- (6) Will there be a review of staffing levels at the Orange Police Station?
- If so, will the review consider the results of these statistics in considering an increase in the number of General Duties SAP positions by a minimum of five?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) 14,787.

(2) 16, 614.

(3) 10,714.

(4) Police Officers are generally allocated to Police Area Commands, Police Districts or Specialist Commands – not to individual police stations. Additionally, all police resources attached to Police Districts (PD) or Police Area Commands (PAC) are flexible resources available to respond to incidents across the district. All local resources are also supplemented by specialist police (such as highway patrol, crime squads, covert resources and more), which are managed centrally but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to crime patterns and emerging issues.

(5) (a) 739.

(b) 1,156.

(c) 668.

(d) 1,644.

(e) 613.

(f) 475.

(6) In 2019, Central West PD received an additional seven authorised police positions. Future allocations of positions are based on addressing current and future policing demands, which are reviewed as required across all areas of the NSW Police Force. Police Commanders ensure that there are sufficient police to meet demand.

The Commissioner of Police is responsible for the allocation of police positions based on operational requirements and Government Commitments.

*2527 REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARDS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- What is the total number of Regional Seniors Travel Cards which have been sent to applicants as of 4 March 2020?
- What is the average length of time between an applicant completing an application and receiving the card?
- What has been the total amount of money spent by cardholders as of 4 March 2020?
- What has been the total amount spent by cardholders on:
 - Pre-booked NSW Trainlink Regional train and coach services;
 - Taxi trips;
 - Fuel at service stations, convenience stores or mixed businesses that operate with a fuel merchant category code;
 - Opal card payments?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) As at 8 March 2020 the total number of successful applicants was 215,000.

(2) It takes two business days to produce each card once an application is successful. Distribution by Australia Post varies depending on the senior's delivery address.

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- (3) As at 8 March, the total amount of money spent by cardholders was approximately \$1.1 million.
- (4) (a) Approximately \$15,000.
(b) Approximately \$22,000.
(c) Approximately \$1 million.
(d) Approximately \$7,000.

*2528 RAIL TRAILS IN BUSHFIRE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) Will the Government include the development of a new, long distance rail trail in the Eastern Riverina as part of the Government response to help affected communities to recover from the recent devastating bushfires?
- (2) Following the Minister's comments on 11 February 2020 to ABC Radio South East that Rail Trails are being considered as part of the bushfire recovery effort, what directives has the Minister made to the Department to advance plans for Rail Trails in bushfire affected communities?
- (3) Will the Government commit to extending the pilot Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail through the bushfire affected communities of Rosewood, Humula and Tarcutta to Wagga Wagga, to join with the trail currently being constructed there under the Government funded Active Travel Plan?

Answer—

The Government is committed to rebuilding communities and is continuously working to support bushfire-impacted residents across the State, including in Southern New South Wales.

The newly established Department of Regional New South Wales has been tasked with coordinating support for communities, businesses and farmers in the bush that have endured drought, bushfires, and now the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government supports in principle the development of rail trails on discussed rail lines where there is strong local community support, a viable and sustainable business model in place, and issues such as biosecurity have been addressed.

*2529 PILOT RAIL TRAILS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) What is the likely timetable for the completion of the three nominated pilot rail trails (Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail, Northern Rivers Rail Trail and New England Rail Trail)?
- (2) What are the benchmarks against which these pilot rail trails will be considered to be successful or unsuccessful?
- (3) What is the timeline for assessing the success of these pilot rail trails?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade.

*2530 ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF REGIONAL TRAINS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Will the Government improve passenger friendly, easy 'roll-on roll-off' capacity on regional New South Wales train services like that which is common in Europe and the United Kingdom to increase opportunities for patronage by cycling, wheelchair and pram pushing passengers and tourists?

Answer—

I am advised:

Please refer to the answer to Budget Estimates Supplementary Question 133.

*2531 PLANS OF MANAGEMENT FOR CROWN LAND—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) How many draft plans of management for Crown Land from the Inner West Council are currently being assessed by the department (as at 4 March 2020)?
- (2) What are the plans of management?
- (3) How many plans of management are being assessed across New South Wales (as at 4 March 2020)?
- (4) What is the average length of time it takes for the department to assess and decide on plans of management for Crown Land (as at 4 March 2020)?
- (5) What is the average length of time it takes for the department to assess and decide on plans of management for Crown Land in the Inner West Local Government Area (as at 4 March 2020)?

(a) If this average is longer than the average in (4), what is the reason for this?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) No plans of management from Inner West Council are currently being assessed.

(3) As at 4 March 2020, two plans of management referred under section 39 of the Local Government Act 1993 are being assessed by Crown Lands.

(4) Under the Local Government Act 1993, local councils are required to refer draft plans of management to the land owner. Since 1 July 2019, Crown Lands on average has reviewed draft plans of management within around 34 business days.

(5) As at 4 March 2020, the approximate average length of time taken to decide plans of management for Crown Land in the Inner West Local Government Area is 11 days.

*2532 RICHARD MURDEN RESERVE NETBALL COURTS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

(1) When did the Government become aware that the netball courts at Richard Murden Reserve in Haberfield would be required for construction works for the M4-M5 Westconnex Link project?

(2) What alternative locations for the construction site were considered?

(a) Why were these sites ruled out?

(3) What is the total cost associated with removing these brand new courts and replacing them at the conclusion of work?

Answer—

I am advised:

Between January and December 2019, the M4-M5 Link Tunnels Contractor, Lendlease Samsung Bouygues Joint Venture (LSBJV), carried out geotechnical investigation work and ground water pump testing on either side of Hawthorne Canal, which confirmed a large deposit of alluvial soils and an unconfined aquifer in the area.

In response to this finding, the M4-M5 Link Tunnels contractor is carrying out surface grouting work to improve ground conditions before tunnelling occurs in this area. The work specifically addresses the ground conditions either side of Hawthorne Canal and must be carried out on land above the tunnel alignment, which is why an alternative work site is not appropriate.

Surface grouting work involves drilling holes and pumping grout into them from the surface, and is carried out to mitigate impacts of potential tunnel water ingress, drawdown, and expected settlement.

The work is expected to impact a section of Richard Murden Reserve at Haberfield and requires a temporary (6 month) closure of three multi-purpose netball/basketball courts that were opened by Inner West Council in August 2019.

The M4-M5 Link Contractor has been in discussion with Inner West Council since December 2019 about the planned work and is looking at opportunities to minimise the impact of the proposed work.

The M4-M5 Link Tunnels contractor has been in contact with directly affected residents along Hawthorne Parade, key stakeholders next to the site on Canal Road, as well as the netball clubs and schools that Inner West Council has confirmed planned to use the courts.

The M4-M5 Link Tunnels contractor will reinstate and resurface the impacted multi-purpose netball/basketball courts upon completion of the grouting work.

*2533 ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Premier representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council—

(1) Has the Minister met with Indigenous leaders to discuss how the Government might best respond to the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

(2) Does the Government support a:

(a) First Nations voice to parliament?

(b) Truth and justice commission?

(c) Makarrata with First Nations peoples?

Answer—

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I refer you to my answer to LA Q2263.

*2534 ACTIVE KIDS PROGRAM—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans—

- (1) Will the Government return the \$9.7 million underspent in the 2017-18 financial year and \$13.2 million underspent in the 2018-19 financial year Active Kids voucher program from professional sports to programs designed to encourage kids to participate in sport?
- (2) Were organisers of the T20 Cricket World Cup (which received \$4.8 million), NSW Institute of Sport (which received \$3 million), 2018 Commonwealth Games Team Appeal (which received \$500,000), Netball World Cup (which received \$1 million), and other professional sport events made aware that the money they received was funded by underspending on the Active Kids program?
- (3) What correspondence has the Minister or Department received from these organisations since media made them aware of the fact?

Answer—

The Government is committed to fully funding the Active Kids program to ensure every school-aged child continues to have access to two \$100 vouchers per year, to help with the cost of sport. The Office of Sport is responsible for planning, managing and delivering high quality sport and recreation programs and has a robust financial management system. This will ensure the Active Kids Program is fully funded. Budget allocations are made on a year by year basis and it is not unusual for funding allocated to particular programs to be reallocated when underspends are expected for that financial year. Active Kids is fully funded for the 2019-20 financial year and will be fully funded for 2020-21.

*2535 REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD EXCLUSIONS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Considering the vast distances between communities in the Far West, why were flights from these communities excluded from the list of eligible uses for the Regional Seniors Travel Card?
- (2) How many vendors are approved to accept payments from cardholders under the scheme (as at 4 March 2020)?
- (3) How is the Government acting to ensure a greater number of private transport companies are able to accept payments from the scheme, including Port Macquarie coach services to Sydney and Newcastle taxis?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) One of the main reasons the regional seniors travel card was introduced was to assist people to access essential services. Seniors can use it to pay for fuel, taxi trips and prebooked NSW TrainLink Regional train and coach services. The card is intended to ease day-to-day travel costs including travelling to medical appointments.

Inclusion of flights in the Regional Seniors Travel Card would introduce a risk of misuse for the scheme.

(2) and (3) Merchant category codes are used to classify businesses by the type of goods or services they provide. The card will work at retailers or service providers using travel-related merchant category codes such as service stations, fuel sellers, passenger railways, coach services and taxis.

*2536 OUT OF SCHOOL CARE AT STANMORE PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Jenny Leong asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Considering that the Department of Education website indicates that a tender is required when a "new commercial out of school hours care (OSHC) service is proposed", why was a tender process started at Stanmore Public School when the council run not-for-profit OSHC service is not new, and neither is the commercial provider The After School Klub (TASK)?
 - (a) What was the criteria for this tender?
 - (i) What weightings were given to the criteria?
 - (b) Were Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) evaluations under the National Quality Framework consulted and compared as part of the tender process?
 - (c) Why is it not possible for two onsite OSHC providers to remain operating at the school, especially considering the Government's stated preference for open competition and free market principles?
- (2) Who was on the tender evaluation panel for the most recent Stanmore Public School out-of-school

care tender process?

- (a) Did any panel members declare a conflict of interest?
- (b) How were any conflicts of interest managed?

Answer—

(1) Two providers, The After School Klub (TASK) and Inner West Council (IWC), were operating simultaneously at Stanmore Public School. TASK was initially engaged to provide a homework club, however this later evolved into additional out of school hours care (OSHC) support for the IWC service. As such, the school had initially retained TASK under a Community Users Agreement, whereas an OSHC service must be engaged under a licence agreement.

The decision for more than one service to operate from one site is generally a local, school-based decision. Due to factors such as consistency of service provision, site capacity and the day-to-day management of community users, the preference is generally for one service provider per site.

The school community agreed to consolidate both OSHC services into a new agreement when the IWC agreement expired in January 2020.

(a) The evaluation criteria included details of the tenderers' capability and experience in the provision of early childhood education services, their approach to the operation, such as staff recruitment and training, risk management and details of the proposed OSHC service including the provision of education and programs, the facilities to be offered, food and beverage to be served, fees to be charged, and how the tenderer proposes to engage with the community.

(i) Fee criteria 30 per cent; and non-fee criteria 70 per cent.

(b) The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority's (ACECQA) ratings were reviewed for all tender applications, along with an assessment of their written submissions.

(c) The decision for more than one service to operate from one site is generally a local, school-based decision. Due to factors such as consistency of service provision, site capacity and the day-to-day management of community users, the preference is generally for one service provider per site.

(2) The tender evaluation panel consisted of:

- The school Principal.
- A school representative.
- Two parent representatives.
- A non-voting representative from the Sydney Asset Management Unit of School Infrastructure NSW.

(a) No.

(b) No conflicts were declared. Each panel member was required to sign a copy of the Code of Conduct and a confidentially declaration form.

*2537 TUGGERAH LAKES WATER QUALITY EXPERT PANEL—Mr David Mehan asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

(1) Considering the \$200,000 election commitment for an expert panel to determine the best way to improve water quality in Tuggerrah Lakes on the Central Coast, when will the panel be established?

- (a) What are the terms of reference for the panel?
- (b) Who has been appointed to the panel?
- (c) Which departmental officers will support the work of the panel?
- (d) When is the panel required to report to the Government?
- (e) Will the public be given an opportunity to comment on the panel's work?

Answer—

(1) The Expert Panel is in the final stages of being established.

- (a) Terms of reference are being finalised.
- (b) The Expert Panel will comprise industry recognised experts in the fields of catchment management, water quality, coast and estuary dynamics, aquatic ecology, stormwater management, water sensitive urban design and community engagement.
- (c) A working group has been established to guide operation of the Expert Panel. The working group comprises staff from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and from Central Coast Council.
- (d) The Expert Panel will report to the Government routinely and upon completion of any major tasks.
- (e) The Expert Panel will undertake consultation with the community and other relevant

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stakeholders.

*2538 RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE—Mr David Mehan asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

When can I expect a response to my letters of 15 January 2020 and 11 February 2020 concerning the risk of flooding around Tuggerah Lakes?

Answer—

I am advised:

The matter is being considered and a response will be provided shortly.

*2539 MINING EXPLORATION LICENCES—Mr David Mehan asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) Are the results of exploration, including bore hole logs, core and geophysical data, including geological mapping, required to be retained for the public record as part of the granting of mining exploration licences?
- (2) What resources are allocated to the preservation of those records?
- (3) Where is information available on the process to access these records?

Answer—

- (1) Yes. Confidentiality periods apply to all submitted data and reports.
- (2) The preservation, collation and release of mineral and petroleum exploration results is managed by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.
- (3) All non-confidential exploration information is freely available through the Digital Imaging of Geological System (DiGS) document archive and MinView map viewer, which are available online.

*2540 RANDWICK HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT PRECINCT STAFF PARKING—Dr Marjorie O'Neill asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Have additional parking facilities been included in the Randwick Hospital Precinct Redevelopment plans?
- (2) Has consideration been given to a staff parking arrangement with the Australian Turf Club (ATC) in Randwick?
 - (a) How many Lendlease contractors working on the redevelopment used the ATC carpark each week, on average?
 - (b) How many shuttles run between the ATC and the Randwick Hospital Precinct Redevelopment site each week, on average?
 - (c) Are there any plans for the Government to continue the use of the ATC as a parking site for hospital staff in the future?

Answer—

Given the Government's significant investment in public transport improvements and Sydney's strategic shift towards more sustainable transport nodes, the Randwick Campus Redevelopment is focused on delivering a staff mode-shift to sustain travel modes in the lead up to the opening of the Acute Services Building in 2022. This is in line with the project's Green Travel Plan.

Randwick Health and Education Precinct partners continue to work with the Government to ensure current and future transport and access needs are considered and managed in a coordinated way. This includes ongoing assessment of public transport, walking and cycling corridors and car parking.

*2541 ACCESSIBILITY TO HEALTH SERVICES IN COOGEE—Dr Marjorie O'Neill asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Do light rail vehicles block entry to the following health services in Coogee when traveling or stopped along High Street, Randwick:
 - (a) Sydney Children's Hospital Emergency entrance;
 - (b) Sydney Children's Hospital Ambulance entrance;
 - (c) Prince of Wales Hospital High Street entrance;
 - (d) Hospital Road entrance?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW has worked with NSW Health, NSW Ambulance and hospitals to maintain access to these health services at the Randwick Health precinct.

Sydney Children's Hospital does not have an emergency entrance for vehicles. There are two emergency drop off bays in front of the Hospital which are accessible at all times from High Street via Clara Street. Signage developed in consultation with the Children's Hospital directs motorists to access the Hospital in this way.

The preferred NSW Ambulance access is via Clara Street and High Street and the entrance is accessible at all times. Access procedures developed with NSW Ambulance provide for an ambulance travelling eastbound on High Street to travel around any light rail vehicle in the area. Additionally, the signalling system moves light rail vehicles as quickly as possible through this part of the alignment.

*2542 PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL WAIT TIMES—Dr Marjorie O'Neill asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What are the current average wait time for patients to be attended to at the Prince of Wales Hospital as at 4 March 2020?
- (2) What was the average wait time for patients to be attended to at the Prince of Wales Hospital in 2019?
- (3) What was the New South Wales average wait time for patients to be attended to at emergency departments in 2019?
- (4) How does the Emergency Department at Prince of Wales Hospital compare in terms of longest wait times across all comprehensive hospitals in New South Wales?

Answer—

(1) to (4) Emergency Department performance data is publicly available on the Bureau of Health Information website.

*2543 OWNERSHIP OF HEALTH SERVICES—Dr Marjorie O'Neill asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Will the Government consider operating any part of the new Randwick Hospital Precinct as a Public Private Partnership?
- (2) Will the Government retain full control of the management of the following health services after the completion of the Randwick Precinct Redevelopment:
 - (a) Prince of Wales Hospital;
 - (b) Sydney Children's Hospital;
 - (c) Royal Hospital for Women?

Answer—

No Public Private Partnerships are currently being pursued in relation to New South Wales Hospitals.

*2544 REGION 9 BUS TIMETABLE—Dr Marjorie O'Neill asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) When does the Government plan to disclose the updated bus timetable for Region 9 that will operate once the Kensington-Kingsford Light Rail line has opened?
- (2) Will the following bus services appear in this timetable:
 - (a) 314;
 - (b) 317;
 - (c) 373;
 - (d) M50?

Answer—

I am advised:

There will be no changes to bus services in the south east until after the L3 Kingsford Line opens and services have bedded in. Any changes will be released for public feedback before being refined further.

Planning for these changes is still in the early stages and will be informed by Opal data, changed customer travel patterns, and feedback. The detailed plan has not been finalised.

*2545 RANDWICK BOYS' AND RANDWICK GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL UPGRADES—Dr Marjorie O'Neill asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) When will the proposed upgrades to both Randwick Girls' and Randwick Boys' High Schools

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commence?

- (2) When will the schools and representatives of Parents and Citizens Associations have access to the scope of works for the upgrade projects?
- (3) What funding will be allocated to the proposed upgrades to Randwick Boys' High School?
- (4) What funding will be allocated to the proposed upgrades to Randwick Girls' High School?

Answer—

(1) The project to upgrade Randwick Boys High School and Randwick Girls High School is currently in the early stages of planning.

(2) Consultation with the school community will occur as part of the project design phase which immediately follows the early planning work. The School Infrastructure NSW website will be updated to keep the school community informed of progress.

(3) and (4) The NSW Budget 2018-19 allocated funding to plan the upgrades of Randwick Boys High School and Randwick Girls High School.

*2546 DIGITAL SIGNALING INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Has the roll-out of digital signaling on the Illawarra Line been completed?
 - (a) If not, when is it expected to be completed?
 - (i) Will the installation be completed by this date?
- (2) Has the Government considered installing digital signaling on the South Coast line?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) When will this commence?
 - (ii) When will this be completed?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is available on the Transport for NSW website.

*2547 HEAVY METAL CONTAMINANTS IN PORT KEMBLA—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Has the Report on Heavy Metal Contaminants from Industrial Activity in Port Kembla Environmental Project been completed and provided to the Environment Protection Agency?
 - (a) If so, when was it completed and what were the findings?
 - (b) If so, given that this report was funded by the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund, when will it be released publicly so that Port Kembla residents can consider its findings?
 - (c) If not, on what date is it due to be completed and provided to the EPA?
- (2) If the report contains sensitive or commercial-in-confidence information, is a partially redacted version of the report able to be released publicly?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) If the report contains sensitive or commercial-in-confidence information, does any of this information relate to actual or potential health impacts of heavy metal contaminants from industrial activity?
- (4) What measures are under consideration to implement the report's recommendations?
- (5) When will these measures be implemented?

Answer—

- (1) No, a final report is expected to be submitted by the consultant Uniquist (University of Queensland) to a "Lead and other Heavy Metal Contaminants Working Group" (comprising representatives from EPA, NSW Health and Wollongong City Council) in the coming months.
- (2) The report is a literature review of existing and publicly available information. It is not anticipated that it will contain sensitive or commercial in-confidence information.
 - (a) It is anticipated that the report will be publicly released when it is completed.
- (3) Please refer to my response to question (2).
- (4) The information in the final report will be used by the Working Group to help prepare information and guide actions to manage legacy contamination issues in the Wollongong/Port Kembla area.
- (5) The implementation of any measures will be informed by a thorough literature review (once

completed) and detailed consideration of the report by the working group.

*2548 WASTE REMOVAL TECHNOLOGY AT WOLLONGONG HARBOUR—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Has the installation of seabins or an equivalent waste removal technology been considered for Wollongong Harbour?
 - (a) If so, has there been discussions on the installation with Wollongong City Council and other harbour users?
 - (b) If so, what is the expected cost of the installation and will it proceed?
 - (c) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The Department is currently conducting a trial of seabins, with one installed in Brunswick Boat Harbour.

(a) and c) Wollongong Harbour users have raised the installation of seabins with the Department. The Department will consider other areas, once the Brunswick Boat Harbour trial is complete.

(b) The capital cost of a seabin is up to \$12,000 for the unit and frame with additional annual costs of up to \$2,000 for servicing and maintenance. Costs will vary from site to site.

*2549 SOUTH COAST LINE—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many passenger trips were taken on the South Coast Line in 2019?
 - (a) Was this higher or lower than Transport for NSW's projections?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) This information is publicly available on the Transport for NSW website.

(a) The Government is making improvements now to meet increased current and future demand on the South Coast Line. In January 2019, in direct response to increased patronage, we doubled the capacity of the 3.24 pm and 3.54 pm weekday services from Central to the South Coast. We have also improved weekend services. Since January 2020, we have been operating trains with eight-cars, instead of four, between Kiama, Wollongong and Sydney on 44 services each weekend. To meet future increases in demand, even more services will be delivered as part of the Government's More Trains, More Services program.

*2550 SMART METERS INSTALLATION—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) How many residential properties have had smart electricity meters installed (as at 4 March 2020)?
- (2) How many residential properties have yet to have smart electricity meters installed (as at 4 March 2020)?
- (3) What is the average cost of installing a smart electricity meter on a residential property (as at 4 March 2020)?
- (4) What is the estimated date that the installation of smart electricity meters on residential properties in New South Wales will be completed (as at 4 March 2020)?

Answer—

(1) As at 4 March 2020, it is estimated that 518,000 residential properties have had smart electricity meters installed.

(2) As at 4 March 2020, it is estimated that 2,775,000 residential properties have yet to have smart electricity meters installed.

(3) Cost estimates for smart meter installation can vary significantly depending on the electricity retailer, metering providers, and the customer's location.

(4) The roll-out of smart electricity meters is industry-led and dependent on the rate at which electricity retailers and their metering provider elect to carry out meter replacements and upgrades.

*2551 TAKATA AIRBAG REPLACEMENT—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many vehicles registered in the following postcodes contain faulty Takata airbags that have not been replaced (as at 4 March 2020):
 - (a) 2500;

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- (b) 2502;
- (c) 2505;
- (d) 2506;
- (e) 2518;
- (f) 2519;
- (g) 2525;
- (h) 2526;
- (i) 2528?

Answer—

I am advised:

The requested data is held by the Australian Competition and Consumer Association (ACCC).

*2552 WEST WOLLONGONG TAFE CAMPUS—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education—

(1) Will ownership, courses offered and the role of West Wollongong TAFE NSW campus in the wider TAFE NSW network be considered in the Government's review of TAFE, considering the Minister's comments that there were no plans to divest the West Wollongong TAFE campus (Illawarra Mercury, 29 February 2020)?

(a) If so, will the Government make changes to the ownership, courses offered, staff numbers and role of West Wollongong TAFE NSW campus as a result of the TAFE NSW review?

Answer—

No.

The Terms of Reference for the 'Review on the NSW Vocational Education and Training sector' are publicly available on the Department of Education's website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-reports/our-reports-andreviews/review-on-the-nsw-vocational-education-and-training-sector>.

*2553 INCREASED DEMAND AT WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

(1) Has Wollongong Hospital experienced a higher than usual number of presentations for symptoms of influenza or respiratory conditions in 2020 (as at 4 March 2020)?

(2) Will Wollongong Hospital be adding additional beds to cater for any increased demand as a result of COVID-19 or influenza this year?

(3) Is consideration being given to providing funding to the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District to refurbish ward B7 at Wollongong Hospital to cater for additional patient demand?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I am advised that over January to February 2020, an increase in emergency department presentations for respiratory illness and influenza-like illness was seen by the District. This is likely due to several factors including the bushfires, influenza contracted from overseas travel, and an overall increase in respiratory testing reflecting the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Hospitals' Pandemic Plans are continuously updated as new information relating to COVID-19 becomes available, while remaining in line with the State Pandemic Plan. All New South Wales public hospitals are consulting with their local health district for the planning of resources.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District is enacting its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has established an emergency operations centre that is overseeing all related activities.

*2554 WORK FROM HOME ARRANGEMENTS—Mr Paul Scully asked the Premier—

(1) Has consideration been given by the Premier or the Minister for Health to issuing a directive to all Government departments and agencies to ease restrictions on work from home arrangements for non-front line staff to assist in limiting the spread of COVID-19 or influenza?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer—

The Department of Premier and Cabinet has issued a directive to the New South Wales public service which includes work from home arrangements.

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*2555 DROUGHT TRANSPORT SUBSIDIES—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Since the program commenced, how many applications have been made for Drought Transport Subsidies (as at 5 March 2020)?
 - (a) How many of these applications have been approved, disaggregated by financial year?
 - (b) How many of these applications were denied, disaggregated by financial year?
 - (c) What has been the total amount subsidised, disaggregated by financial year?
 - (d) What was the average wait time for assessing and processing the claims, disaggregated by financial year?

Answer—

- (1) 16,809 (as at 9 March 2020).
- (a) 7004 approved for Financial Year (FY) 2018-19 (closed 30 June 2019).
9,492 approved for FY 2019-20
- (b) 204 refused FY 2018-19
109 refused 2019-20
- (c) 2019 FY \$69,673,338
2020 FY \$86,802,324
Total disbursed to date \$156,475,662.
- (d) The average processing time is 18.3 business days.
Before 30 June 2019 - 20.60 business days.
After 30 June 2019 - 16.6 business days.

*2556 PFAS REMOVAL—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Has Cleanaway provided the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) with the report on the detailed site investigation into per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination on the site of the former National Textiles Mill in the Rutherford Industrial Estate?
- (2) What is the status of Cleanaway's development of management strategies for the site?
- (3) Has the owner of the Truegain site provided the EPA with a further report on the clean-up of that site and plans to continue the work?
- (4) What is the latest total for PFAS contaminated water treated and removed by Enviropacific Services from Truegain, Rutherford (as at 5 March 2020)?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) No, Cleanaway are currently undertaking a detailed site investigation into PFAS contamination at the premises'. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is expecting to receive a copy of the investigation report once it has been finalised.
- (3) The EPA is actively engaged with the owner of the former Truegain site and is currently assessing his capacity to complete clean-up works. The EPA is also investigating alternative options for clean-up and remediation of the site in case the site owner fails to do so.
- (4) Enviropacific treated and removed approximately 1.7 million litres of PFAS contaminated water.

*2557 RAYMOND TERRACE ROAD PROPOSED SAFETY UPGRADE—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) What are the details of the Safer Roads Program round three allocation for the intersection of Raymond Terrace Road and Government Road in Thornton?
 - (a) Who lodged the application for the funding?
 - (b) When was the application lodged?
 - (c) Will the proposed safety project integrate into the intersection upgrade currently being planned by Maitland City Council for that location?

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- (2) Why, when the Government published announcements and media releases on 10 and 17 February 2020, are details of round three funding of Safer Roads not on the Centre for Road Safety website (as at Wednesday 4 March 2020)?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) (a) and (b) There is no Safer Roads project for safety improvements at the intersection of Raymond Terrace Road and Government Road. An intersection upgrade project is being developed by Maitland City Council under the Housing Acceleration Fund.

(c) The Safer Roads project, valued at \$5 million, covers a range of safety improvements along Raymond Terrace Road from east of Government Road to the Irrawang Bridge. Site 1 of this Safer Roads project is proposed to adjoin the plans for Maitland City Council's upgrade to the intersection of Raymond Terrace Road and Government Road. The extent of the integration of these plans is yet to be confirmed and depends on the final design of the Government Road intersection upgrade.

(2) A list of funded projects under the New South Wales Safer Roads Program is available on the New South Wales Towards Zero website.

*2558 NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many public submissions did Transport for NSW receive in late 2019 on the safety upgrade proposed for the New England Highway between Aberglasslyn Road and John Street in Rutherford?
- (2) How many comments were received on the proposal to install a raised concrete median on the New England Highway to prevent vehicles from turning right into South Street:
 - (a) In support of the proposal;
 - (b) Against the proposal?
- (3) Did any heavy vehicle operators raise issues about the proposed left turn into South Street from the New England Highway?
- (4) What planning is taking place to finalise this safety upgrade?
- (5) When is work expected to commence on this project?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Feedback was invited between Monday 25 November and Friday 6 December 2019 with 52 submissions received. Key issues raised about the upgrade included:

- Concerns about traffic light phasing at the Aberglasslyn Road intersection.
- Access to Telarah due to changes at the South Street intersection.
- Increased traffic on the local road network due to banning right turn movements into South Street and Walter Street.

(2) Submissions summary:

- Ten submissions supported the proposal.
- Nine submissions supported the proposal and provided additional feedback.
- Five submissions were about traffic light phasing at the Aberglasslyn and John Street intersections.
- Ten submissions provided feedback only.
- Nine submissions were about other issues outside the project area.
- Nine submissions objected to the proposal.

(3) There were no comments raised about heavy vehicles and the proposed left turn into South Street from the New England Highway.

(4) Transport for NSW is in the final stages of completing design drawings.

An early notification letter will be sent out to those who responded, nearby residents and businesses, which will provide a summary of the community consultation process.

The community consultation report and feedback will be published online in coming weeks.

Before starting construction, nearby residents and businesses will be informed of the proposed construction works.

(5) Work is expected to commence on this project in mid-April 2020.

*2559 NEW SOUTH WALES DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FUND—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) Considering the response to LA Q1567, how many applications for interest-free loans under the New South Wales Drought Assistance Fund are still to be determined?
- (2) What is the status on the applications received, approved and denied (as at 5 March 2020)?
- (3) When will all of the applications be determined?
- (4) How many of the approved applications have been paid (as at 5 March 2020)?
- (5) What is the average time for approved applications to be paid (as at 5 March 2020)?

Answer—

- (1) 319 Drought Assistance Fund applications to be assessed.
- (2) To date there have been:
 - (a) Received - 2682
 - (b) Approved - 1994
 - (c) Declined - 369.
- (3) As processing time for applications varies, it is not possible to determine when all applications will be finalised.
- (4) Disbursements are made upon receipt of eligible invoices from the applicant. Currently 487 approved applications have been drawn to \$50k, with 877 applications partially disbursed.
- (5) Current average processing time for Drought Assistance Fund (data taken from 11 March 2020) is 30.9 days.

*2560 MAITLAND SOCIAL HOUSING MAINTENANCE—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Has there been any change since September 2019 to the Land and Housing Corporation's (LAHC) responsibility for maintenance work required on social housing properties in Maitland that are now managed by Hume Community Housing?
- (2) When will the LAHC's maintenance responsibilities for the Maitland properties conclude?
- (3) What is the correct procedure for tenants of Maitland social housing properties managed by Hume Community Housing when they need to report maintenance issues?
- (4) Is Hume Community Housing required to provide any report to the LAHC on maintenance issues that have been reported by its Maitland tenants (as at 5 March 2020)?
- (5) Does the LAHC have plans to consult with Hume Community Housing on the outstanding maintenance workload before they assume responsibility for maintenance of these properties?
 - (a) Will any discussions also include consideration of a financial package or arrangements to cover maintenance liabilities of the Maitland properties?

Answer—

I am advised by Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) that

- (1) Hume Community Housing assumed responsibility for maintenance for these properties and Hume Community Housing now funds and approves maintenance work.
- (2) 30 June 2021.
- (3) Tenants should call the maintenance line on freecall 1800 422 322 to report maintenance issues. The line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- (4) Hume Community Housing is required to inform LAHC of any changes in tenancy circumstances, which occurs daily.
- (5) Hume Community Housing assumed responsibility for maintenance for these properties in September 2019. LAHC consulted with Hume Community Housing under the Social Housing Management Transfer (SHMT) Program as part of its transition out activities, which included some residual maintenance activities managed through to completion.
 - (a) Hume Community Housing and other Community Housing Providers (CHPs) under the SHMT program are required to undertake all required maintenance services for the remainder of the 20 year lease period, in accordance with the terms and conditions of their contracts.

*2561 EMERGENCY SERVICE EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How many State Emergency Service volunteers reside within the Maitland electorate (as at 1 March 2020)?
- (2) How many State Emergency Service volunteers resided within the Maitland electorate from 2010 to

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2019, disaggregated by calendar year?

- (3) How many Rural Fire Service volunteers reside within the Maitland electorate (as at 1 March 2020)?
- (4) How many Rural Fire Service volunteers resided within the Maitland electorate from 2010 to 2019, disaggregated by calendar year?

Answer—

Refer to my response to LA Q2326 and LA Q2373.

*2562 IMPACT OF MEDICARE CHANGES IN MAITLAND—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Is Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) consulting with Hunter Urban Medicare Local (HUML) regarding the impact of the 1 January 2020 Medicare bulk billing reclassification of Maitland?
- (2) Has HUML advised HNELHD of any change in patient numbers presenting at the GP Access After Hours Maitland Clinic between 1 January and 29 February 2020?
- (3) Has Maitland's Medicare bulk billing reclassification had an impact on the number of patient presentations at the Maitland Hospital Emergency Department between 1 January and 29 February 2020?
 - (a) If so, what impact has it had?
- (4) Was NSW Health consulted by the Commonwealth Government on the changes under the 2019 Modified Monash Model?
- (5) Will the Government support a review of Maitland's reclassification due to its ageing population and lower socio-economic demographic?

Answer—

Hunter Primary Care (formerly known as Hunter Urban Medicare Local) is administered by the Commonwealth Government. Decisions regarding bulk billing reclassifications are the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government.

*2563 NSW WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) How much funding was allocated to support the NSW Weeds Action Program between 1 July 2019 and 29 February 2020?
- (2) Was the funding allocated to Local Land Services or Local Government?
- (3) As at 5 March 2020, what is the breakdown of the funding allocations for 2019-20 to;
 - (a) Local Land Services;
 - (b) Local Government?
- (4) How much program funding remains to be allocated between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2020?
 - (a) What is the timeframe for that funding to be spent?

Answer—

- (1) The total amount of Weed Action Program funding in New South Wales was \$12.6 million for 2019-20. The amount included statewide initiatives coordinated by the Department of Primary Industries.
- (2) The total amount of Weed Action Program Funding devolved to Local Land Services in 2019-20 from the Department of Primary Industries was \$11,046,500. \$9,396,500 was allocated to Local Control Authorities (Local Government).
- (3) In 2019-20 the Weed Action Plan funding is:
 - (a) just under 15 per cent to Local Land Services, specifically for the employment of Regional Weeds Coordinators
 - (b) just over 85 per cent to Local Government to undertake control activities.
- (4) As of 5 March 2020, \$2,042,485 is yet to be contracted to Local Government. These monies will be contracted and spent by 30 June 2020.

*2564 DROUGHT BREAK PROGRAM FUNDING TERMS AND CONDITIONS—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans—

Will the Minister change the Drought Break Program funding terms and conditions to use real-time Combined Drought Indices (CDI) so that children in remote drought affected locations are not financially disadvantaged by past CDI ratings?

Answer—

I am advised the NSW Combined Drought Indicator (CDI) provides detailed information on seasonal drought conditions in real-time. This data will be used to identify priority locations for future drought break initiatives.

*2565 EARLY CHILDHOOD DROUGHT SUPPORT PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

Will the Minister change the Early Childhood Education Drought Support Payment terms and conditions to use real-time Combined Drought Indices (CDI) so that Early Childhood Services in remote drought affected locations are not financially disadvantaged by past CDI ratings?

Answer—

The Department of Education does not provide ongoing drought relief funding. The Department provided drought relief payment in October 2018, February 2019 and September/October 2019. On each occasion, the Department used recent Combined Drought Indices (CDI) data from the Department of Primary Industries to calculate eligibility and funding. For any future drought relief payments, the Department will source up-to-date CDI information to determine eligibility and funding level.

*2566 FORMER MINE DAMAGE MAYFIELD—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) Has a former mine underneath Maitland Road, Mayfield caused damage to the road, footpath and surrounding buildings?
- (2) What action is being taken to reduce or eliminate risks to public health, safety and the environment caused by the legacy mine located between 38 and 44 Maitland Road, Mayfield?
- (3) Is contaminated water from the former mine entering a number of buildings along Maitland Road, Mayfield?

Answer—

- (1) The source of any damage to this area is still to be ascertained. The Division of Resources and Geoscience (DRG) has commenced an investigation into the source of water seepage and will look at what remediation options might be available. Discussions with one of the landholders indicate Newcastle City Council undertook works on Maitland Road and the adjoining footpath around five years ago, due to water damage.
- (2) After personally visiting the Mayfield addresses, the Legacy Mines Program (LMP) within DRG is now conducting a formal investigation to track the flow of water at the Maitland Road property. The investigation will determine whether the legacy mine is responsible for this water.
- (3) The LMP investigation will help provide further clarity around these issues.

*2567 SAND DREDGING AT STOCKTON BEACH—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Could the sand dredged by the Newcastle GasDock project at Stockton Beach be utilised to address erosion?
- (2) Would the sand be of a suitable quality for use at Stockton Beach?
- (3) Will the Government consider making this a part of the State Significant Development process?
- (4) Will the Government consider directing the Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment to investigate this opportunity?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The Newcastle Gas Terminal application is a private sector project led by Newcastle GasDock Pty Ltd. Newcastle GasDock Pty Ltd has yet to submit an Environmental Impact Statement to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for assessment.

The Newcastle Gas Terminal application was given Critical State Significant Infrastructure status in August 2019. As the consent authority for this project, it is inappropriate for me to comment further on the application.

Further consideration of beach nourishment at Stockton is a matter for Newcastle City Council.

*2568 NUCLEAR POWER POLICY—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Premier—

- (1) Does the Government have a policy on nuclear power?
 - (a) If so, what is the policy?

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(b) Has this policy been endorsed by cabinet?

(2) Will the Premier rule out building a nuclear reactor and waste facility in the Newcastle electorate?

Answer—

This is a matter for the Minister for Energy and Environment.

*2569 POWER OUTAGE IN MEREWETHER—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

(1) Has power been restored to 25 residents who reside at 1 Hopkins Street in Merewether, following an outage on 26 February (as at 5 March 2020)?

(a) If not, when will power be restored?

(2) What has been the delay in restoring power to this complex?

(3) What actions will be taken to urgently restore power?

(4) How many staff were employed at Ausgrid's Newcastle depot in 2015?

(5) How many staff are currently employed at Ausgrid's Newcastle depot (as at 5 March 2020)?

Answer—

The referenced storms were one of the biggest storm events in the last 30 years and caused significant damage to the electricity networks. Over 5,000 hazards were reported across New South Wales, including 3,000 fallen powerlines, fallen trees and damaged wires that needed to be cleared before repairs could begin. More than 240,000 customers lost power with three quarters returned by the end of the day after the storm and the rest as quickly as possible once hazards were cleared.

I am advised that power has been restored to all affected homes

However, as Ausgrid is not a state owned corporation any questions regarding the commercial operations of Ausgrid should be directed to the corporation.

*2570 SMART SKILLED AND HIRED YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education—

(1) Will the Smart, Skilled and Hired Youth Employment Program continue beyond 30 June 2020?

(a) If not, why not?

Answer—

The Smart, Skilled and Hired Youth Employment pilot program is a four year pilot that will conclude on 30 June 2020.

*2571 CANCELLED OVERSEAS EXCURSION—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

(1) Has an overseas excursion for students at Hunter School of Performing Arts been cancelled?

(a) If so:

(i) Have students been told they will not be refunded the \$7,500 they have spent on the trip?

(ii) Will the Government compensate the students who have been left out of pocket as a result of NSW Department of Education's decision to cancel overseas excursions?

Answer—

The Department of Education has advised that overseas excursions were cancelled to eliminate the foreseeable risk posed to travelling students and staff in the rapidly developing COVID-19 situation. This included Hunter School of the Performing Arts' proposed excursion to New York which was due to depart Australia on 10 April 2020. Current events demonstrate the right decision was made.

The Department of Education's insurance covers the Department for legal liability to third parties caused by a breach of the duty of care not situations of this kind.

Based on written advice from the tour operator, the Principal of Hunter School of the Performing Arts informed parents that the operator concerned, Travelgang, would not be refunding any monies paid. On Saturday, 7 March 2020, Travelgang informed parents that it had changed its position and would be refunding \$4,800 for each students. Parents and carers of these students have already received this amount. This has resulted in a net loss of \$2,511 per student.

Parents and students are advised to check any travel insurance policy they have taken out to check if remaining losses can be recovered. In addition, they can register a complaint with the Australian Financial Complaints Authority if they are dissatisfied with the insurance company's response.

Parents and students can also approach local travel agents or airlines directly and seek a refund of monies paid and, if unsuccessful, can complain to the relevant industry body or NSW Fair Trading.

*2572 RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Premier—

When is the Premier planning to provide a response to my representations on behalf of my constituents received by your office on 27 November 2019?

Answer—

I understand the Department of Premier and Cabinet has responded directly to Mr and Mrs Landry.

*2573 NSW HEALTH APPROVAL OF LAKE WYANGAN DRINKING WATER GRIFFITH—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

Considering the response to LA Q1287 that "NSW Health is not an approval authority for local water utility drinking water supplies" and "no public health issues related to the Griffith drinking water supply were raised with NSW Health in July 2017", why did Griffith City Council advise me that NSW Health provided verbal approval on 6 July 2017 stating they did not have concerns with Council's use of (blue green algae inflected) Lake Wyangan water during July 2017?

Answer—

I am advised the response to LA Q1287 and LA Q1819 remains current and accurate.

*2574 DECLARING WATER INTERESTS MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Premier—

Considering your response during the Legislative Assembly's Question Time on 14 November 2019 that Members of Parliament should "proactively" declare their water ownership, does the law need to change to oblige Members of Parliament to declare their water interests if they have not yet "proactively" done so?

Answer—

Members of Parliament are required to comply with the disclosure obligations imposed upon them by the Constitution (Disclosure by Members) Regulation 1983 (NSW).

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly circulated advice to all Members of Parliament regarding the declaration of water interests on 19 November 2019.

*2575 DENILQUIN HOSPITAL MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATIONS—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women—

(1) How many presentations of people with a mental health-related diagnosis have occurred at Denilquin Hospital in each year from 2014 to 2019?

(2) How many patients requiring an overnight stay in hospital for a mental health-related diagnosis were transferred to facilities in Victoria in each year from 2014 to 2019?

Answer—

(1) Since the 2014-15 financial year, Denilquin Hospital has recorded an average of 204 mental health presentations per year. Presentations do not necessarily reflect the number of people who present, as some people present more than once.

(2) The number of patients requiring transfer to a Victorian facility each year between 2014 and 2019 ranged between one and four.

*2576 ORANGE OPERATIONAL AREA UNDER THE CHILDREN (PROTECTION AND PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY) ACT 1997—Mr Philip Donato asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

(1) Will you advise of your response to the Orange City Council's application for extension of the Orange Operational Area under the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997?

(a) Is the application supported by correspondence from the NSW Police Force outlining concerns that, since the expiry of this operational area, 50 incidents in the Orange Local Government Area have been recorded relating to young persons where application of this Act would have been an early intervention tool and advantageous in the prevention of crime?

Answer—

I am advised:

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A representative of the Department of Communities and Justice (the Department) met with the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the Orange City Council in the week of 9 March 2020 to discuss the Council's request to declare an operational area under the Children (Protection and Parental Responsibility) Act 1997.

The Department representative advised the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer that the Department is committed to resolving the issue for the Council as soon as possible.

The Department will shortly brief me on this matter, including providing the relevant information for me to consult with the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

*2578 CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH (CAMHS) UNIT ORANGE HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

Will consideration be given to extending the capacity of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) unit at the Orange Health Service, considering that the current 11-bed unit, which services five Local Health Districts and 86 per cent of New South Wales, routinely runs at 100 per cent capacity, treating each vulnerable youth for weeks to months at a time?

Answer—

While providing secure inpatient beds for young people with severe mental health concerns is important, community based Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) teams provide comprehensive care, which reduces the need for hospitalisation for most young people.

Western NSW Local Health District's Infant Child Youth and Family Mental Health Service is planning for a CAMHS speciality Hub in Orange, which would bring together all Orange-based CAMHS programs. The Hub model will facilitate improved outreach to young people in smaller communities and generate a critical mass of skilled clinicians for improved recruitment and retention.

*2579 LATE NIGHT LIGHT RAIL—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Do light rail services between Central Station and The Star casino operate 24 hours every day?
 - (a) If not, what hours do they operate?
- (2) What consideration has been given to extending late night light rail services on the Dulwich Hill line on:
 - (a) Friday and Saturday nights;
 - (b) Every night?
- (3) What consideration has been given to extending late night services on the CBD and South East Light Rail lines on:
 - (a) Friday and Saturday nights;
 - (b) Every night?
- (4) What action will the Government take to provide light rail services later at night to improve public transport options?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) Based on current demand and Opal data there are no plans to extend late night light rail services on the Dulwich Hill Line (Inner West Light Rail).

The CBD and South East Light Rail (CSELR) operates seven days a week, 5am through to 1am (next day). Since 14 December 2019 services have been running between Randwick and Circular Quay and a shuttle service between Circular Quay and Central.

(4) Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is monitoring patronage levels and will increase services to meet the needs of the night time economy if required.

Further enhancements to night time transport services will be considered as part of the Government's reform and enhancement of the night time economy in Sydney.

*2580 POLICE INVESTIGATION OF COMMONWEALTH MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) Who was interviewed by the NSW Police Force in the investigation into the use of an alleged false document used by the Commonwealth Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction to discredit the Lord Mayor of Sydney's climate change policy?
- (2) Did the NSW Police Force interview:
 - (a) The Commonwealth Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction;
 - (b) The Commonwealth Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction's staff;
 - (c) Any other person associated with the Commonwealth Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction?
- (3) Why did the NSW Police Force refer the investigation to the Australian Federal Police?
- (4) What evidence was provided to the Australian Federal Police?
 - (a) To what extent did this cover all evidence gathered?
- (5) On what grounds did the NSW Police Force determine that if an offence occurred, that it did not occur within New South Wales?

Answer—

I am advised:

The investigation interviewed a number of witnesses, including the Lord Mayor of Sydney, employees of the City of Sydney Council and parties on behalf of Minister Taylor.

The transfer to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) was made after obtaining advice from State Crime Command, who recommended the investigation be referred due to jurisdictional issues. All evidence gathered by the NSW Police Force was disseminated to the AFP.

*2581 DISASTER PLANNING—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

What plans does the Government have to update and improve disaster plans in order to ensure infrastructure, facilities and services which have been devastated by wildfires, can be maintained or restored as quickly as possible considering the predictions that this scale of emergency is likely to increase?

Answer—

I am advised:

An Infrastructure Subcommittee has been established under the New South Wales State Recovery Committee. This subcommittee will examine ways to incorporate betterment and resilience opportunities into recovery.

Recovery Action Plans are being developed and implemented at both regional and local levels. These Plans include actions for betterment and resilience opportunities.

Infrastructure NSW is leading the development of an infrastructure resilience strategy and plan to guide disaster recovery and future infrastructure planning. Additionally, a new asset management policy is being implemented across state agencies to inform a risk-based approach to sustainable infrastructure provision.

*2582 ADDRESSING POVERTY—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

- (1) What action has the Government taken to address increasing poverty and inequality considering the Australian Council of Social Service and University of New South Wales Sydney report '2020 Poverty in Australia Overview' which shows more than one in eight adults and one in six children live below the poverty line?
- (2) What advocacy has the Government undertaken with the Commonwealth Government to:
 - (a) Increase social security payments to a liveable level;
 - (b) Reform superannuation tax breaks;
 - (c) Invest in more social housing?
- (3) What programs is the Government providing to support children in poverty?
- (4) What further action will the Government take to reduce poverty and inequality?

Answer—

(1) The Government is committed to working in partnership with the private sector, the non-government sector and across all levels of government to enhance the quality of life of people of New South Wales

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and break the cycle of disadvantage, delivering programs that support the most vulnerable members of our community, and ensuring that services are prioritised for those in greatest need.

The Premier has set targets for the state, including to reduce homelessness, protect our most vulnerable children, increase permanency for children in out of home care, and reduce domestic violence reoffending. Information about how the Government is delivering on these commitments is available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/premiers-priorities/>.

(2) As Minister for Families and Communities, I recently represented New South Wales in a meeting of the Commonwealth and all state and territory governments at the Community Services Ministers Conference. At this meeting, all Ministers discussed initiatives that improve the safety and wellbeing of the most vulnerable children and families across Australia. The meeting communique is at: <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/565>

(3) The NSW Budget 2019-20 includes funding of \$1 billion to continue the government's commitment to tackle homelessness through assertive outreach and early intervention, as well as in social and affordable housing programs for families and individuals in need. The Government is delivering:

- \$210.1 million for Specialist Homelessness Services, key homelessness programs and critical referral services such as Link2home.
- \$26 million to provide temporary accommodation to people in need of emergency assistance.
- \$5.09 million, as part of \$20.3 million over four years, to provide 120 transitional accommodation dwellings and support packages for rough sleepers across New South Wales.

The Government has committed new funding of \$61 million over four years to implement the NSW Homelessness Strategy which includes:

- \$20 million for social impact investment reducing exits from health institutions into homelessness (commenced in Sydney District in late 2019).
- \$10.7 million to expand assertive outreach services to Tweed and Newcastle, which commenced in August 2019 which will provide an end to end model with increased health capability.
- \$10.6 million for sustaining tenancies support to address complex needs like mental health, drug and alcohol issues (Macquarie Fields, Albury/Griffith).
- \$9.1 million for additional transitional accommodation (commencing 2020).
- \$6.2 million to expand Staying Home Leaving Violence program to six new sites.
- \$4.7 million for universal risk screening and supports to respond early to young people at risk (Albury and Western Sydney).

New South Wales has the biggest social housing building program of any state or territory in Australia. The Communities Plus building program will deliver 23,000 new and replacement social housing dwellings. An additional 3,400 social and affordable homes are being delivered in partnership with community housing providers through the Social and Affordable Housing Fund.

The NSW Budget 2019-20 includes \$160.2 million investment to support targeted early intervention (TEI) services. These services support families earlier to address vulnerabilities that may increase the risk of children entering out-of-home care. There are over 900 TEI services across New South Wales, delivered by 550 service providers.

A range of TEI services are delivered across New South Wales, from activities that build inclusion and participation of families experiencing disadvantage in local communities (such as community centres), to targeted support services for children, young people and families who are experiencing domestic and family violence, or where a child or young person is at significant risk of entering the child protection system.

The Government has announced an additional \$34 million to prevent and respond to homelessness as part of the second stage of its economic package aimed at keeping people in jobs, helping businesses and supporting our most vulnerable in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes:

- \$14 million to increase the supply and flexibility of temporary accommodation, with an immediate focus on accommodation for rough sleepers, and
- \$20 million to help secure stable housing in the private rental market, including 500 Rent Choice packages, 350 Start Safely packages for women escaping domestic and family violence, and 140 Rent Choice Youth packages.

(4) In July 2019, the Government released the landmark 'Forecasting Future Outcomes 2018 Insights Report'. The report presents key insights from modelling undertaken on one of the most comprehensive data sets put together in New South Wales. The findings will be used to target supports and services to

those children and young people and families in greatest need, with a focus on intervening early where the impact will be greatest.

*2583 COMMUNITY PREVENTION PROGRAMS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections—

What plans does the Government have to expand and upgrade community prevention programs considering the comments made by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Director-General of Security about the rise of right wing terrorism and "Intolerance based on race, gender and identity", and the call by the head of the United Kingdom's national deradicalisation program to invest in grassroots terrorism prevention?

Answer—

The Government understands the evolving challenges we face in tackling violent extremism in our community.

The Government's \$47 million Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program seeks to limit the spread and influence of all forms of violent extremism, including right wing extremism.

New South Wales CVE programs addressing right-wing extremism include:

- The New South Wales COMPACT program, a \$9.2 million community grants program which aims to promote social cohesion and community harmony. The program tackles all forms of extremism.
 - \$750,000 over four years was allocated to the Community Action for Preventing Extremism (CAPE) project which specifically targets right-wing extremism. CAPE is delivered by All Together Now.
- Step Together, a free helpline and online service, designed to provide the community with support and advice regarding violent extremism and, where necessary, referral to other relevant support services.
- Increased support for schools including an enhanced case management framework, expanded counsellor workforce and the creation of five specialist support teams to respond to incidents in schools.
- The Radicalisation and Extremism Awareness Program (REAP) which trains staff in Corrective Services and Youth Justice to recognise and report all indicators of radicalisation, including indicators of right-wing extremism.
- The Remove Hate from the Debate campaign which aims to address hate speech by helping young people have safe and robust conversations online and empowering them to be a positive voice for change.
- \$85,000 in funding to Charles Sturt University to deliver a conference, Collaborative Approaches to Counter the Extremist Right-wing and Islamophobia Threats. The conference, held in November 2019, examined the impacts of these threats and emerging risks for social cohesion.

*2584 HUNTING NATIVE GAME BIRDS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) How many licences to hunt native game birds are currently valid in New South Wales?
- (2) What assessment is being done on the impact that this bushfire season has had on these native bird species and their populations' survival?
- (3) What consideration has been given to temporarily cancelling these hunting licences until a comprehensive assessment on the impact of the wildfires on these species has been undertaken?
- (4) Will the Government consider not permitting the hunting of any native bird under licence that could impact on the recovery of that species from the bushfires?

Answer—

- (1) There are 2,632 game hunting licences endorsed for native game bird hunting in New South Wales.
- (2) 97 per cent of native game bird management (occupier) licences issued to landholders have been issued in the Southern Riverina region which have not been impacted by the recent bushfires. The remaining 3 per cent are either not active or not located in areas impacted by the recent bushfires.

The Department of Primary Industries conducts annual aerial and on ground population surveys to estimate the population size for the native game bird species that can be harvested for crop protection. Sustainable quotas are established from this scientific research and property allocations are established and enforced.

- (3) Game Hunting Licences issued for native game birds will not be impacted as the areas where native game birds can legally be harvested for crop protection has not been impacted by the recent bushfires.

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- (4) Game Hunting Licences issued for native game birds will not be impacted as the areas where native game birds can legally be harvested for crop protection has not been impacted by the recent bushfires.

The Department of Primary Industries conducts annual aerial and on ground population surveys to estimate the population size for the native game bird species that can be harvested for crop protection. Sustainable quotes are established from this scientific research and property allocations are established and enforced.

*2585 RMS MOTORWAY LAND EAST SYDNEY—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Considering the response to LA Q9327, what options are being considered for the use of the vacant Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) property above the Cross City Tunnel in 110-130 William Street, Woolloomooloo?
- (2) What plans have been considered for:
 - (a) Landscaping and greening this site;
 - (b) Transforming it into a public park;
 - (c) Providing recreation or play facilities?
- (3) What other options have been considered?
- (4) When is community consultation expected to begin?
- (5) What plans does the Government have for unused RMS land in Palmer Street, Darlinghurst and Egan Place, Woolloomooloo associated with the Eastern Distributor?
- (6) What plans have been considered for:
 - (a) Landscaping and greening this site;
 - (b) Transforming it into a public park;
 - (c) Providing recreation or play facilities?
- (7) What other options have been considered for this site?
- (8) What is the schedule for cleansing and removing graffiti from these sites?
- (9) What further plans does the Government have to improve visual amenity, green landscaping and public access for these sites?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) continues to look at opportunities to transform underused transport-owned land into new urban places, creating value for the benefit of the community. TfNSW is looking at a range of sites, including those in Darlinghurst and Woolloomooloo.

No final plans have been developed.

Issues such as landscaping, the provision of open space and any recreation facilities would be required to be considered as part of any planning assessment process.

Critical to the success of any urban renewal project is engagement with local government, stakeholders and the community. TfNSW would work with other government agencies, the City of Sydney, stakeholders and the community in any urban renewal project in the area.

The commencement of community and stakeholder engagement will align with planning assessment processes.

TfNSW manages the security of the sites, including the painting over of graffiti when required.

*2586 LONG RANGE ACOUSTIC DEVICES—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) Does the NSW Police Force use 'sound weapons' or Long Range Acoustic Devices (LARDs)?
 - (a) If so, what protocols and conditions apply to their use?
 - (b) If not, are these devices being considered for use in New South Wales?
- (2) What assessment has been made of reports noting serious long term health impacts on hearing as a result of long high frequency piercing sound used from a distance?
- (3) What measures would be used in New South Wales to prevent long term hearing damage if these devices were to be used?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force does possess Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs). The use of these devices is controlled by specific NSW Police Force standard operating procedures (SOP). The SOP outlines the authorisations needed and considerations which apply to police use of LRADs.

When developing the SOP, the NSW Police Force engaged an acoustic expert to undertake testing to determine safe distances and time frames. The NSW Police Force LRAD SOPs include exposure to noise and work health and safety considerations, along with appropriate tactical considerations and measures to prevent long term hearing damage.

*2587 PREMIER'S GALA CONCERTS AT SENIORS FESTIVAL—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans—

- (1) How does the Government assess demand for tickets to the Premier's Gala concerts as part of the annual NSW Seniors Festival?
- (2) What levels of unmet demand have been identified?
- (3) How does the Government inform seniors about tickets and ensure fair access?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to increase access to the seniors gala concerts?

Answer—

I am advised The Premier's Gala Concerts are booked out every year.

Seniors are informed about the method and timing for booking individual tickets through a number of channels including the media, NSW Seniors Festival newsletter, Facebook page and website and via The NSW Seniors Card Database.

All tickets to the concerts are free and bookings can be made on behalf of someone online or by phone. Furthermore, group ticket allocations are made for aged care facilities and Seniors social groups, and contingency tickets are allocated to all Members of both Houses of the Parliament of New South Wales.

*2588 UPGRADE FOR CALLAGHAN COLLEGE, WALLSEND—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

Are there any plans for a major upgrade of the Callaghan College, Wallsend, considering the school is at 100 per cent capacity and 3,000 new blocks of land are being released in the school catchment area?

Answer—

The Department of Education is not currently planning to upgrade Callaghan College, Wallsend campus.

The Department monitors population and development trends to enable effective planning to meet enrolment needs in public schools across New South Wales. Strategic schools planning is underway in response to the urban development at Edgeworth, Fletcher and Minmi and the associated increase in enrolment demand at schools in the Wallsend electorate and surrounding area.

*2589 COMPENSATION FOR IMPACTED BUSINESSES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Small Business—

Considering the directive from the NSW Department of Education's that all overseas school trips are to be cancelled in the face of the global spread of COVID-19, what compensation measures are being considered for impacted businesses?

Answer—

Please refer to the answer provided to LA Q2590.

*2590 COMPENSATION FOR IMPACTED PARENTS AND STUDENTS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

Considering the directive from the NSW Department of Education's that all overseas school trips are to be cancelled in the face of the global spread of COVID-19, what compensation measures are being considered for impacted parents and students?

Answer—

Overseas excursions, while valuable learning experiences, are not essential travel and were cancelled to eliminate the foreseeable risk posed to travelling students and staff. Current events demonstrate the right decision.

The Department of Education's insurance covers the Department for legal liability to third parties caused by a breach of the duty of care, not situations of this kind.

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Parents and students are advised to check any travel insurance policy they have taken out to check if losses can be recovered and can complain to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority if dissatisfied with the insurance company's response.

Parents and students can also approach their travel agents or airline directly and seek a refund of monies paid and if unsuccessful can complain to the relevant industry body or NSW Fair Trading.

*2591 INCREASE OF SCHOOL ROUTES THROUGH FLETCHER—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Are there plans to increase school routes through the new subdivisions in Fletcher, considering Callaghan College, Wallsend students have restricted public transport options due to buses not running through new subdivisions?

Answer—

i am advised:

The service provider in the Fletcher area, Hunter Valley Buses, is currently reviewing services in light of the growth being experienced in the area.

Hunter Valley Buses intends to make submissions to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) for service changes that will provide increased capacity and extended routes to student passengers in the new subdivisions of Fletcher. These changes are expected to provide a benefit to a range of schools, including Callaghan College, Wallsend.

When TfNSW receives these submissions it will assess the merits of the proposal and make a decision about the implementation of changes.

*2592 EXIT POINTS AT THE JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL AND HUNTER MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

Considering that for three days this week it has taken staff up to two hours to exit the John Hunter Hospital and Hunter Medical Research Institute shared campus, what efforts are being made to help staff with travel?

Answer—

I am advised that improvements, such as additional car parking and road widening in key locations around the hospital site, are improving traffic flow. NSW Health and Transport for NSW are continuing to work closely on interim and long-term solutions to address and relieve congestion on the John Hunter Hospital campus.

*2593 JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL AND HUNTER MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE CONGESTION—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Considering that for three days this week it has taken staff up to two hours to exit the John Hunter Hospital and Hunter Medical Research Institute shared campus, what efforts are being made to help staff to alleviate congestion in the area?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW is working with Health Infrastructure to upgrade the Jacaranda Drive intersection to improve access to the John Hunter Hospital.

Transport for NSW is also collaborating with Health Infrastructure on the John Hunter Hospital Improvement project, to ensure future infrastructure upgrades include

improvements for public transport access in and out of the health precinct and improve traffic congestion.

Detailed design has also commenced on the Rankin Park to Jesmond project. The 3.4 kilometre bypass will be built between Rankin Park and Jesmond to the west of the John

Hunter Hospital. This will provide traffic relief to the surrounding road network, in particular the existing route of Lookout Road, Croudace Street and Newcastle Road.

Information about the Rankin Park to Jesmond project can be found at: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/newcastleinner-city-bypass/project-documents.html.

*2594 TAXI LICENCES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Will consideration be given to increasing the \$20,000 assistance package when buying back taxi licences to ensure that the compensation offered better reflects a fair and just value in line with pre-reform licences?
- (2) Will consideration be given to leasing the licences back to the industry for a price reflective of the market they have exclusive access to?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) As part of the Government's \$250 million assistance package, an initial transition payment was made to all taxi licence holders of \$20,000 per licence, up to two licences. This was not a buy back. The Government also created an Additional Assistance Payment Scheme to assist those who were experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of the reforms.

(2) A review of the Point to Point industry is currently underway. It will inform Government decision-making on any policy changes.

*2595 COMMUNITY FLOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN TUGGERAH LAKES—Mr David Mehan asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Does a Community Flood Emergency Response Plan exist for the suburbs around Tuggerah Lakes and its tributaries?

Answer—

I am advised:

Tuggerah Lakes is covered in the Wyong Shire Flood Emergency Sub Plan (2013) - a subplan of the Wyong Shire Local Emergency Plan. The plan is available on the NSW State Emergency Services website www.ses.nsw.gov.au/media/1611/plan-wyong-shire-lfp-june-2013-endorsed.pdf

*2596 EPA POLLUTION INVESTIGATIONS OURIMBAH CREEK—Mr David Mehan asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Considering the response to LA Q3502 on the Mangrove Mountain landfill and the work undertaken by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to ensure compliance with EPL11395, did the EPA investigate possible pollution for Ourimbah Creek during the 7 to 9 February 2020 storms?
 - (a) Are the results of all EPA investigations publicly available?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) inspected the Mangrove Mountain Landfill on 25 February 2020, and conducted water sampling in Ourimbah Creek on 18 March 2020.
 - (a) Details of regulatory action taken by the EPA can be found on its public register. Additionally, information about investigations conducted by the EPA may be made available in accordance with the provisions of the Government Information (Public Access) Act.

*2597 KANGY ANGY POTENTIAL POLLUTION EVENT—Mr David Mehan asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

Did the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) receive a notification of a potential pollution event from Transport for NSW or its agent in relation to overflowing water detention basins at the site of the Kany Angy Railway maintenance facility, which is under construction?

Answer—

I am advised:

Yes, the Environment Protection Authority has received a number of notifications of this nature.

*2598 TUGGERAH LAKES FLOODING RESPONSE—Mr David Mehan asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) Is the Minister satisfied with the response to flooding which occurred around Tuggerah Lakes over the period 7 to 12 February 2020?
- (2) Is the Minister satisfied that all elements of the Tuggerah Lakes Floodplain Risk Management Study Plan dated 2014 have been appropriately implemented to ensure flood risk is minimised?

Answer—

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- (1) Yes. This weather event involved the coordination of a multi-agency response across the majority of the New South Wales coastline.
- (2) I am advised that implementation of the Tuggerah Lakes Floodplain Risk Management Study Plan is the responsibility of Central Coast Council.

*2599 SYDNEY METRO CITY AND SOUTHWEST PROJECT COST INCREASE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What impact will the increased cost of the Sydney Metro City and Southwest project have on the metro extension to Bankstown?
 - (a) Will there be any changes to the project?
 - (b) With respect to all land acquisition requests within the CBD of Bankstown and the surrounding area has Transport for NSW finalised negotiations with the Canterbury-Bankstown council?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (1) (a) Nil.
- (b) Sydney Metro and Canterbury-Bankstown council are currently working together to finalise the Bankstown Masterplan.

*2600 AUSGRID STAFFING AND BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE CALL-OUTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Why has the Government not complied with clause 3 of Schedule 4 of the Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2015, which requires Ausgrid to employ a minimum of 3,570 full-time equivalent employees during each quarter of the five-year employment guarantee period starting on 1 July 2015 and ending on 30 June 2020?
- (2) Are there any outstanding works required with respect to call-outs related to the recent flooding in February which left hundreds of households without power in the Bankstown electorate (as at 5 March 2020)?

Answer—

- (1) The latest reports from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal required under the Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2015 indicate Ausgrid is compliant with the employment guarantee requirements.
- (2) I am advised that power has been restored to all affected homes

*2601 BANKSTOWN-LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL SITE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Considering the Minister's answer to Health and Medical Research Budget Estimates Supplementary Questions 41 to 48 lodged on 1 October, which states "The New South Wales Government will undertake investigations to determine the future use of the existing Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital site", can the Minister confirm whether the Government has ruled out construction of the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital on the existing site at Eldridge Road, Bankstown?
 - (a) If so, what community consultation did the Government undertake prior to making this decision?

Answer—

- (1) and (1) (a) The current hospital is restricted by the nearby residential area, major roads, and proximity to the airport which limits potential building height. Community consultation will be carried out as part of the site selection and planning process for the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital.

*2602 BANKSTOWN-LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL SITE SELECTION—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Has the site selection process for the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital commenced?
 - (a) If so, what is the timeframe for community consultation?
 - (b) What steps have been taken to negotiate a site for the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital?
 - (c) Will there be compulsory acquisition of any land for the site of the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised the South Western Sydney Local Health District is currently finalising their Clinical Services Plan. Community consultation and site requirements will be determined once the site selection process begins.

*2603 BANKSTOWN-LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL SITE NEGOTIATIONS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Have any negotiations taken place between the Minister, his office or NSW Health, and the Canterbury-Bankstown council, in relation to the site of the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital?
 - (a) If so, what is the nature of the negotiations that have taken place?

Answer—

NSW Health is consulting with relevant stakeholders, including Canterbury-Bankstown Council, to keep them informed about the project.

*2604 TAFE CAMPUS WESTERN SYDNEY—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education—

- (1) Considering the Government's commitment of a new \$80 million TAFE campus for Western Sydney, what is the proposed location of the new TAFE campus?
 - (a) Is the Government intending to retain the existing Bankstown TAFE campus once the new TAFE is operational?

Answer—

The final decision on the site for the new Western Sydney Construction Hub (WSCH) has not been made subject to the completion of the final business case.

There are no plans to stop delivery at Bankstown TAFE.

*2605 FUNDING FOR UPGRADES BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE SCHOOLS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Considering the Government's commitment to build and upgrade 170 schools across New South Wales, will funding be allocated for any new schools in the Bankstown electorate during the Government's current term?
 - (a) Will funding be allocated for upgrades to any schools in the Bankstown electorate during the Government's current term?

Answer—

The Government is investing \$6.7 billion over four years to deliver 190 new and upgraded government schools to support across New South Wales.

In order to meet local student enrolment demand Yagoona Public School has been upgraded, and upgrades have been announced for Bankstown North Public School, Birrong Boys High School and Birrong Girls High School.

The upgrade of Yagoona Public School included 16 new permanent, flexible teaching spaces, new toilet facilities and a new administration building. It is proposed that upgrades at Bankstown North Public School, Birrong Boys High School and Birrong Girls High School will each include additional permanent teaching spaces.

*2606 BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE ADDITIONAL TEACHERS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Considering the Government's commitment to hire an additional 4,600 teachers over the next four years, how many additional teachers have been hired to date (as at 5 March 2020)?
 - (a) How many additional teachers have been funded and allocated to the Bankstown electorate in this four-year period (as at 5 March 2020)?
 - (b) How many new teachers have been employed within the Bankstown electorate (as at 5 March 2020)?
 - (i) Of these teachers, how many are currently employed on a casual, part-time and full-time basis (as at 5 March 2020)?

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Answer—

- (1) 1,011.37 FTE
 - (a) 26.04 FTE
 - (b) 140
 - (i) 96 casuals, 1 part-time, 43 full-time.

*2607 BANKSTOWN-LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND LOCATION—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Considering the Government's commitment to build a new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, what is the timeframe for construction of the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital?
 - (a) What will be the location of the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital?

Answer—

- (1) The Government committed to commencing the new Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital in this term of government.
- (a) The location of the new hospital will be determined once the site selection process has been carried out.

*2608 PALLIATIVE CARE AT WESTMEAD HOSPITAL—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many palliative care beds are there at Westmead Hospital (as at 5 March 2020)?
- (2) Will the Government commit to additional palliative care beds at Westmead Hospital in the upcoming NSW Budget?
 - (a) If so, how many additional beds will be allocated for palliative care Westmead Hospital?

Answer—

(1) and (2) and (2) (a) Palliative and end of life care is provided across a number of settings, including in hospitals, specialist facilities, in people's homes and community settings. Palliative care services and models of care are designed at a local level to meet local population needs.

Western Sydney Local Health District manages inpatients in a shared model of oncology and palliative care beds in Westmead, Blacktown and Mount Druitt. In addition, the Silver Chain Community Palliative Care Service provides 24/7 on-call specialist palliative care services at home.

*2609 MOUNT OUSLEY-M1 INTERCHANGE PROJECT—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Have all funds allocated for the initial planning works of the Mount Ousley-M1 Interchange project been spent (as at 5 March 2020)?
- (2) Will funds be allocated to carry out the detailed design and planning works?
 - (a) If so, how much is this estimated to cost?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is publicly available.

*2610 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—Ms Janelle Saffin asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Is the \$4.9 billion Woolgoolga to Ballina section of the Pacific Highway upgrade to 155 kilometres of safer four-lane divided road still on track to be fully completed and open to traffic before the end of 2020?
- (2) What is the estimated final completion date considering that the project's website currently indicates that 85 per cent of this section is complete?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Woolgoolga to Ballina section of the Pacific Highway upgrade is on track to progressively open to traffic in 2020, weather permitting.

- (2) It is not possible to provide an estimated completion date as the remainder of the project consists of multiple stages, which are completed on a rolling basis and include completion of environmental monitoring and property adjustments as appropriate.
- *2611 CANIABA PUBLIC SCHOOL AIR CONDITIONING—Ms Janelle Saffin asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—
- When can Caniaba Public School's students, families, teachers and staff expect the installation of a new air-conditioning system funded under the Government's Cooler Classroom Program?
- Answer—
- The Department of Education expects to begin design work on installing air-conditioning at Caniaba Public School in Term 3, 2022 under the Government's Cooler Classrooms program.
- *2612 WYRALLAH PUBLIC SCHOOL AIR CONDITIONING—Ms Janelle Saffin asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—
- When can Wyrallah Public School's students, families, teachers and staff expect the installation of new a air-conditioning system funded under the Government's Cooler Classroom Program?
- Answer—
- The due diligence report confirmed there are no Cooler Classrooms works required at Wyrallah Public School. All learning spaces and libraries at the school have existing fit for purpose air conditioning.
- *2613 LISMORE BASE HOSPITAL STAFF INCREASE—Ms Janelle Saffin asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—
- When will the Lismore Base Hospital's health workforce receive the increase in nursing and midwifery staff numbers which was promised by the former Member for Lismore and the Nationals candidate and backed up by the promise given by the Premier and the Minister for Health during the election 12 months ago?
- Answer—
- (1) Lismore Base Hospital consistently meets the minimum nursing hours per patient day requirements in the Public Health System Nurses and Midwives' (State) Award.
- The Government has committed to increase the nursing hours per patient day requirements for medical and surgical wards in Peer Group B and C hospitals over four years from 2019-20. The Ministry of Health will consult with Districts and continue to deliver this election commitment over the next three years.
- *2614 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LISMORE ELECTORATE—Ms Janelle Saffin asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—
- (1) What is the number and nature of domestic violence services and programmes that are being implemented in the Lismore electorate for:
- (a) Victims and survivors;
- (b) Perpetrators?
- (2) What is the amount of financial resources allocated to domestic violence services across the Lismore electorate?
- (3) What are the statistics for the Lismore electorate on:
- (a) The incidence of domestic violence;
- (b) The gender of victims and perpetrators of domestic violence;
- (c) Any increases or decreases in the incidence of domestic violence?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- The Government funded programs currently in place in the Northern New South Wales area include: Specialist Homelessness Services; Domestic Violence Response Enhancement; Staying Home Leaving Violence; Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Service; Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program; Men's Behaviour Change Programs; and the Men's Accountability Project, which is funded through the Government's \$20 million Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund. Information about this project is available on the Women NSW website at: <https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/download?file=637610>.

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The Department of Communities and Justice does not hold funding data by electorate.

The trend for reported domestic violence-related assault incidents in the four Local Government Areas in the Lismore electorate has remained relatively stable over both two and five years.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research's Crime Mapping tool provides crime trends by local government areas and can be accessed at: <http://crimetool.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/bocsar/>.

*2615 **BLAKEBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOL AIR CONDITIONING**—Ms Janelle Saffin asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

When can Blakebrook Public School's students, families, teachers and staff expect the installation of a new air-conditioning system funded under the Government's Cooler Classroom Program?

Answer—

The due diligence report confirmed there are no Cooler Classrooms works required at Blakebrook Public School. All permanent learning spaces and libraries at the school have existing fit for purpose air conditioning.

The Program will review the school again prior to Term 3, 2022 to confirm this is still the case.

*2616 **FISH KILLS IN THE RICHMOND RIVER**—Ms Janelle Saffin asked the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

What pre-emptive actions have been taken to ameliorate the fish kills happening in the Richmond River?

Answer—

The Government has invested \$45.7 million in the Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-2028, with over 70 per cent of funds dedicated to improving water quality across the coast, including runoff from acid sulfate soils and agricultural drainage works on our coastal floodplains in the Richmond.

In the Richmond, over \$3.4 million has been invested in the past 18 months to support water quality improvements under the Strategy, with this catchment chosen as a key pilot area for new evidence-based approaches to addressing water quality.

This is a multi-faceted, long-term approach to deliver on-ground works, and better planning and coordinated management across industry, Government and community with a focus on estuarine health and reducing the severity of poor water quality events.

Part of this funding has been provided to the North Coast Local Land Services and in 18 months they have delivered:

- 18 kilometres of riparian vegetation protection and enhancement activities (fencing, weeding, planting);
- 600 metres of bank erosion protection and a further 900 metres is underway at Emigrant Creek sub-catchment; and,
- 9 upgraded road crossings and the sealing of 4.1 kilometres of gravel roads to reduce sediment input into the Richmond estuary.

The Government is also working with blueberry, greenhouse vegetable and macadamia industries on improving water and nutrient management to reduce off-site water quality and habitat impacts to waterways.

Development of estuary-wide foreshore structures, riverbank protection and marine vegetation management strategies will improve the coordinated management of coastal habitats, ensure sustainable development and identify where protection and rehabilitation efforts are needed.

The Coastal Drainage Management project will help improve the management of floodplain drainage infrastructure and restoration of coastal floodplains wetlands, to enhance natural water retention and flows, and address poor water quality from acid sulfate soils and low dissolved oxygen conditions, which contribute to fish deaths.

*2617 **ASSISTED SCHOOL TRAVEL PROGRAM**—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

(1) How many students in New South Wales used the Assisted School Travel Program in:

- (a) 2015-16;
- (b) 2016-17;
- (c) 2017-18;
- (d) 2018-19?

- (2) How many students on the Central Coast used the Assisted School Travel Program in:
- (a) 2015-16;
 - (b) 2016-17;
 - (c) 2017-18;
 - (d) 2018-19?
- (3) What was the average cost per student for the program in:
- (a) 2015-16;
 - (b) 2016-17;
 - (c) 2017-18;
 - (d) 2018-19?
- (4) What was the total cost of the program in:
- (a) 2015-16;
 - (b) 2016-17;
 - (c) 2017-18;
 - (d) 2018-19?

Answer—

- (1) (a) 10,127
- (b) 10,080
- (c) 10,184
- (d) 10,451
- (2) (a) 104
- (b) 108
- (c) 99
- (d) 102
- (3) (a) \$16,623
- (b) \$16,872
- (c) \$16,901
- (d) \$17,135
- (4) (a) \$170,368,672
- (b) \$170,067,590
- (c) \$172,117,358
- (d) \$179,074,739

*2618 POLICE ON MEDICAL RELATED LEAVE—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How many sworn police officers are currently on medical related leave in:
- (a) New South Wales;
 - (b) Brisbane Water Police District;
 - (c) Tuggerah Lakes Police District?
- (2) What assurances are in place to ensure that community safety is not compromised while officers are on leave?
- (3) How does the Government plan to improve support for officers on leave who are able to return to the workforce?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The number of police officers on sick leave or workers compensation on 21 February 2020 was:
- (a) 881
 - (b) 10
 - (c) 11

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(2) First response policing agreements are in place to ensure front line service to the community is always maintained. The NSW Police Force operates a highly mobile workforce and officers can be mobilised to deploy to locations across the state. Local resources are also supplemented by specialist police including highway patrol, major crime squads and other resources which are managed centrally, but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to changing crime patterns and emerging issues.

(3) The NSW Police Force has a number of strategies in place and follows proven injury management practices to ensure that police officers who can return to work following illness or injury do so in a timely manner. The NSW Police Force has developed materials highlighting support services available to all officers, and these resources are widely disseminated. Additionally, all staff are required to complete a Commissioner's Directive that canvasses the support services available to them.

*2619 WOY WOY RAIL TUNNEL—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What work is required on the Woy Woy rail tunnel to make it ready for the arrival of the New Intercity Fleet?
- (2) What is the cost of these works?
- (3) What disruption to usual service will these works cause?

Answer—

I am advised:

Modifications to the Woy Woy Rail Tunnel are not required to accommodate the New Intercity Fleet.

Minor work will be undertaken at Woy Woy Station to install new on-track technology called 'balises' to enable enhanced safety features of the New Intercity Fleet. Work includes automatic selective door operation technology which ensures only the train doors at the platform open.

*2620 NSW HEALTH PRIMARY SCHOOL MOBILE DENTAL PROGRAM—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many children have accessed the NSW Health Primary School Mobile Dental Program?
- (2) How many students on the Central Coast have accessed the program?
- (3) What schools are eligible for a visit?
- (4) How many Aboriginal community facilities are visited by the service?
- (5) What consideration has been given to supporting dentists displaced by this service?

Answer—

(1) to (5) The NSW Health Primary School Mobile Dental Program officially commenced in July 2019, funded by an investment of \$70 million over four years. Children attending public primary schools in Western Sydney, the Mid North Coast and the Central Coast are eligible to access the program.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and the pandemic response, the delivery of this program has been temporarily suspended. As part of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, programs such as the Mobile Dental Program will be reviewed for reintroduction at an appropriate time.

*2621 GOSFORD HOSPITAL COURTESY BUS—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What is the number of users of the Gosford Hospital courtesy bus?
 - (a) How many of those are staff?
 - (b) How many of those are visitors?
 - (c) How many of those are patients?

Answer—

I am advised that in February 2020, the most recent data available, an average of 56 trips per working day were recorded on the Gosford Hospital Courtesy Bus. A breakdown of patients, staff and visitors is not available.

*2622 COMMENCING FULL-TIME TEACHERS IN NEW SOUTH WALES—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

How many new full-time teachers commenced work in New South Wales public schools in each calendar year from 2015 to 2019?

Answer—

2015 - 2001

2016 - 2197

2017 - 2260

2018 - 3101

2019 - 3065

Note: teacher is defined as any person engaged at a school and is employed under the Teaching Services Act, including teachers, principals, assistant and deputy principals, head teachers and instructional leaders. The data includes all teachers who have been appointed to their very first permanent full-time teaching position.

*2624 SUSPECT TARGETING MANAGEMENT PLANS—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How many individuals were on the Suspect Targeting Management Plan (STMP) in the following years:
 - (a) 2015-16;
 - (b) 2016-17;
 - (c) 2017-18;
 - (d) 2018-19?
- (2) What percentage of those individuals identify as Aboriginal?
- (3) What extra resources are used by police to manage individuals on a STMP?

Answer—

I am advised:

The below data includes Domestic Violence Suspect Targeting Management Plans (STMPs), which were introduced on 22 February 2016. Individuals whose STMP case spans multiple financial years are counted each year.

Year	Total STMPs	Aboriginal
2015-16	2429	32 per cent
2016-17	2503	29 per cent
2017-18	2432	30 per cent
2018-19	2215	30 per cent

Individuals subject to an STMP are managed within existing police resources. All police resources attached to Police Districts or Police Area Commands are flexible resources available to incidents across the district or command.

*2625 PSYCHIATRIC CARE ON CENTRAL COAST—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women—

- (1) What is the cost of outsourcing psychiatric care to the Central Coast Local Health District?
- (2) How many patients were moved from public facilities into private facilities for care in the following years:
 - (a) 2015-16;
 - (b) 2016-17;
 - (c) 2017-18;
 - (d) 2018-19?

Answer—

- (1) Psychiatric care is rarely outsourced by Central Coast Local Health District. Patients who elect and are suitable for admission to a private psychiatric facility are responsible for any associated costs.
- (2) (a) to (d) In the period 2015-16 to 2018-19, one patient was moved.

*2626 COMMUNICATING INFORMATION ON COVID-19—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) When did NSW Health begin disseminating information about the COVID-19 disease to communities throughout New South Wales?
 - (a) What platforms were used to communicate this information?
- (2) When did NSW Health begin disseminating multilingual information about the COVID-19 disease to

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the various cultural community groups throughout New South Wales?

(a) What platforms were used to communicate this information?

Answer—

NSW Health has disseminated information about COVID-19 to the community throughout its global spread, first through alerts targeted to the medical community and then published advice on the NSW Health website from 13 January.

Important community information is posted to the NSW Health website on a daily basis, including recent announcements and advice on how the public can limit the transmission of COVID-19.

In addition to the website, NSW Health uses social media platforms such as Twitter, WeChat, Instagram, LinkedIn, Weibo and Facebook to disseminate information.

NSW Health has translated information into languages including: Arabic, Bangla, Burmese, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Dari, Farsi, Filipino (Tagalog), French, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Macedonian, Mandarin, Mongolian, Nepali, Portuguese, Punjabi, Spanish, Swahili, Tamil, Thai, Tibetan, Urdu and Vietnamese.

*2627 COMMUNICATING MULTILINGUAL INFORMATION ON COVID-19—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans—

(1) What strategies have Multicultural NSW implemented to assist in the dissemination of multilingual information about the COVID-19 disease to the various cultural community groups throughout New South Wales?

(a) What platforms were used to communicate this information?

(b) When did Multicultural NSW begin disseminating this information?

Answer—

The Government provides translated materials to communities in their own languages, thereby ensuring everyone has equal access to information, programs and services. In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Government through Multicultural NSW and in collaboration with other government agencies, is delivering a targeted campaign to ensure vital health messages reach our multicultural communities, including:

- Translating numerous fact sheets, social media tiles, media releases and frequently asked question documents into more than 20 languages.
- Providing interpreters to support NSW Health and Service NSW.
- Sharing NSW Health COVID-19 messages with diverse communities, both through digital newsletters and through over the phone engagement.
- Disseminating information to our diverse communities through media channels including radio, print, digital and social media.
- Conducting meetings with religious leaders and other key stakeholders to share information about COVID-19, public gatherings and social distancing.
- Having representation at the State Emergency Operation Centre, supporting NSW Health and advocating for diverse communities.

Given the fluidity of the COVID-19 outbreak, Multicultural NSW is continuously assessing and responding to the different language services needs of our communities in a timely manner.

*2628 COVID-19 FUNDING FOR FAIRFIELD AND LIVERPOOL HOSPITALS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

(1) Considering the increased precautions being taken in communities throughout New South Wales as a result of COVID-19 disease:

(a) What additional resources have been provided to Fairfield Hospital to assist and support the greater Fairfield community?

(b) What additional resources have been provided to Liverpool Hospital to assist and support the greater Liverpool and Fairfield communities?

Answer—

(1) (a) and (b) I refer the Member to the response to LA Q2480.

*2629 SUBSIDISED COVID-19 PREVENTION—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

Will NSW Health be providing communities across New South Wales access to free or subsidised hand sanitisers, anti-bacterial wipes or any other protective equipment to assist in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 disease?

Answer—

NSW Health and the New South Wales Government continue to promote important behaviours in the community to significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, including social distancing, covering coughs and sneezes, and regular hand washing. Further advice on these measures is available on the NSW Health website.

*2630 PUBLIC TRANSPORT COVID-19 PREVENTION—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What strategies have Transport for NSW implemented to assist in the dissemination of multilingual information to passengers about the COVID-19 disease to assist in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 disease?
 - (a) What platforms were used to communicate this information?
 - (b) When did Transport for NSW begin disseminating this information?
- (2) Will hand sanitisers be made available at railway stations and other transport terminals to assist in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 disease?
 - (a) If so, when will this be made available?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW is following the NSW Health guidelines in response to the COVID-19 health challenge. NSW Health has produced a wide range of translated materials these are being provided to the community as the situation evolves.

Transport for NSW is displaying public health messages at stations encouraging people to wash their hands, avoid close contact with anyone with flu-like symptoms and covering their nose when sneezing; in addition we encourage customers not to travel if they feel ill.

Transport for NSW is also proactively communicating to customers through online communication channels such as social media, media and outdoor channels.

Transport for NSW is currently working out logistics around the provision of hand sanitiser across our network.

Transport for NSW is determining usage rates in order to secure six months' supply and determining distribution arrangements.

Increased cleaning of hard surfaces at high traffic areas across the network is already taking place and will continue for the foreseeable future.

*2631 AVAILABILITY OF HAND SANITISERS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney—

- (1) Will hand sanitisers be made available at major tourist and business hubs around New South Wales to assist in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 disease?
 - (a) If so, when will this be made available?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

NSW Health advice has been provided to Government and non-government facilities on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The expectation of the Government is that operators follow this advice.

*2632 COVID-19 PREVENTATIVE COMMUNITY MEASURES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

- (1) Considering preventative measures being taken throughout New South Wales to protect and assist communities in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 disease, what steps has the Department of Communities and Justice taken to:
 - (a) Ensure the most vulnerable people in our community, especially those who have identified as high-risk individuals are not left isolated without any support throughout this difficult time?
 - (b) Make hand sanitisers available at all Government operated Community Service offices around

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- (c) Disseminate multilingual information about the COVID-19 disease to ensure communities remain informed, prepared and vigilant against the spread of this disease?

Answer—

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has taken a range of actions to continue delivering services to vulnerable people and families in our community. Information about these arrangements, and how to access support, is available on the department's dedicated website at <https://coronavirus.dcj.nsw.gov.au/>.

The Government has announced an additional \$34 million to prevent and respond to homelessness as part of the second stage of its economic package aimed at keeping people in jobs, helping businesses and supporting our most vulnerable in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes:

- \$14 million to increase the supply and flexibility of temporary accommodation, with an immediate focus on accommodation for rough sleepers, and
- \$20 million to help secure stable housing in the private rental market, including 500 Rent Choice packages, 350 Start Safely packages for women escaping domestic and family violence, and 140 Rent Choice Youth packages.

The Government's announcement also includes an additional \$10 million to support charities and \$6 million additional funding for Lifeline's operations in New South Wales, which complements measures announced by the Commonwealth Government to support charities, not-for-profits and mental health.

Hand sanitiser is available in a number of DCJ office locations throughout New South Wales and further supplies are being sought. A range of measures have been put in place to prevent the need for people to visit offices and instead conduct their business online or by phone, with appointments made for people who cannot use these options.

NSW Health is responsible for the dissemination of multilingual health information about COVID-19. DCJ refers clients and service providers to this information. Multilingual health information is available here www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/covid-19-resources.aspx

*2633 COVID-19 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES IN SCHOOLS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Considering preventative measures being taken throughout New South Wales to protect and assist communities in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 disease, what steps has the NSW Department of Education taken to:
- (a) Make hand sanitisers available at all Government and Non-Government schools around New South Wales in order to assist the protection of staff, students and the community?
 - (b) Disseminate multilingual information about the COVID-19 disease to ensure school communities remain informed, prepared and vigilant against the spread of this disease?

Answer—

(1) (a) Schools are educating and promoting the importance of good hygiene practices consistent with advice from the New South Wales Ministry of Health, which is to clean hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based rub.

Schools are provided with an annual budget to purchase hygiene supplies such as soap and hand sanitiser, and they have been encouraged to increase the purchase and supply of these products. Where schools have been unable to source these supplies, the Department of Education has purchased and coordinated the distribution of soap and hand sanitiser to schools where it is required. In addition, the Department has secured an order of hygiene supplies to ensure all New South Wales public schools are adequately stocked from the beginning of Term 2, 2020, and are coordinating the distribution. Further orders will be placed and coordinated on behalf of schools by the Department until business as usual can resume for purchasing these products.

The Department is continuing to work closely with the New South Wales Ministry of Health and Commonwealth Government agencies to ensure strategies are in place to address developments in the COVID-19 situation, including schools being adequately stocked with appropriate supplies.

(b) Information about the Department of Education's response to COVID-19 and links to the advice from the New South Wales Ministry of Health is available on the Department's website homepage.

This information provides the community with current advice from the Government for parents and school communities. It also contains links to the New South Wales Ministry of Health in-language resources about COVID-19.

School communities are also kept informed about COVID-19 directly through their school principal. Translated parent information is available to support the dissemination of in-language advice on the Department's response to COVID-19.

*2634 COMMUNITY AVAILABILITY OF HAND SANITATION PRODUCTS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

What requests has the Minister made to either the Minister for Health and Medical Research or NSW Health with regards to the provision of hand sanitation products to be made available for community dissemination throughout New South Wales?

Answer—

I maintain regular contact with the Minister for Health and Medical Research in relation to a range of matters related to the COVID-19 response. The Government strongly encourages regular handwashing with soap and water, or the use of hand sanitiser where this is unavailable. Enhanced hygiene and cleaning measures across New South Wales are also being implemented as part of the response to COVID-19.

*2635 EDMONDSON PARK SERVICE NSW CENTRE—Mr Anoulack Chanthivong asked the Minister for Customer Service—

(1) When will work start on the Service NSW Centre for Edmondson Park considering the Government's election commitment to deliver a centre in the area?

- (a) When will the centre be open to the public?
- (b) How many people will the centre employ?
- (c) Where will the centre be located?

Answer—

A new Service Centre is due to open in Edmondson Park by 2023. The location of the centre is yet to be confirmed. A thorough analysis will be undertaken to determine the optimal location for the Service Centre. The local community will be kept informed of the Government's decisions in this regard.

*2636 VICTORIA ROAD PEDESTRIAN ACCESS—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Why has a safe, alternative detour for pedestrians and cyclists not been put in place before the Victoria Road pedestrian bridge on 8 March 2020?
- (2) Why was an earlier proposal to install a temporary underpass under Victoria Road abandoned?
- (3) Why was a temporary bicycle lane on Gordon Street deemed unnecessary for the duration of time that all cycle traffic was redirected onto Gordon Street in Rozelle?
- (4) What safety assessments have been conducted to address the lack of space available for pedestrians and cyclists near traffic lights on the worksite at The Crescent and Victoria Road?
 - (a) Is the Government confident that there is adequate spacing to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists at this location during peak hour?
- (5) What safety assessments are conducted before the placement of electronic traffic management signs which obstruct pedestrian and bike paths?

Answer—

As I have stated publicly, I have declared a potential conflict of interest with regards to WestConnex Stage 3B. Transport for NSW has advised the following:

The removal of the Victoria Road overhead bridge was required so work could start towards a new road bridge at the intersection with The Crescent and a new underpass for pedestrians and cyclists through the future park at the former Rozelle rail yards site.

Options, including a temporary underpass or overpass, were assessed against criteria including compliance, available worksite space and the potential impact on nearby properties and surrounding roads.

The chosen detours were subject to a detailed safety audit.

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Work has also been done to improve the routes for pedestrians and cyclists, including improving the footpath on Victoria Road between Quick and Maney Streets, and installing clear detour and "slow zone" signage and pavement markings at key locations.

A widened shared path and reduced speed zone has also been provided city-bound on Sommerville Road on approach to the Anzac Bridge.

Further improvements will be made as required.

While the width of Gordon Street does not allow for a dedicated on-road cycleway, appropriate pavement marking has been installed. The arrangements are compliant with the relevant Australian Standards and Austroads Guides.

*2637 PORT OF NEWCASTLE CONTAINER TERMINAL—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Does the Treasurer support charging a fee for every container handled by the Port of Newcastle above a threshold level?
- (2) What is the purpose of charging a fee for every container handled by the Port of Newcastle above a threshold level?
- (3) Does the Treasurer support the Port of Newcastle's decision to invest billions of dollars in New South Wales to develop a container terminal in Newcastle?
 - (a) What would be the effect of this investment to the New South Wales economy?

Answer—

(1) Please refer to the answer to question 106 of the supplementary questions by the Treasurer for the 2019-20 Budget Estimates and the Government's Freight and Ports Strategy.

(2) Please refer to the answer to question 106 of the supplementary questions by the Treasurer for the 2019-20 Budget Estimates. Otherwise, this matter is currently the subject of court proceedings and is therefore subject to the sub judice convention.

(3) The long term lease of the Port of Newcastle realised gross proceeds of \$1.75 billion, which is helping to fund record investment in schools, hospitals, roads and infrastructure. Investment in ports and associated infrastructure is supported by the clear and consistent policy framework set out in the Government's Freight and Ports Strategy. The lease arrangements do not prohibit the development of a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle and enable the growth of container volumes through Newcastle that service that region. Any decision to build a container terminal at Newcastle is a matter for the private operator of the Port of Newcastle.

*2638 HOUSING MAINTENANCE ISSUES—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) What are the Government's plans to address significant maintenance issues at 1822 Tully Street, Carrington?
- (2) Has the Government considered the extent of this damage, noting that there is water damage throughout the property, half the house has no electricity, the bath is unusable as there is a risk of electrocution, there is mould throughout the house, there are leaking pipes, the roof is leaking, the windows are leaking, only one room in the house is habitable, there are holes in the roof and walls that were created by contractors and never repaired, and the floors are rotting?
- (3) Does the Government consider these conditions acceptable?
- (4) Has consideration been given to apologise to the tenant for failing to address these maintenance issues?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The replacement of one roof tile, removal and treatment of mould in one bedroom and the bathroom, installation of a shower curtain, and reconnection of the laundry and toilet power were completed in March 2020. In addition, the maintenance contractor, Broadspectrum is making arrangements with the tenant to patch and paint minor holes to the walls and ceiling.

An inspection of the property completed in February 2020 indicated that the windows, bathtub and floor coverings met the Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) asset standards, and no work is considered necessary.

(3) and (4) The cleaning and removal of mould from any affected area in public housing is generally the responsibility of the tenant unless it is directly attributable to a water leak caused by a maintenance failure.

The Government has created an information sheet for tenants "Treating Mould in Your home" that explains how to prevent mould growing and how to safely remove mould along with tenant educational videos, which were uploaded to YouTube in October 2019. The "keeping your home mould free" educational video explains what mould is, why it can grow in your home and how to safely clean mould; and encourages tenants to ventilate their home, report water leaks and keep their home clean.

Where a water leak or rising damp is the cause of mould, an inspection and responsive repairs will be undertaken to repair the water leak and remediate any rising damp areas affected by mould. Where the growth of mould cannot be attributed to water leaks or rising damp, tenants have the responsibility for its removal, often with the assistance of information from the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). If assistance is not available for the tenant to remove the surface mould (ie: they are not physically able to remove), then the tenancy manager (either DCJ or a Community Housing Provider), could request for the mould to be removed by LAHC which may incur a cost to the tenant.

In this instance, tenant behaviour has contributed to water leaks and growth of mould due to poor property upkeep, including failure to install a shower curtain, and incorrect use of the shower without a curtain causing flooding into the hallway. This culminated in the water seeping through the light fittings in the laundry and toilet below.

The tenant had made no reports to the maintenance line about leaks to her roof or windows.

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*2639 NON-URBAN WATER METERS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) How many non-urban water meters across New South Wales will be affected by ownership changes from Government to private?
- (2) What is the current age of the oldest meter?
- (3) Will any of the meters be replaced prior to changing ownership due to the age of the infrastructure?
 - (a) How many of the existing meters are anticipated to fall into this category?
- (4) Will all Government-owned meters be fully tested and a certification be provided to the property owner confirming that they are in full working order prior to the change of ownership?

Answer—

- (1) About 3,000.
- (2) About 10 years old.
- (3) Meters may be upgraded or replaced if the upgrades or replacements are necessary to meet the metering standards under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.
- (4) All meters will be certified as complying with the metering standards under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 prior to any change of ownership.

*2640 COVID-19 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PRIMARY PRODUCERS—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) What cash grants, loans, concessions and other financial assistance will be made to COVID-19 impacted primary producers by the Government?
 - (a) What are the specific programs and their forms of assistance, amounts and eligibility?

Answer—

On 17 March the Government announced a major \$2.3 billion health boost and economic stimulus package to protect the community and help protect jobs in the face of the COVID-19 outbreak over the next six months.

The package includes \$209 million to help bushfire-affected landholders to cover the cost of rebuilding boundary fences adjoining public lands. Eligible landholders will be able to access up to \$5,000 per kilometre to purchase the materials needed to rebuild existing fences.

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On 24 March the NSW Department of Primary Industries activated the Primary Industries Liaison Team, established to inform and support primary producers and industry affected by the impacts and challenges of COVID-19. This includes providing information regarding the financial and other support that may be available for primary industries businesses, including agribusiness, in coping with the economic impacts of COVID-19. Details of current programs and information regarding eligibility can be found on the Commonwealth Government Business website.

Furthermore, the \$110 million Federal scheme announced on 1 April to ensure air freight capacity remains open for critical markets will help New South Wales exporters of high value produce. Information is being sought on how to best guide these funds via the Governments Have Your Say website.

The Government will continue to support the State's primary industries and our rural and regional communities as they continue to be impacted by the ongoing drought, recent bushfires and now COVID-19.

*2641 BIOSECURITY—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) How many biosecurity events have occurred in New South Wales for all financial years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 (as at 24 March 2020)?
- (2) What has been the contribution from the Government to address biosecurity events in New South Wales for all financial years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 (as at 24 March 2020)?
- (3) What investment has the Government made in prevention of biosecurity events in New South Wales for all financial years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 (as at 24 March 2020)?
- (4) What issues have been attributed as the cause of biosecurity events in New South Wales for all financial years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 (as at 24 March 2020)?

Answer—

(1) The term biosecurity event is limited to particular circumstances. Within the definition of the Biosecurity Act 2015 and supporting regulation, one biosecurity event occurred in 2018-19 being pasture dieback.

(2) Investment between biosecurity responses and prevention activities are often intertwined, and are mutually beneficial.

Specific nationally cost-shared biosecurity events occurring during the timeframe requested are listed in the following table. This amount includes both New South Wales' and national contributions. Note that single response costs may be spread over multiple years.

Cost shared responses occurring in New South Wales with NSW DPI being the lead combat agency	New South Wales and cost shared partners contribution	Response
2019-20	\$300,000	Khapra beetle
2018-19	\$300,000	Khapra beetle
2017-18	\$123,589	Brown Marmorated Stink bug
2016-17	\$545,337	Lupin anthracnose
2015-16	\$614,371	Part carry over from Port Botany RIFA response

More generally, contributions towards addressing biosecurity matters and issues within New South Wales include activities such as diagnostic and research services, coordination of state and national responses, industry liaison, regulatory mitigation activities, communication and stakeholder engagement, field operations, equipment and staff technical expertise.

This budget does not account for the contribution of other agencies, such as Local Land Services or where biosecurity emergency incidences have been subject to cost-shared arrangements with other jurisdictions or industry.

(3) Examples of contributions towards preventing biosecurity events include: engagement with industry, community, and environmental sectors to build biosecurity awareness through outreach and education; surveillance and investigation activities; and application of regulatory programs. New South Wales also has a significant role in State and National policy coordination to reduce the occurrence and impact of

biosecurity events or emergency incidents such as participation and investment in National eradication programs.

(4) The pasture dieback biosecurity event resulting in significant plant death was of an unknown cause in 2018-19.

*2642 MEDICAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What action has the Government taken to ensure that all medical staff have access to appropriate personal protective equipment in both public and private medical services?
- (2) Does the Government have any capacity to penalise medical institutions who have not provided appropriate personal protective equipment to their staff?

Answer—

- (1) NSW Health is implementing a state-wide strategy to ensure all staff have the personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to protect them at work. This information is publicly available on the NSW Health COVID-19 webpage under Hospitals and Health Services.
- (2) NSW Health shares information with the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission, which is an independent body established to investigate complaints that raise questions about public health and safety within state health providers. The Health Care Complaints Commission undertakes disciplinary proceedings relating to serious complaints, including issues relating to the protection of staff.

*2643 BUSHFIRE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SMALL BUSINESSES—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) When were the \$10,000 recovery grants to small businesses who have experienced a 40 per cent drop in revenue over a three-month period as a result of the bushfires, compared to the previous year, rolled out?
 - (a) Why were the grants not rolled out sooner?
- (2) What has the Government advocated to State and Commonwealth governments to expand this grant to all tourism operators, regardless of the Local Government Area (LGA) they were based in?
- (3) Will the \$10,000 grant be expanded to all tourism businesses across New South Wales that have been impacted by the bushfires, regardless of the LGA they were based in?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, when?

Answer—

I am advised:

The \$10,000 Small Business Support Grants were made available through Service NSW from Monday 16 March 2020. The grants are designed to provide additional support for small businesses, including tourism operators, in the most severely affected local government areas (LGAs). Eligibility has been extended to 30 LGAs that were determined to be the most severely impacted by the recent bushfires. The New South Wales Government continues to work with communities and industries impacted by bushfires to develop a range of support programs.

*2644 COVID-19 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney—

- (1) What cash grants, loans, concessions and other assistance will be made to COVID-19 impacted tourism and hospitality businesses by the Government?
 - (a) What are the specific programs and their forms of assistance, amounts and eligibility?

Answer—

Personal and business support information is available via Service NSW - <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-19> or 13 77 88 – and <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Information on the NSW Government's \$2.3 billion economic stimulus package is available on the NSW Treasury website: <https://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/Covid-19Stimulus>.

*2645 BUSHFIRE RECOVERY PLAN—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney—

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- (1) Why did neither the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, nor the Deputy Premier, nor representatives from Destination NSW attend, either in person or by video link, the Local Government Tourism Conference in Jindabyne held on 16 to 18 March 2020?
- (2) Considering Destination NSW was scheduled to present a Bushfire Recovery Plan at that conference:
 - (a) Is there a bushfire recovery plan for tourism operators?
 - (i) If so:
 - (i) When will it be released?
 - (ii) How will local government and tourism operators be informed?

Answer—

1. Destination NSW's Acting CEO was scheduled to deliver a keynote. I am advised organisers did not offer Destination NSW a video link option to present remotely.

2. a. Details of Destination NSW's Tourism Recovery Package were announced in a Ministerial release on 8 February 2020. Information about the package was communicated to operators via multiple channels, including through a media release, on Destination NSW's corporate website and through Destination NSW's industry eNewsletter, Insights. In addition, the six Destination Networks also promoted the package to key stakeholders.

i. See answer to Questions 2a.

ii. See answer to Question 2a.

*2646 DESTINATION NSW COVID-19 RESPONSE—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney—

- (1) Has Destination NSW developed a pandemic plan for tourism operators?
 - (a) If not:
 - (i) Why not?
 - (ii) Will one be produced?
 - (i) If so, when?
 - (b) If so:
 - (i) When was it developed?
 - (ii) Is it publicly available
 - (i) If so, where is this publicly available?
 - (ii) If not, will it be made publicly available?
 - (iii) How has it been developed in consultation with the tourism and hospitality industry?
 - (iv) Has such a plan been updated in light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer—

Details of Destination NSW's response to the COVID-19 pandemic are available at: www.destinationnsw.com.au/news-and-media/covid-19#dnsw-response.

*2647 MAITLAND TAFE—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education—

- (1) How many students were enrolled at Maitland TAFE in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2019-20?
- (2) How many full-time equivalent teaching staff were employed at Maitland TAFE in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2019-20?
- (3) How many courses were offered at Maitland TAFE in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2019-20?
 - (a) What were the courses for each financial year?
- (4) How many courses are currently offered at Maitland TAFE to date?
- (5) How many students currently enrolled at Maitland TAFE list their home address within the Maitland electorate?

Answer—

I am advised that due to the commercial environment in which TAFE NSW operates, it would be inappropriate to provide operational data at a locational level.

I am also advised that information on enrolments is available within the Enrolments by Students section of the TAFE NSW annual report, which is available at:

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/corporate/annual-report>.

I understand that information on TAFE NSW staff numbers can also be found in the Number of Employees section located in the TAFE NSW annual report.

I am further advised that all TAFE NSW course offerings and locations are available and regularly updated on the TAFE NSW website, at: <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/courses>.

*2648 COVID-19 VACCINES AND TREATMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE—Ms Jenny Aitchison asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

(1) What cash grants, loans or other financial assistance has or will be provided to medical researchers in New South Wales by the Government to develop COVID-19 vaccines, reagents, treatments or prevention methods and/or the mass production of these?

(a) What are the specific programs and their forms of assistance, amounts and eligibility?

(2) Which medical researchers in New South Wales have produced COVID-19 vaccines, reagents, treatments or prevention methods and/or the mass production of these?

(a) Which of these have received funding from the Government for these specific projects?

Answer—

The Government has committed \$25 million for COVID-19 medical research and vaccine trials as well as \$11 million for commercialisation of research products. As part of the newly announced funding program, NSW Health will canvas medical researchers to identify new COVID-19 vaccines, reagents, treatments or diagnostic tools. The health and medical research sector will be informed when applications for funding open.

*2649 FAST CHARGERS ELECTRONIC VEHICLES LOCATIONS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

(1) Which specific locations in New South Wales, if any, have been chosen for the Government's plan to install fast chargers for electric and hybrid vehicles on target corridors?

(2) Have any locations been selected for the installation of fast chargers in the Hunter region?

(a) If so, which locations have been chosen?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW is currently finalising a procurement process to partner with industry to deliver electric vehicle fast charging in regional New South Wales. An announcement on the locations is expected shortly.

*2650 FERAL HORSE POPULATIONS VEHICLE INCIDENTS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

How many reported incidents were there of feral horses being struck by vehicles in New South Wales in 2019?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS) is unable to generate statistics on motor vehicle incidents involving feral horses. A manual search for the calendar year 2019 was unable to identify any such incidents.

*2651 COMMUNITIES RUNNING OUT OF WATER—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

(1) Which towns and communities that are not on regulated river systems are projected to run out of water in the next six months (as at 24 March 2020)?

(2) Have they all been contacted by WaterNSW as at 24 March 2020?

(a) If not, which towns and communities are still to be contacted?

(b) If so, was the contact prior to media reports on 14 and 15 September 2019?

Answer—

Following mitigation measures such as water carting or the use of alternate water supplies, at 24 March 2020, there were no towns and communities not on regulated rivers that are projected to run out of water in the next six months. There were also no towns and communities on regulated rivers that are projected to run out of water in the next six months.

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*2652 PUBLIC SECTOR ROLES CESSNOCK ELECTORATE—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) How many public sector roles in your portfolio will be reduced in the Cessnock electorate in total to implement the 2019-20 Budget?
- (2) Which specific departments and agencies located in the Cessnock electorate will be impacted by the Government's plans to reduce public sector roles?

Answer—

I am advised

All Department of Planning, Industry and Environment agencies and staff based within the Cessnock electorate are considered "regional". The department will ensure there is no net change to employment numbers in regional areas, in line with the Premier's regional jobs guarantee.

*2653 PUBLIC POOLS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

How many of the 460 public pools provided to councils across New South Wales remained open and operational in the spring/summer 2019-20 period?

Answer—

This is a matter for the Minister for Local Government.

*2654 REVIEW OF UPPER NEPEAN SCHEME—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) What are the terms of reference for the 2020-21 scheduled review of the Upper Nepean Scheme?
- (2) Which Local Government Areas have been asked by Water NSW for input into the Upper Nepean Scheme?

Answer—

There is no regulatory requirement for WaterNSW to review the Upper Nepean Scheme. However, WaterNSW regularly conducts reviews of its assets, including the Upper Nepean Scheme, as part of the development of long-term asset strategies.

Along with other bulk water infrastructure in Greater Sydney, the Upper Nepean scheme will be considered in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) – Water's next iteration of the Metropolitan Water Plan.

Details of this process, including opportunities for consultation, will be shared by DPIE at the appropriate time.

*2655 AERIAL ELECTROMAGNETIC SEARCH FOR GROUNDWATER—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) When did the aerial electromagnetic search for groundwater in the central west of New South Wales begin?
- (2) When did this project conclude?
- (3) How much money was spent on this project?
- (4) How many new water sites were discovered as a result of this program?
 - (a) Where are these sites located?
 - (b) What is the volume of water estimated to have been found at each of these sites?
- (5) Have any government agencies made progress towards accessing the water at any of these sites?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) How many?
 - (ii) Which ones?
 - (iii) What is the state of that progress?
- (6) Have any private individuals and/or corporations made progress towards accessing the water at any of these sites?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) How many?
 - (ii) Which ones?
 - (iii) What is the state of that progress?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The Cobar airborne electromagnetic (AEM) survey commenced on 13 September 2019.
- (2) Data acquisition was successfully completed slightly ahead of schedule on 19 October 2019. The results of the survey are currently being interpreted.
- (3) The total cost of the survey was \$513,358, comprising acquisition costs of \$485,958 and operational expenditure of \$27,400 on community consultation and safety audits.
- (4) The results of the AEM survey are in the early stages of interpretation. Integration of the survey data with existing borehole data control and hydrogeological concepts to identify possible new water sources will commence shortly.
 - (a) Not determined.
 - (b) This will only happen if exploration holes at prioritised interpreted site(s) are drilled and adequately tested for quality and quantity. It is important to note that the identification of water by AEM does not provide information on the quantity and quality of a potential resource. This requires hydrogeological methods of investigation.
- (5) The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is currently participating in the geophysical interpretation workshop by providing hydrogeological expertise.
 - (a) Not applicable.
 - (6) It is too early for any collaboration.
 - (a) Not applicable.

*2656 THE GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Which Government agency or department has responsibility for the Great Artesian Basin (GAB)?
- (2) Are there any studies currently being conducted to better understand the GAB?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) What are they called?
 - (ii) What is the nature of the studies?
 - (iii) Where can the information be found?
- (3) Is there any investigation underway to better understand the nature of the GAB around Pilliga given the potential for coal seam gas drilling through the GAB in this area?
 - (a) If so, what is the nature of this investigation?
- (4) What is the average annual replenishment rate for the GAB?
- (5) Is the GAB in any way disconnected from other parts of the GAB or is it all one inter-connected system where water levels rise and fall consistently across the whole?
- (6) Is there any measure or detection of GAB replenishments being of an adverse quality due to human or natural influences?
 - (a) If so, what is the nature of these events?
- (7) What is the nature of water interplay between the GAB and the Murray-Darling river system?
- (8) Is there any measurement of water extracted from the GAB and has any work been done to quantify and qualify the sustainability of this level of water extraction?
- (9) What type of treatments are required to make water extracted from the GAB of a quality fit for human consumption?
 - (a) Where and by whom is this enacted?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water has responsibility for management of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB).
- (2) In the past three years several studies have been conducted to increase the knowledge of the New South Wales GAB, to inform the GAB Sustainability Initiative (Cap and Pipe) program, and to support the development of the replacement GAB Water Sharing Plan.
 - (i) The studies are:
 - GAB spring field survey;
 - GAB bore survey;

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- GAB pressure forecast and bore integrity;
- Basic landholder requirements and abstraction study;
- Literature review on recharge rates to the GAB and recommended revised recharge rates for the Eastern and Southern Groundwater Sources in the 2020 GAB Water Sharing Plan; and
- Groundwater resource description.

(ii) The nature of the studies is as follows:

- hydrogeological and ecological ground truthing of New South Wales GAB springs;
- survey of bore pressure, bore integrity and sampling of some of the bores;
- forecasting which bores are expected to see pressure recovery and identifying bores most at risk of failure of requiring to be capped;
- used for the GAB Water Sharing Plan remake;
- background report to inform the development of the GAB Water Sharing Plan remake.

(iii) Most of the above can be found on the DPIE Water website (<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/water-sharingplans/water-sharing-plans-on-public-exhibition/gab/draft-nsw-great-artesianbasin-groundwater-water-sources-water-sharing-plan-components-forconsultation>).

Some are yet to be published.

(3) Around the Pilliga area, DPIE Water is completing the installation of monitoring bores associated with the Water Monitoring Strategy.

(a) Those bores will be equipped with telemetry and dedicated sampling equipment. Other work in the area is being undertaken by CSIRO under its Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) program. See <https://gisera.csiro.au/>.

(4) The GAB recharge happens through two mechanisms. Confined systems are recharged by throughflow (groundwater flow within the formation following the groundwater gradient), unconfined parts of the GAB are recharged through rainfall recharge. The recharge rates are estimated and available in the supporting information for the GAB Water Sharing Plan. Recharge rates estimates have been updated in the draft Water Sharing Plan (refer to part 6 of the draft GAB Water Sharing Plan on the Department's website - <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/water-sharing-plans/watersharing-plans-on-public-exhibition/gab>).

(5) The GAB has sections disconnected from one another. The Groundwater resource description report for the NSW GAB provides that information (https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/291175/nsw-gab-resource-description-report.pdf). Water levels do not fall and rise in a similar manner across the Basin and between aquifers due to different hydraulic settings and the significant size of the Basin.

(6) DPIE Water is not aware of adverse water quality making its way to the GAB aquifers.

(7) There is very little connection between the GAB system and the Murray Darling river systems. The GAB is a deep groundwater system and does not contribute to the baseflow of rivers in the Murray-Darling Basin. The only area common to the two systems are the eastern outcropping part of the New South Wales GAB which correspond to the upper catchment of tributaries of the Murray-Darling river system.

(8) The largest use of GAB water is by basic landholder rights (domestic and stock) bores. Those are not required to be metered. Recent work has investigated the sustainability of water take and pressure recovery. The report can be found on DPIE Water website (https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/290342/Estimation-of-Basic-Landholder-Rights-Requirements-and-Abstraction-for-the-NSW-Great-Artesian-Basin-Groundwater-Sources.pdf).

(9) The type and level of treatment of water sourced from the Great Artesian Basin for human consumption is dependent on location specific characteristics, such as water quality parameters, temperature and community preferences. Water quality is variable across the GAB. Some of the water is fit for direct use. Users are responsible to ensure the water is fit for their use and this includes water utilities. Water treatment technologies are now quite advanced.

(a) In regional New South Wales, local water utilities are responsible for the delivery of water services to their customers. Those drawing water for human consumption from the Great Artesian Basin employ location specific controls to ensure the water meets Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and community expectations.

- (1) Are there any plans to increase funding to the Cessnock City Council to better manage the issue of feral deer across the Cessnock region?
- (a) If so, how much funding will be allocated to the Council?
- (b) If so, when will these funds become available?

Answer—

I am advised that this matter falls under the portfolio of the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales.

*2658 FIREARMS REGISTRY—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) How many staff were employed by the NSW Firearms Registry as at 30 June each year from 2014 to 2019?
- (a) How many staff were full-time employees?
- (b) How many staff were part-time employees?
- (c) How many positions were vacant?
- (2) What was the budget for the NSW Firearms Registry in each financial year from 2013-14 to 2019-20 (to 24 March 2020)?
- (3) What is the average time per annum for NSW Firearms Registry to process:
- (a) New licences;
- (b) Renewed licences;
- (c) Appealed licences?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) It is important to note that contractors were engaged to supplement the workforce when required. As of 30 June 2019, the Firearms Registry had for example 10 contractors, who are not included in the employee figures in Attachment A.

I am pleased to advise that as of 20 January 2020, there are 93 people working for the New South Wales Firearms Registry, comprised of six sworn police officers, 77 administration officers based at the Registry and 10 administration officers working for the Registry based at PoliceLink. There are no vacancies.

(2)

2013-14	\$8,122,000
2014-15	\$9,415,000
2015-16	\$9,785,000
2016-17	\$9,747,200
2017-18	\$10,561,246
2018-19	\$10,067,858
2019-20	\$10,525,443

(3) Average processing days for New Firearms Licences and Firearms Licence Renewals in 2019 is available at:

[https://](https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/672523/PUBLISH_FR_PerformanceDashboard_2019.pdf)

www.police.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/672523/PUBLISH_FR_PerformanceDashboard_2019.pdf

Average processing days for appealed licences are unable to be provided as there are multiple variables that affect the processing time such as matters being withdrawn, listing dates, and decisions dependent on a Court outcome.

*2659 RANGE ATTENDANCE—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Will the Minister consider waiving the mandatory range attendances for target shooting (category A, B, C and H licence holders) for the duration of COVID-19 to mitigate the risk of virus transmission?

Answer—

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I am aware that the current social distancing rules and restrictions on movements due to COVID-19 may make it difficult for individuals to meet mandatory requirements relating to firearms and licensing. As a result, a number of changes have been made, the details of which can be found on: https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/firearms/covid_19_firearms_registry_response.

*2660 ELECTRICITY METER UPGRADES—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Why are electricity suppliers able to replace old meters at the maximum peak rate?
- (2) Why are consumers then forced to suffer the cost of paying for the upgrade if they want the peak rate reduced?
- (3) Why is it not mandated that suppliers are only allowed to charge the lowest electricity rate and install the appropriate meter to do so?

Answer—

(1) The rate a customer is charged for their electricity after installation of a digital meter will depend on the customer's contract. Retailers typically offer a range of plans and there is no one-size fits all approach that is best for all households.

Digital meters enable customers to access time-of-use pricing, whereby customers are charged different prices at peak and off-peak times of the day. Customers can switch plans or retailers to access alternative tariff arrangements, including flat rates.

(2) Most retailers will pay for the installation of a new digital meter if the previous meter was faulty or at the end of its life. Some retailers may also provide a digital meter for free if it operates a replacement program.

Retailers may charge a lump sum or monthly fee if a customer requests a new digital meter and their previous meter was still functional.

(3) The Government deregulated electricity prices in 2014 following a comprehensive review of the New South Wales electricity market. It is considered that competition and choice drive the best outcomes for consumers.

The Government's Energy Switch website provides a free and independent service that helps customers find the best energy deal for their circumstances by checking their energy usage and searching the market for available plans. It is available at energyswitch.service.nsw.gov.au.

*2661 LIGHT VEHICLE INSPECTIONS—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Will consideration be given to excusing the requirements for a Road Worthy Inspection for light vehicles for a period of six months to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission?

Answer—

I am advised:

Customers are encouraged to obtain a pink slip where possible.

From 3 April 2020, customers who are unable to arrange a pink slip, due to coronavirus impacts, may apply for a deferral by contacting Service NSW. Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Transport for NSW will follow up with customers when the coronavirus situation improves to ensure pink slips are obtained.

*2662 HAND SANITISER STUDENT BATHROOMS BARWON ELECTORATE—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

Will every public school in the Barwon electorate be provided supplies of hand soap and hand sanitiser in student bathrooms?

Answer—

In a normal operating environment schools provide appropriate hygiene products to meet their demand.

Given the current exceptional circumstances, the NSW Department of Education is increasing the supply of soap to public schools and is reinforcing school hygiene practices, to limit the impact of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in our schools.

Due to the difficulty schools are having in sourcing some hygiene supplies the Department is centrally sourcing supplies for distribution to schools. Schools are receiving supplies of materials from a number of distribution centres across the State.

Where schools notify the Department they require additional products, internal processes are in place to respond quickly with targeted provisions.

*2663 NEW WEIR IN MACQUARIE RIVER—Mr Roy Butler asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Does the proposed new weir between Narromine and Warren comply with current legislation to protect the environment?
- (2) Have the ecological effects of this weir on the Macquarie Marshes been investigated?
- (3) Will this proposed weir have ongoing effects on 'stock and domestic' users downstream?

Answer—

I am advised

(1) The Macquarie Re-Regulating Storage Project is currently in the planning phase. As part of this process, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared, and is scheduled for exhibition in late 2020.

The EIS investigates and identifies the potential impacts of the project during construction and operation of the new weir. It will also identify management and mitigation measures to reduce these identified impacts.

Additionally, I can confirm that a fish passage is included in the design of the weir and the project will also include the removal of the existing weir which does not have a fish passage.

(2) The Re-regulating Macquarie Weir will undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment process that will investigate these matters. This assessment will be available for public exhibition in late 2020.

(3) The proposed weir is anticipated to have a positive effect on downstream stock and domestic users through improved delivery efficiency.

*2664 UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE ATTENDANCE APP—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education—

Considering the University of Newcastle will track students' attendance at class using a mobile phone app, what action has been taken to ensure this data will not be misused and that students' privacy will not be compromised?

Answer—

New South Wales public universities are autonomous institutions, with total responsibility for their academic offerings, courses of study, and administrative systems.

The University of Newcastle is responsible for any student data gathered from university administrative systems, including their institutional compliance with relevant state and federal privacy legislation.

*2665 POLICE RESIDENCE YENDA PROPERTY—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Is regular maintenance carried out on the police residence at Yenda, which has been left vacant for the past eight years, to ensure it does not deteriorate?
- (2) Are there any plans to utilise this building in the future?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Emergency maintenance is carried out on this property as needed.

(2) No. The NSW Police Force have advised they do not require this property. It has been added to the property disposal list pending resolution of an active Aboriginal Land Claim.

*2666 GRIFFITH CITY COUNCIL WATER SALE—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Will the Minister investigate the allegation that Griffith City Council is selling surplus water at discounted prices to selected people?
 - (a) If not, which Government authority is responsible for investigating such allegations?

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Answer—

Reports of suspicious water activities should be reported to the Natural Resources Access Regulator by telephone on 1800 633 362, or by email at nrar.enquiries@nrar.nsw.gov.au.

Reports of suspected corrupt conduct involving or affecting the New South Wales public sector should be reported to the Independent Commission Against Corruption by telephone on 02 8281 5999 or free call 1800 463 909 (callers outside Sydney), or by email at icac@icac.nsw.gov.au.

*2667 FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING VOLUMES IN NEW SOUTH WALES—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

What has been the volume of water extracted through floodplain harvesting in New South Wales in each financial year between 1993-94 and 2018-19?

Answer—

There is currently very limited data on the volume of water that has been extracted through floodplain harvesting in New South Wales because such volumes have not been required to be reported by landholders.

*2668 DECLINE IN LOWER DARLING FLOWS—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Did the Minister endorse the change to the target flows from the northern Murray-Darling Basin into the Menindee Lakes, which have reduced from 143 gigalitres to 41 gigalitres?
- (2) What assurance can the Minister provide the residents of New South Wales that there is connectivity between all the water sharing plans for New South Wales?

Answer—

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority states that under the Basin Plan the estimated average annual flow into the Menindee Lakes system will increase to 1,723 GL. New South Wales water sharing plans for the regulated rivers include an end of system flow target.

*2669 MURRUMBIDGEE LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT RESTRUCTURE—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What is the reasoning and rationale behind:
 - (a) The proposed restructure of clusters within the Murrumbidgee Local Health District?
 - (b) The cluster manager role becoming a general manager and not including a Director of Nursing component?

Answer—

Murrumbidgee Local Health District is committed to effective leadership and management to ensure optimal service delivery across the region. The District has advised that there will be no changes to clinical services as part of management realignment.

*2670 GRIFFITH TO SYDNEY TRAIN SERVICE—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Will the Griffith to Sydney midweek train service continue until the end of 2021?
- (2) Does the Government have any plans to privatise any regional rail services?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.

*2671 HYGIENE SUPPLIES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS MURRAY ELECTORATE—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Given the COVID-19 health directives to wash hands often with soap and water, why did Murrumbidgee Regional High School and other rural schools have no soap in their bathrooms on Monday 9 March 2020?

- (2) When will the public schools within the Murray electorate receive deliveries from the New South Wales Department of Education of sufficient soap supplies to ensure students are protecting themselves and preventing the virus spreading?

Answer—

- (1) In a normal operating environment schools should ensure that they have adequate supplies of hygiene products to meet their demand. Given the exceptional circumstances, the NSW Department of Education is increasing the supply of soap to public schools and is reinforcing school hygiene practices, to limit the impact of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in our schools. Due to the difficulty schools are having in sourcing some hygiene supplies the Department is centrally sourcing supplies for distribution to schools. Schools are receiving supplies of materials from a number of distribution centres across the state. Hygiene supplies were dispatched to Murrumbidgee Regional High School on 3 April 2020 and received by the school on 7 April 2020.
- (2) All 59 schools in the Murray electorate have had additional supplies dispatched to them. Schools requiring supplies, who cannot source them locally can contact the Department with their requirements.

*2672 WENTWORTH LACK OF GENERAL PRACTITION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Considering the town of Wentworth has no General Practitioner (GP) during the Covid-19 pandemic, will the Government provide urgent financial assistance to enable Wentworth Council to immediately recruit a doctor to the town?
- (a) In the absence of a GP, will the Government open a pop-up COVID-19 testing clinic in Wentworth?

Answer—

I refer the member to my response to LA Q2495.

In New South Wales, COVID-19 testing is widely available through a range of public and private pathology providers. Information on current New South Wales COVID-19 clinics is available at nsw.gov.au.

*2673 COVID-19 RESTRICTIVE TESTING CRITERIA MURRUMBIDGEE REGION—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Considering that extensive COVID-19 testing has successfully reduced the spread of the virus in other countries, why has eligibility for testing in the Murrumbidgee region been restricted to only people who have been overseas or have come in contact with a confirmed case?
- (a) Is the restrictive testing criteria due to a shortage of COVID-19 testing kits?
- (b) When will eligibility for testing be broadened to include all people with flu-like symptoms?

Answer—

COVID-19 testing recommendations are developed nationally and are regularly updated. They are based on the best evidence available and clinical and epidemiological information about the virus that presents in Australia and internationally.

In New South Wales, COVID-19 testing is widely available through a range of public and private pathology providers. NSW has one of the highest rates of COVID-19 testing per capita in the world. Further information can be found at nsw.gov.au.

*2674 COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS MURRAY ELECTORATE—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many COVID-19 testing pop-up clinics will be set up in the Murray electorate?
- (2) Where will these pop-up clinics be located?
- (3) By what date will each clinic be set up?

Answer—

Health services are not provided on the basis of electorate.

Up to date COVID-19 information is available at nsw.gov.au.

*2675 FIT FOR WORK ASSESSMENT TOOL MURRUMBIDGEE LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT—Mrs Helen Dalton asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

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- (1) How many nurses and midwives have been rejected from employment within the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) because they failed the MLHD-specific "fit for work" assessment tool?
- (2) Why is this "fit for work" assessment tool not used in other NSW Health districts?
- (3) Considering the difficulties in recruiting medical staff in the region, why did MLHD introduce this "fit for work" assessment tool in the Murrumbidgee?

Answer—

NSW Local Health Districts have an obligation to ensure all new employees are physically safe and able to carry out the inherent physical demands of a position. Districts may have localised processes to assess these risks.

*2676 RESOURCES REGULATOR COMPLIANCE—Mr Philip Donato asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) For each of the 2018 and 2019 calendar years, how many of the following have there been for the Resource Regulator of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment:
 - (a) Offence or regulation breach allegations reported;
 - (b) Investigations commenced or undertaken;
 - (c) Penalties or fines issued;
 - (d) Cautions issued;
 - (e) Prosecutions initiated or caused to be initiated by the compliance section?

Answer—

Measure	2018	2019
a. Offence or regulation breach allegations reported	931	1059
b. Investigations commenced or undertaken	792	813
c. Penalties or fines issued	78	54
d. Cautions issued	144	179
e. Prosecutions initiated or caused to be initiated by the compliance section	15	10

*2677 AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES DURING COVID-19—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

Will businesses in the agricultural chain, including but not limited to abattoirs, shearing sheds, wool processing plants, farming operations, dairies and saleyards, be classified as essential services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer—

Primary production and related businesses, and the entire food supply chain, are not impacted by the NSW Public health order restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These businesses can continue to operate on a "business as usual" basis, while adhering to appropriate social distancing measures.

For more information please visit NSW DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/home/covid-19.

*2678 FUNDING TO ASSIST AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITORS—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

Will consideration be given to provision of funding assistance to agricultural machinery and equipment businesses to assist them in attending and exhibiting their products at agricultural shows?

Answer—

The Government is committed to supporting our farmers and regional communities by delivering essential programs and drought assistance measures.

The Government has a long and proud history of supporting many of the agricultural shows across the State, regularly exhibiting often in partnership with Local Land Services and other essential agencies that deliver services and support to regional New South Wales.

I am not aware of any requests from agricultural machinery and equipment businesses for assistance to exhibit at agricultural shows, which is understandable given that all such shows have been either cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government will assess any such requests on a case-by-case basis, depending on their nature.

The Government has announced a variety of support measures for businesses - that complement the Commonwealth Government response - to assist them in getting through this challenging period.

Information on these measures are available at <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-19> and I would encourage all businesses to seek advice on what is available to them.

*2679 BRIDLE TRACK ROAD STUDY FUNDING—Mr Philip Donato asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Has the full grant funding of \$2 million for the Bridle Track road study been delivered to Bathurst Regional Council in June 2018, considering your response to LA Q1383?
 - (a) If not, when will this funding be delivered?
- (2) Will documentation relating to the prospective Bridle Track road study and grant funding be made publicly available?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Yes. The payment was not for a road study but to re-open the Bridle Track to Hill End. Transport for NSW is receiving monthly updates from Bathurst Regional Council regarding the status of the project.

Bathurst Regional Council has advised that works are scheduled to begin on the new alignment for the track on 30 June 2020. This start date is contingent on land acquisition for the new alignment being finalised.

(2) A map of the proposed works of the Bridle Track can be obtained from Bathurst Regional Council upon request.

*2680 TRANSFER OF QUARANTINED FUNDS TO 2020-21 BUDGET—Mr Philip Donato asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Will consideration be given to the transfer of the currently quarantined \$25 million in funding for the Premier's promised new sports precinct at Orange, from the Growing Local Economies Fund to consolidated revenue?
- (2) Will consideration be given to including this funding in the 2020-2021 Budget to facilitate the timely delivery of this infrastructure project to provide an essential boost to local jobs, economy and the social well-being of the community in the wake of COVID-19 and its effects?

Answer—

The Government remains committed to the delivery of the South Orange Sports Precinct.

The \$25 million contribution from the Government will be made available once an appropriate project business case has been finalised.

*2681 CENTRAL BARANGAROO PLANNING—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Premier—

- (1) What consultation with surrounding residential communities will occur before the concept plan and development proposals for central Barangaroo go on exhibition?
- (2) Will the Government commit to ensure the central Barangaroo development will not block vistas from residential buildings on Kent Street?
- (3) How will the Government ensure development at central Barangaroo will not further impact on traffic on Hickson Road?
- (4) Has the Government assessed the need for children's facilities including playground equipment at central Barangaroo?
 - (a) If so, what conclusions were made from the assessment and what facilities will be proposed?

Answer—

Infrastructure NSW (INSW) is working with the Central Developer, Aqualand, on the concept plan for Central Barangaroo - which includes plans for building envelopes. The concept plan design will consider how Central Barangaroo fits within its immediate surroundings and the broader Sydney CBD context. It will also take into account traffic management considerations.

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INSW is also considering community needs at Central Barangaroo, including children's facilities, as part of the overall environmental impact assessment. These will be outlined in the development proposal to be lodged with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and placed on public exhibition later this year.

INSW is consulting with the City of Sydney and other key stakeholders .

*2682 AIR QUALITY HEALTH IMPACTS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Following the 2019-20 bushfire season and 81 days of hazardous, very poor or poor air quality, what steps has the Government taken to provide detailed recommendations for action during high air pollution periods?
- (2) What advice is provided to employers where workers' duties require outdoor and strenuous activities during high air pollution periods?
- (3) What advice is provided to people with health conditions or a disability who are more severely affected by poor air quality?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to update and expand information and advice about managing health impacts during periods of poor air quality?

Answer—

(1), (3) and (4) The Government has commissioned an independent inquiry into the causes, preparation and response to the 2019-20 bushfires. I am advised the New South Wales air quality website is also being reviewed and enhanced. Advice on air quality and health is publicly available from the NSW Health website at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/air/Pages/bushfire-smoke.aspx>.

(2) This matter should be referred to the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation.

*2683 RETROFITTING SOCIAL HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) What assessment has the Government made of the benefits of retrofitting social housing properties to reduce utility costs, improve amenities under increasing heat conditions and reduce emissions?
 - (a) What savings have been identified?
- (2) What proportion of Land and Housing Corporation social housing properties have been retrofitted for water and energy saving?
 - (a) What proportion of properties are in Inner City Zone CS1?
 - (b) Which multi-unit properties are in Inner City Zone CS1?
- (3) What programs does the Government provide to install:
 - (a) LED or other low energy use lights;
 - (b) Solar hot water systems;
 - (c) Photovoltaic panels;
 - (d) Water tanks;
 - (e) Water efficient appliances?
- (4) What program does the Government provide to help tenants reduce energy and water use and costs including replacing old and inefficient appliances and equipment?
- (5) What further plans does the Government have to reduce energy and water use and costs in social housing properties?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) has retrofitted over 800 properties in the hottest climatic areas of New South Wales with air conditioners and solar panels to improve thermal comfort for social housing tenants and assist in reducing energy bills associated with the operation of air conditioners.

LAHC is continuing to install solar panels on social housing properties in hot climatic areas, with co-funding from the Government's Home Energy Action Program. As at 7 April 2020, solar panels have been installed on approximately 2,300 social housing properties, including the 800 properties in Far West New South Wales that were fitted with both solar panels and an air conditioner.

In a phone survey of 43 social housing tenants who received an air conditioner and solar panels in June 2018, 83 per cent said they experienced improved comfort over summer and 63 per cent said their solar panels had helped reduce electricity bills, with the majority reporting savings between \$100 and \$300 a quarter.

LAHC is working in partnership with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Climate Change and Sustainability Division to evaluate the saving in utility costs, improved thermal comfort and reduced carbon emissions from the installation of solar panels and air conditioners. Project evaluation includes tenant surveys prior to and after the installation of solar panels and air conditioners, and requesting tenants to sign energy billing consent data forms to allow their energy usage to be reviewed two years prior and two years after the solar panels and air conditioners have been installed. Pre and post installation tenant surveys and analysis of tenant energy billing data will allow LAHC and DPIE to identify utility cost savings, improvements in thermal comfort and reduced carbon emissions.

The Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) completed an initial pilot to install 3 kilowatt Solar PV units on AHO owned homes in Dubbo (Dubbo Utility Bill Support program in 2016-17). The AHO also installed a data collection unit which captured consumption and saving statistics for each household. From this data and evaluation it was found that on average 30-40 per cent savings were recorded on tenant power bills and 90 per cent of tenants surveyed reported that their energy bills had gone down as a result of the solar PV system.

A pilot project of Hydro Panel installation has been completed on 69 AHO and Aboriginal community owned properties in the Nyngan, Menindee and West Wyalong. These are areas where clean drinkable water is not easily accessible. The hydropanels generate clean drinking water from condensation in the air through a condenser unit inside a solar panel. They are purely self-sufficient and require no electricity except from the sun.

The panels are currently generating about 3.8 litres a day of clean drinking water per household. The maximum production level during longer daylight hours of spring and summer is approximately 5 litres.

The Performance since the installation of 69 Hydropanels (July 2019 to March 2020) is:

- Total water produced: 11,226.8 litres
- Bottles displaced: 22,454 (500 millilitre bottles)

So far over 70 per cent of the clients that have received source hydropanels have mentioned that they have decreased their consumption of bottled water considerably:

- 71 per cent drink less bottles water
- 79 per cent prefer the taste of Hydropanel water

(2), (3), (4) and (5) Sydney Water and LAHC commenced a pilot program in December 2019 to improve the water efficiency of social housing properties in Western Sydney. Between December 2019 and March 2020, water efficiency upgrades were conducted at 644 properties which included replacement of single flush toilets with dual flush models, installation of 4 star WELS rated showerheads, installation of in-body flow controllers for bathroom taps and water leak repairs.

The type of water saving equipment installed at social housing properties will depend on the age of the property, when water saving upgrades have been retrofitted as part of regular maintenance works conducted at properties, and tenant approval to install water saving equipment.

LAHC monitors water usage at social housing dwellings and arranges for contractors to inspect high water usage properties for water leaks if tenants have not reported water leaks at their home.

The potential expansion of the water efficiency program to other social housing properties in New South Wales will depend on the water savings achieved through the pilot program in Western Sydney, and the availability of funding to deliver additional water efficiency upgrades across the social housing portfolio.

(3) LAHC commenced a program to retrofit LED lighting in the common areas of social housing unit buildings in 2011. Between 2011 and 2018 LAHC retrofitted over 13,000 LED lights in 258 unit complexes, including 39 unit complexes located in Inner City Zone CS1.

The AHO Climate Resilience program delivered in excess of 9,000 LED lights to social housing in far west New South Wales.

Neither AHO or LAHC have a program to retrofit solar hot water systems. LAHC installs instantaneous gas hot water systems, heat pumps or solar hot water systems at new social housing residential developments to comply with BASIX energy reduction targets.

As at 7 April 2020, LAHC has installed solar photovoltaic panels on approximately 2,300 social housing properties in hot climatic areas of New South Wales, with co-funding from the Government's Home Energy Action Program. The AHO Climate Resilience program has already delivered Solar Photovoltaic system (PV systems) to over 1,100

AHO properties and will complete Phase two of this program, resulting in an additional 1,400 homes with solar by 30 June 2020.

Approximately 4,300 social housing properties have rainwater tanks for outdoor use, toilet flushing and/or washing machines. LAHC installs rainwater tanks for new residential projects if they are required to comply with BASIX water reduction targets and all new AHO homes have water tanks supplied as standard. The AHO also fit 3-star wells rated tapware as part of its normal specifications.

(4) LAHC assists in promoting the Government's Appliance Replacement Offer to social housing tenants through articles in tenant newsletters and the distribution of program flyers to tenants. The Appliance Replacement Offer provides discounts on energy efficient fridges and TVs to eligible low income households in New South Wales.

The AHO Climate Resilience program removes old inefficient evaporative coolers and replaces them with efficient Split System air conditioners which are also used for heating in winter. This reduces energy and water consumption and improves the living conditions for the tenants.

Also, the AHO Drought relief program (hydropanels) objective is to:

- Support our tenants to have sufficient drinking water on a daily basis;
- Increase the amount of water supply to regional homes;
- Create an affordable option for homes effected by drought;
- Improve water quality within remote communities without tapping into natural resources, and
- AHO tenants will have enough drinking water during the most extreme conditions/situations

(5) LAHC plans to continue to install solar panels at social housing properties located in hot climatic areas of New South Wales, with co-funding from the Government's Home Energy Action Program.

A further 700 AHO homes has recently been funded to receive solar PV as part of a stimulus package. Additionally, through the same stimulus package a further 200 AHO homes will receive efficient Split System air conditioning and passive energy upgrades such as LED lights, door seals and removing old inefficient heating/cooling.

A battery storage pilot is about to commence on 30 AHO homes to evaluate the effectiveness of battery storage for social housing. The AHO target is for 65 per cent of its property portfolio to have solar PV systems installed by 2022.

Also included in the stimulus program is funding to supply and install Hydropanels to an additional 818 properties in the Western region experiencing similar water issues. These areas are:

- Bourke
- Brewarrina
- Broken Hill
- Lightning Ridge
- Cobar
- Walgett
- Wilcannia

The AHO is also currently undertaking a re-cladding program in Western Sydney. This includes the removal of asbestos external lining and re-cladding the property with insulated prefinished vinyl cladding. This will increase the thermal performance of our homes reducing the requirement for energy usage in heating cooling.

AHO Capital Works (New Supply)

The AHO's Capital Programs are focussed on delivering quality homes that are well-designed, well-built and efficient for our tenants to live in. At design stage, the AHO's new Design Guidelines seek to build-in a range of energy efficiency measures such as ensuring good solar alignment, cross ventilation, thermal mass and maximising use of natural daylight. Such measures reduce the need for mechanical cooling/heating and lighting while at the same time improving the overall amenity of the home.

The NatHERS* rating of AHO homes is determined by the climate zone location to optimise efficiencies. A higher star rating will have a greater impact on energy consumption in a very hot climate zone 4 than a moderate climate zone 5. For example we have achieved an energy consumption reduction of 120MJ/m² per annum (~\$968.00) by increasing the NatHERS rating from the standard 5.5 stars to 7 stars in climate zone 4 which represents the majority of New South Wales regional remote areas. (Note: *National House Energy Rating Scheme)

In addition to good thermal design all new AHO homes are fitted with Solar PV, in line with the incremental roll-out of Solar PV across the whole AHO portfolio. The Solar PV helps offset electricity

costs, including those associated with air-conditioning which is now installed as standard for health reasons across areas of the State defined by Isotherm 33.

AHO also seeks to include rainwater tanks on all new developments which reduce reliance on town water supplier for flushing toilets and watering gardens.

Future Plans:

AHO Innovation Project was set up to investigate and test opportunities for innovation within our end to end project cycle including design and construction methods to address environmental issues and reduce lifecycle costs for the term of the asset. Construction methods including Structural Insulated Panel, Cross laminated Timber and Podular systems were selected primarily for passive design principals to deliver improved climate resilience. The performance over time of the different construction methods will be monitored and subsequently will feed into the AHO's future BAU construction program.

The AHO recognises that traditional suburban-type landscaping, and in particular mass turf planting, can prove a significant drain on water and therefore risks increased water bills for tenants. The AHO is proposing to develop landscaping guidelines based around climate zones to improve climate reliance and usability of outdoor spaces. AHO is currently testing low water landscaping in remote areas across New South Wales.

*2684 EARLY LEARNING SERVICES SAFETY DURING FIRE DANGER—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

What procedures were in place to ensure that staff and children in early learning services were safe between 1 September 2019 and 1 February 2020 during periods of state of emergency and/or catastrophic fire danger?

Answer—

The NSW Department of Education, as the Regulatory Authority in New South Wales, regulates children's education and care services in accordance with the Children (Education and Care Services) National Law and Education and Care Services National Regulations. The Department's priority is the safety and wellbeing of children in New South Wales.

To ensure children and service staff are safe from harm in a state of emergency or catastrophic fire danger, such as that experienced recently in New South Wales, the Department works closely with the lead agency delegated under the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989. In the case of the 3 November 2019 State of Emergency, lead was delegated to the Rural Fire Service.

The Department facilitates the provision of advice from emergency services to the sector, and, as required, provides the name, address and contact details of services to assist emergency services and ensure the safety of children (information provided is publicly available on the National Register of education and care services, published on the ACECQA and Australian Government websites).

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations, services are required to have policies and procedures dealing with emergency and evacuation. In preparing the emergency and evacuation procedures, the approved provider must ensure that a risk assessment is conducted to identify potential emergencies that are relevant to the service. The emergency and evacuation procedures must set out instructions for what must be done in the event of an emergency and an emergency and evacuation floor plan. The procedures must be rehearsed every three months.

To support services' compliance with this requirement, the Department delivered a series of Emergency Preparedness Workshops from 8 October 2019 to 6 November 2019. The workshops assisted services to enhance their emergency response plans, including their plans for bushfires. Sector feedback on this initiative was positive, and the Department delivered a second round of workshops in February 2020.

Services are also required under the Education and Care Services National Regulations to notify the Department of closures or amendments to their operations. Between 1 September 2019 and 1 February 2020, the Department actively tracked these notifications and contacted services affected by bushfires to discuss their circumstances and offer support. The Department also organised bushfire networking and debriefing sessions for educators and staff in bushfire-affected areas in February 2020, where mental health supports were provided.

In addition to this individual support, the Department sent emails to all New South Wales children's education and care services in regards to bushfires, smoke irritation and hot weather.

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*2685 NEWCASTLE INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans—

Considering the media release in June 2019 issued by the then Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, about the Hillsborough Indoor Sports Stadium announcing that "construction is due to begin this year on the new indoor sports stadium at Hillsborough", what construction work on the stadium took place between June 2019 and March 2020 (as at 23 March 2020)?

Answer—

I am advised construction work will commence once Lake Macquarie City Council has given consent to the Development Application.

*2686 KEOLIS DOWNER COVID-19 DEEP CLEANING—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

How has the Minister ensured that a deep cleaning regime is in place for public transport vehicles operated by Keolis Downer in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Regions during the current COVID-19 public health emergency?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is working closely with NSW Health and service operators, including Newcastle Transport, to ensure the safety of our customers and staff and the continuity of services.

TfNSW has increased cleaning of hard surfaces at high traffic areas across the network, including on buses and bus depots, and will continue for the foreseeable future. This includes a complete wipe down of the driver's cabin and controls, hand rails, stop buttons and Opal card readers.

To help protect the health of our drivers, TfNSW is advising customers to not use the opal reader at the front of the bus, and to stand behind the red no standing zone. We are aware some private operators have decided to tape off the first few seats to ensure customers are not crowding the driver.

*2687 SMART SKILLED AND HIRE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM—Ms Jodie Harrison asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education—

Considering the Smart Skilled and Hire Youth Employment Programs currently funds employment services such as APM Employment Services, when will the employment services be notified if they will receive funding for ongoing delivery beyond 30 June 2020?

Answer—

The Smart, Skilled and Hired Youth Employment pilot program is a four year pilot that will conclude on 30 June 2020.

I am advised that all Smart, Skilled and Hired Youth Employment program providers, including APM Employment Services, have been advised that the pilot program will conclude on 30 June 2020, as per the terms of their existing funding deed.

*2688 ASSISTANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS IN BUSHFIRE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

(1) What specific actions have the Minister and the Government taken to assist volunteers supporting firefighters and bushfire affected communities through the current bushfire crisis, including preparing meals, servicing evacuation centres and looking after animals?

(2) What programs have been initiated or intensified to assist volunteers in bushfire affected communities?

(3) What resources within Volunteers NSW and the Department of Communities and Justice usually allocated to volunteers have been directed towards assisting volunteers in bushfire affected communities?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Volunteer agencies with a defined role in New South Wales emergency management plans, such as providing staff for evacuation centres and providing catering, are eligible for grants under the Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme, and the Disaster Welfare Non-Government Volunteer Agencies Training Support Funds. These schemes support projects to enhance the recruitment, retention and capability of emergency management volunteers.

(2) The Government has provided financial assistance to local councils for the establishment of base camps for out-of-area volunteer groups supporting the bushfire recovery, including groups like BlazeAid. BlazeAid has been funded \$1 million to support their volunteer recovery activities.

The Government has announced the development of the third New South Wales Volunteering Strategy 2020-30. The third NSW Volunteering Strategy will provide a blueprint for the volunteer sector and will be shaped by the needs of volunteers across New South Wales and the sector.

(3) Under the current NSW Volunteering Strategy, the Department of Communities and Justice focusses on promoting volunteering, building volunteer management capacity and growing participation in volunteering. The Department has done this by:

- Supporting the New South Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards through the provision of sponsorship funding to the Centre for Volunteering
- Ongoing implementation of the New South Wales Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program
- Development and implementation of the New South Wales Volunteer Recruitment Portal
- Rollout of a campaign to promote volunteering and the New South Wales Volunteer Recruitment Portal
- Implementation of volunteer management training workshops, and the development of free downloadable resources on the New South Wales Volunteering Website www.volunteering.nsw.gov.au.

*2689 ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT ORGANISATIONS COVID-19—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Premier representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) How is the Government acting to support arts and entertainment organisations impacted by COVID-19 and the associated social distancing restrictions and advice?
- (2) How is the Government acting to support artists and casuals employed by arts and entertainment organisations impacted by COVID-19 and the associated social distancing restrictions and advice?

Answer—

A \$6.34 million support package has been developed to assist artists and New South Wales Arts sector organisations.

*2690 ENHANCED CLEANING AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) When did 'enhanced cleaning' to mitigate COVID-19 commence in New South Wales public schools?
- (2) How many schools have been subject to 'enhanced cleaning' to mitigate COVID-19 (as at 24 March 2020)?
- (3) How many schools in the Summer Hill electorate have been subject to 'enhanced cleaning' to mitigate COVID-19 (as at 24 March 2020)?
- (4) What is the schedule for implementing 'enhanced cleaning' at New South Wales Public schools:
 - (a) Across the State?
 - (b) Across the Summer Hill electorate?
- (5) What defines 'enhanced cleaning' as opposed to regular cleaning of schools?
- (6) What additional protections have been put in place to protect school cleaners who are at risk of greater exposure to COVID-19 in our schools?

Answer—

- (1) The enhanced cleaning initiative is being progressively rolled out beginning in the week commencing 23 March 2020.
- (2) Cleaning Providers were requested to supply and implement an increase of 25% in cleaning hours, applied to enhanced cleaning, across all schools for at least the next 3 months.
- (3) All schools in New South Wales are equally subject to the request to increase cleaning services.
- (4)
 - (a) The enhanced cleaning initiative is being progressively rolled out beginning in the week commencing 23 March.
 - (b) The initiative is being progressively rolled out across the Summer Hill electorate starting in the week commencing 23 March.
- (5) In addition to the normal cleaning the enhanced cleaning will involve wipe down of:
 - Internal and external door handles.

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- Handrails in stairways and movement areas.
 - Desks in all rooms.
 - All outdoor furniture and handrails.
 - Light switches in all rooms.
- (6) Cleaners are a valued part of the school community and equally benefit from the additional cleaning being provided to our school environments. If a confirmed case of Covid-19 occurs, and if deemed necessary, specialist cleaning teams are engaged rather than regular contract cleaners to complete an environmental clean of the site prior to reoccupation.
- *2691 COOLER CLASSROOMS PROGRAM—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—
- (1) For every grant round since the Cooler Classrooms program was announced, how many schools across New South Wales have:
 - (a) Applied for air conditioning;
 - (b) Been awarded air conditioning?
 - (2) For every grant round since the Cooler Classrooms program was announced, how many schools in the Summer Hill electorate have:
 - (a) Applied for air conditioning?
 - (b) Been awarded air conditioning?
 - (3) In each grant round, what has been the length of time between applications closing and applicants being notified?
 - (4) Why are schools that applied in the April 2019 round of the Cooler Classrooms program still waiting to be notified of the outcome of their applications, including Dulwich Hill Primary School?
- Answer—
- (1) (a) 288 schools applied for funding under round one of the Cooler Classrooms Program; 447 schools applied under round two.
- (b) 288 schools were successful under round one; round two applications are still under assessment.
- Please note that 611 schools that experience a mean maximum January temperature of 30°C and above are automatically eligible to have air conditioning and fresh air ventilation systems installed in permanent learning spaces and libraries.
- Schools that applied to the Cooler Classrooms Fund register a mean maximum January temperature below 30°C.
- (2) Three schools within the Summer Hill electorate applied for funding under round one of the Cooler Classrooms Program; all three schools were successful:
- Ashbury Public School.
 - Dulwich High School of Visual Arts and Design.
 - Marrickville West Public School.
- The following five schools within the Summer Hill electorate applied for funding under round two of the Cooler Classrooms Program:
- Ashfield Public School.
 - Dulwich Hill Public School.
 - Ferncourt Public School.
 - Haberfield Public School.
 - Marrickville High School.
- All five schools' applications are currently under assessment.
- (3) Round one applications closed on 29 September 2018; applicants were notified of the outcome of their application on 29 November 2018.
- (4) Round two applications are currently under assessment; schools will be notified of the outcome of their application in due course.
- *2692 HABERFIELD LEGACY LAND—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- (1) What is the status of "legacy land" in Haberfield and Ashfield that was due to returned the public at the conclusion of construction work for the M4 East WestConnex Project?
 - (2) Has the parcel of land surrounding the ventilation stack on Walker Avenue been returned to Inner West Council?

- (3) Have the acquired properties on Walker Avenue been returned to Inner West Council?
 (4) What parameters are in place in regards to the future use of these spaces or properties?

Answer—

I am advised:

1-2. A new ~5,200sqm parkland between Wattle Street and Walker Avenue, known as Haberfield Gardens, has been constructed. The park is built on land formerly used for construction of the M4 East project and was developed in consultation with the community and local council.

Negotiations are underway between Transport for NSW and Inner West Council to transfer the care, control and management arrangement to Council.

3. No. The acquired residential properties on Walker Avenue were initially proposed as a Community Centre under care, control and management arrangement with Inner West

Council to meet a Condition of Approval. Following consultation with the community, residents in Walker Avenue objected to this proposal and instead Inner West Council accepted \$2.5 million for the purpose of enhancing existing local community facilities in consultation with the community.

4. In accordance with the M4 East Conditions of Approval, Transport for NSW has prepared and submitted a Residual Land Management Plan to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). The plan is currently being finalised following DPIE review.

*2693 HYGIENE SUPPLIES AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) In each financial year from 2014-15 to 2018-19, what is the total amount spent by the NSW Department of Education on:
- Hand sanitiser;
 - Toilet paper;
 - Hand soap?
- (2) Has the Department of Education increased the amount of money allocated to - or spent on - hand sanitiser, hand soap and toilet paper since the advent of COVID-19 (to 24 March 2020)?
- (3) Will every school in New South Wales have adequate hand soap and soap dispensers in bathrooms used by:
- Students;
 - Staff and teachers?
- (4) What additional protections have been put in place to protect school students, staff and teachers to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in our schools?

Answer—

- The Department of Education does not capture costs at this level so are unable to provide any costs for these items. Schools use an "Office Supplies" general ledger account which captures the amount spent on soap, toilet paper as well as a number of other costs such as printing and stationery.
- No additional funding has been provided so far, to schools for COVID-19 related costs.
- Currently there is a high demand for a range of hygiene and janitorial products across Australia. Despite this demand, supply chains in Australia are strong and the Department is working closely with suppliers to ensure these essential products are made available in suitable quantities. Due to the difficulty schools are having in sourcing some hygiene supplies the Department is centrally sourcing supplies for distribution to schools. Schools are receiving supplies of materials from a number of distribution centres across the state.
- The Department has implemented measures as recommended by NSW Health. These measures include social distancing, handwashing and the provision of additional enhanced cleaning at schools.

*2694 COVID-19 PREPARATION AND SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- What are the criteria by which schools in New South Wales will be closed as part of the strategy to mitigate and eliminate COVID-19?
- When were New South Wales public school principals informed of the need to begin preparations to move teaching online and other measures in the event that schools closed?
- What support is being provided to school teachers, principals and staff to move teaching online during any COVID-19 related shutdown?
- What preparation has the Department undertaken to support families or students without access to

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computers, technology or internet during any prolonged shutdown as a result of COVID-19?

- (5) What policy work was undertaken prior to COVID-19 to prepare for a mass shutdown related to pandemics, natural disasters or other large-scale interruptions?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Education is working with the NSW Ministry of Health and Commonwealth Government agencies to ensure strategies are in place to address developments in the COVID-19 situation and to provide for the safety and wellbeing of students and staff in our public schools.

The current advice is that New South Wales public schools remain open for parents who wish to send their children to school.

Where there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 connected with a school, the Department will in consultation with NSW Health, determine the appropriate course of action to minimise any risk to the wider community.

The decision to close a school is made on a case by case basis in accordance with the advice provided by NSW Health or other relevant government agency. The temporary closure of a school in instances of a confirmed case enables NSW Health to conduct its contact tracing process and for the thorough cleaning of the school site in preparation for resumption of school operations.

The Department will continue to work closely with NSW Health experts and following their advice on the best approach to contain the spread of the infection.

(2) The Department is in regular contact with staff, principals and teachers.

(3) The Department has developed the 'Learning from Home' hub on the internet that is publicly accessible anytime, anywhere to support principals, teachers and parents/carers with a wide range of resources to maintain education continuity.

The 'Learning from Home' hub adheres to NESA curriculum requirements and includes links for principals and teachers to access a range of online learning experiences to help them transition to teaching remotely and includes Frequently Asked Questions that have been submitted through the communication channels and in response to the frequent LiveStreams to all Principals.

A range of new learning on demand courses have also been created to support teachers in areas such as curriculum, personalised learning, leadership and technology platforms. Teachers can complete these new courses anywhere, anytime on-demand. These courses are focussed on enhancing their skills and capacity to operate in a digital environment with an emphasis on teaching and learning pedagogy and utilisation of key online tools.

Professional Learning courses on the utilisation of key online tools have been designed to equip teachers with the necessary skills and confidence to work with platforms such as Google G-Suite for Education, Microsoft O365 and Adobe Connect all whilst accessing technology remotely. This learning will continually be updated and available for all New South Wales public school teachers.

(4) Principals are being asked to lend equipment owned by their school to students without suitable digital learning devices, with priority for those in Years 11 and 12, and students with additional needs.

In addition, the Department has sourced additional devices, Wi-Fi dongles and Modems which are being distributed to schools, based on data from schools on the number of students requiring assistance. Again, students in Years 11 and 12, and students with additional needs are being prioritised for access to these resources.

Schools will decide on the combination of remote learning methods that best suits their students. Some school communities may be able to deliver digital learning whilst other schools may be a mix of digital and non-digital or non-digital only. In remote communities and other areas where students have difficulty accessing the internet, this may include off-line or non-digital content such as worksheets, workbooks and textbooks. Schools will also determine the best way to distribute these materials at the local level.

(5) The Department has a comprehensive framework of policies, procedures and resources in place as part of its planned approach to the management of major emergency events that impact the operation of New South Wales public schools. These plans are regularly reviewed with relevant government or industry experts to ensure the Department's preparations and planning is consistent with national and state plans.

The Department has representation on the State Emergency Management Committee and State Emergency Operations Centre as well as various regional and local Emergency Management

Committees. The Department has also participated in a number of state operations to improve whole of government response and support to schools during a major emergency event such as flood or pandemic.

Major emergency events are planned for within the Department strategic and operational risk registers, business continuity plans and emergency management plans. A suite of protocols and resources support the range of actions the Department may take in response to a major event, including those which may require school closures. Additionally, the Department has in place a package of training programs to build capability of schools and capacity of staff to respond to both local community and state wide emergency events.

*2695 NSW HEALTH AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What are the criteria by which schools in New South Wales will be closed as part of the strategy to mitigate and eliminate COVID-19?
- (2) Are NSW Health officials liaising directly with schools to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 by staff, teachers and students?
- (3) How frequently is advice supplied to New South Wales schools being updated by NSW Health officials around COVID-19?
- (4) What are the criteria by which NSW Health would directly intervene in the operation of an individual school to help mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19?

Answer—

NSW Health and the NSW Department of Education officials meet on a regular basis to coordinate the response to COVID-19 and work directly with schools as required.

COVID-19 information relevant to parents, students and teachers is regularly updated on the NSW Government, NSW Health and NSW Department of Education websites, and their respective social media platforms.

*2696 NSW HEALTH INFORMATION TO SENIORS—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What specific advice is being issued by NSW Health to seniors and elderly residents to help mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19?
 - (a) How is the information being distributed?
- (2) Considering that seniors and elderly residents may have a reduced access to social media, internet or computers, and have reduced digital literacy, by what non-digital means is this specific information being distributed?
- (3) What is the total cost of producing educational or public information campaign materials targeted at seniors or elderly residents around the risks of COVID-19 and other preventative measures (as at 24 March 2020)?

Answer—

NSW Health continues to disseminate information to the community about COVID-19 directly and through key stakeholders, peak bodies, service partners and providers.

NSW Health uses platforms including its website, social media and daily press conferences. Community and corporate resources include fact sheets, brochures and posters.

Specific advice for aged care facilities and families of residents can be found on the NSW Health website, in addition to information distributed by the Commonwealth Government.

NSW Health has supported the Department of Customer Service to develop a whole of NSW Government campaign, Help Us Save Lives, which launched on 5 April 2020. The campaign includes TV, digital and social, print and radio advertising.

*2697 SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND CHARITIES IMPACTED BY COVID-19—Ms Jo Haylen asked the Treasurer—

- (1) How is the Government acting to support community organisations and charities impacted by COVID-19, including voluntary organisations, food banks, environmental and other community organisations?
- (2) How is the Government acting to protect casual workers employed by community organisations and charities impacted by COVID-19 including voluntary organisations, food banks, environmental and other community organisations?
- (3) Considering the extraordinary impact on services should community organisations close as a result

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of COVID-19, will the Government include targeted support for them in a further stimulus package?

Answer—

The Government has responded to the increased needs of the community and committed \$80 million in stimulus support measures to support our most vulnerable in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes:

- A \$34 million boost in funding to prevent homelessness
- \$30 million to boost the Energy Accounts Payments Assistance scheme
- \$10 million to support charities, and
- \$6 million in additional funding for Lifeline

Some charities and not-for-profits may also be eligible to the New South Wales small business COVID-19 support grant.

These responses complement the Commonwealth Government's \$200 million Community Support Package for emergency and food relief.

*2698 TEMPE BUS DEPOT SERVICES—Mr Ron Hoenig asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

What are the on-time running statistics for bus services operating from the Tempe Bus Depot, on a monthly basis, from 1 July 2018 to 24 March 2020?

Answer—

I am advised:

On-time running statistics by bus contract region are available on the Transport for NSW website.

*2699 ENTERTAINMENT QUARTER MOORE PARK—Mr Ron Hoenig asked the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

(1) What is the update on the unsolicited proposal received by the Government in regards to the Entertainment Quarter at Moore Park?

(a) At what stage of the process is consideration of that proposal?

Answer—

I am advised:

Unsolicited Proposals are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. I encourage you to direct your question to the Premier.

*2700 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS—Mr Ron Hoenig asked the Minister for Local Government—

(1) Is consideration being given to the postponement of Local Government elections scheduled for September 2020?

(a) When is a decision in relation to this likely to be made?

Answer—

I have announced that the September 2020 local government elections will be postponed to address the risks posed by the COVID-19 virus.

*2701 LEGAL SERVICES PANEL—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Finance and Small Business—

How many times between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019 were there "Off-Panel" engagements by New South Wales government agencies of legal firms or practitioners outside of the New South Wales Government Legal Services Panel?

Answer—

New South Wales government agencies are required to report the amount of off-panel expenditure on legal services (as opposed to the number of times an engagement has occurred) to the NSW Government Legal Services Panel manager (being Transport for NSW) every 6 months for provision to the Procurement Board. Total off-panel billings (excluding Treasury Cluster), during the 2018-19 financial year were \$14.2 million. 42 per cent (\$6 million) of all off-panel matters commenced prior to the establishment of the NSW Government Legal Services Panel, 47 per cent (\$6.7 million) were new off-panel matters and 11 per cent (\$1.5 million) are matters excluded under Panel rules. Treasury Cluster's off-panel legal billings for the second half of 2018-19 financial year were \$5.8 million.

*2702 NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS REGIONAL TRANSPORT—Mr David Mehan asked the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) What steps has the Minister's department undertaken in relation to the navigability of waterways in the State?
 - (a) What steps has the Minister's department undertaken in relation to an assessment of the adequacy of navigation signage on waterways in the State?
- (2) In relation to Tuggerah Lake, are Wyong Creek, Ourimbah Creek and Tumby Creek currently navigable?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW is working with local councils, Crown Lands, and other stakeholders to routinely monitor waterways for navigability. Annual signage audits are conducted by on-water staff with additional post flooding and out of session audits conducted as required. All waters on Tuggerah Lakes are deemed navigable but it should be noted there is always a risk of debris in any river or waterway.

*2703 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM—Mr David Mehan asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) How many grant applications have been submitted by Central Coast Council and its predecessor, Wyong Shire Council, under the floodplain grants program since the Council adopted the Tuggerah Lakes Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan in 2015?
 - (a) Of these applications, how many were successful?
- (2) What is the quantum of each application and grant?

Answer—

- (1) Since the adoption of the Tuggerah Lakes Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan, Central Coast Council and its predecessor Wyong Shire Council, has submitted a total of 26 applications for funding to the Floodplain Management Grants Program, including applications not specifically related to Tuggerah Lakes.
 - (a) 11 applications totalling approximately \$1 million were successful. Central Coast Council and its predecessor Wyong Shire Council have submitted three unsuccessful applications for reconsideration in subsequent funding periods. Two of these originally unsuccessful applications have been funded in later funding periods.
- (2) Information surrounding successful grant applications can be found on the Environment NSW website.

*2704 ASSERTIVE OUTREACH TO ROUGH SLEEPERS—Mr David Mehan asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

- (1) Is Assertive Outreach to Rough Sleepers funded for the Central Coast Region?
 - (a) If not, when will this service be available?

Answer—

The Government has assertive outreach services currently operating in three local government areas, City of Sydney, Newcastle and Tweed Shire. The expansion of assertive outreach to other locations is currently underway and includes planned sites in the Central Coast. This is due to commence in mid-2020.

*2705 CLEANING ON THE T3 BANKSTOWN LINE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

What additional cleaning measures have been implemented on trains and stations along the T3 Bankstown line in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW is working closely with NSW Health and increased cleaning of hard surfaces at high traffic areas across the network has been rolled out, and will continue for the foreseeable future. This means a daily focus on frequently touched surfaces like handrails and opal card readers.

Our team of close to 700 cleaners are working around the clock to thoroughly clean and sanitise trains and stations using commercial grade disinfectants recommended by NSW Health.

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We have also introduced new Fleet Disinfection Crews whose sole purpose is to disinfect 2000 Sydney Trains carriages every night, by wiping down all high touch surfaces. These disinfection crews have been deployed across 22 depots between Port Kembla, Newcastle, Moss Vale and Mt Victoria and are among 140 new cleaners that have been engaged across Sydney Trains.

This is an additional measure to complement our nightly rigorous cleaning of trains and regular programmed Deep Cleaning undertaken on all fleets.

Additional cleaning is also being rolled out at the busiest 20 stations across the Sydney Trains network, with extra staff cleaning hard surfaces such as opal tap stations, benches, hand rails and buttons.

*2706 CLEANING OF SCHOOLS IN THE BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

What additional cleaning measures have been implemented in schools within the Bankstown electorate in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer—

Enhanced cleaning commenced progressively across New South Wales schools starting 23 March 2020. All schools in the Bankstown electorate are part of the enhanced cleaning process.

The enhanced cleaning process includes an additional 25 per cent in cleaning hours each day and this will continue for as long as necessary.

*2707 ALLOCATION OF THE COVID-19 STIMULUS PACKAGE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

(1) Considering the the Government's \$2.3 billion dollar COVID-19 stimulus package, how much will be allocated to the Bankstown electorate?

(2) Will any amount be allocated for specific projects or purposes within the Bankstown electorate?

(a) What support will be provided to local businesses and industries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Bankstown electorate?

Answer—

The Government's \$2.3 billion stimulus package is intended to benefit businesses, industries and communities across the whole state.

The Government has announced two stimulus packages to protect jobs, businesses and vulnerable members of the community over the next six months and beyond. This features \$700 million in extra health funding, tax cuts for small businesses and a commitment to job creation measures.

New South Wales local businesses and industries impacted by COVID-19, including those in the Bankstown electorate, may be eligible to access a range of support and relief measures including but not limited to:

- Payroll tax relief
- Land tax relief
- Job creation measures
- The Small Business Support Fund, and
- A \$1 billion Working for NSW fund to sustain businesses, create cash flow and retain employees.

*2708 COUNCIL FEES DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN PERIOD—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Local Government—

Will the Government ensure that Councils do not collect any fees/charges for any council facilities, grounds or centres ordinarily used and booked in advance by sporting and community groups during this COVID-19 lockdown period?

Answer—

The Government has made a series of regulatory changes to ensure council resources continue to be focused on frontline COVID-19 response efforts and to allow councils to provide financial relief to businesses and residents more easily and quickly.

The application of section 610E of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) has been broadened. Councils can waive or reduce fees if the council is satisfied that the case falls within a category of hardship or any other category in respect of which the council has determined payment should be so waived or reduced.

*2709 PROTECTION OF ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN THE BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What action has the Government taken to protect elderly residents of the Bankstown electorate regarding the COVID-19 pandemic?
- (2) What measures have been implemented by the Government to ensure elderly and vulnerable residents of the Bankstown electorate have access to groceries, in light of excessive purchases that have taken place in response to the outbreak?

Answer—

Health services are not provided on the basis of electorate.

The Service NSW hotline, 13 77 88, is now staffed 24/7 to receive non-health related COVID-19 enquiries, including requests for emergency relief from vulnerable individuals across the state. For further information please contact the Minister for Customer Service.

*2710 SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE PERSONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

- (1) Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, what preparation has been made by the Minister or the Department of Communities and Justice to support those who have a disability or are in the care of the Minister?
- (2) What provisions have been allocated to support vulnerable Social Housing residents, especially those suffering from mental health and disabilities during this lockdown period?
 - (a) Has any additional support been allocated to organisations in Bankstown that focus in assisting disabled or vulnerable residents?

Answer—

(1) The Government and non-government partners have business continuity plans in place to ensure continuity of supports during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) is supporting providers and staff across the sector to ensure critical out of home care services continue to support children and young people in care to thrive. Some of these activities include:

- supporting access to critical supplies;
- providing information and advice to staff and carers;
- providing additional supports to service providers and carers;
- supporting service providers with their concerns regarding workplace health and safety, industrial relations and personal safety for staff and children and young people in care; and
- appointing a medical practitioner to seek up to date, accurate information and health advice.

DCJ has also produced and published a number of resources and material to support children and young people in care, including those with disability, their foster carers, direct care workers, and service providers responsible for their ongoing care. These include:

Frequently Asked Questions with information on:

- service providers' business continuity planning;
- what measures should be in place for Residential and Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) homes;
- what to do if a young person or staff member in the residential house is suspected to have, or has COVID-19;
- self-isolation procedures for residential homes; and
- guidance on work, health and safety for ITC and residential providers staff

A series of tip sheets to support creative and purposeful work with children in care, including during:

- home visits;
- case planning; and
- family time.

Access to essential supports for people with disability is a priority in response to the COVID-19. The Government is adhering to the advice of health professionals and implementing a number of practices such as social distancing, self-isolation and supporting businesses in response to the recently announced restrictions. The Government is continuing to work with the Commonwealth and stakeholders in the disability sector, and taking advice as the response continues to evolve. An extraordinary meeting of the COAG Disability Reform Council was held on Wednesday 18 March to discuss a target response for people with disability to COVID-19. The communique from this meeting can be found at; <https://>

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[/www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/03_2020/drc_communique_for_18_march_covid_-_19_002.pdf](http://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/03_2020/drc_communique_for_18_march_covid_-_19_002.pdf)

(2) DCJ is focusing on informing all social housing tenants, in particular its elderly tenants, on best practice preventive measures. SMS and emails have been sent to tenants directing them to NSW Health advice, and also encouraging them to use the MyHousing app to resolve common issues. A letter has also been sent to any tenants unable to receive SMS.

DCJ is able to provide assistance to vulnerable tenants through telephone contact, so that they do not have to attend the local office. DCJ is also in the process of calling 42,000 tenants aged 60 and over to check on their welfare.

(a) DCJ has implemented a number of crucial measures to support vulnerable people in NSW. Details of the response can be found at <https://coronavirus.dcj.nsw.gov.au/home>.

*2711 SAFEGUARDS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING TENANTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

(1) Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, what action has the Government taken to safeguard Social Housing residents in apartment complexes and to further ensure that these properties are cleaned?

(a) Has the suspension of rent for Social Housing residents been considered?

(i) If so, will it be implemented?

Answer—

Questions about maintenance services in public housing properties fall within the portfolio of the Hon. Melinda Pavey MP, in her capacity as the Minister for Water, Property and Housing, as the services are delivered by the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC).

I am however advised that LAHC are increasing common area cleaning programs in multi-unit and high rise building complexes in the inner city. This service will be expanded out to more unit complex sites in the near future. The program will focus on cleaning high traffic areas and touch points in these unit blocks, such as lift buttons, door handles, bin chutes and doors, stairwells, handrails, letterboxes and shared laundries

I am further advised, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has not increased rents in line with the recent indexation of Centrelink benefits, and tenant rents will not increase as a result of any additional Centrelink benefits due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Tenants in arrears or experiencing financial hardship are requested to contact DCJ as soon as they can to discuss their circumstances.

*2712 STACEY STREET AND THE HUME HIGHWAY, BANKSTOWN UPGRADE AUGUST 2019 PROJECT UPDATE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

(1) Considering the Stacey Street and the Hume Highway, Bankstown Upgrade August 2019 Project Update, which states that 'investigations have revealed additional factors we need to confirm before our plans can be finalised so we need to extend the duration of our work in the area,' what additional factors were revealed by the investigations?

(2) What impact will the additional factors have on the estimated total capital works cost of \$450 million?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Transport for NSW engaged a specialist contractor to thoroughly investigate potential asbestos and groundwater contamination. Transport for NSW is also working with service providers to identify major utilities within the corridor.

(2) None.

*2713 GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND MEDICAL CENTRES IN THE BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE COVID-19 ASSISTANCE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

(1) What additional assistance has NSW Health provided to general practitioners and medical centres in the Bankstown electorate regarding the COVID-19 pandemic?

(2) What additional measures have been implemented to ensure the safety of general practitioners and medical centres staff in the Bankstown electorate?

Answer—

Health services are not provided on the basis of electorate.

Information for health professionals on COVID-19 is publicly available on the NSW Health website.

*2714 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE 2020—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) What assistance is going to be provided to Higher School Certification (HSC) students for the rest of the year?
- (2) How will the practical assessments for HSC students be conducted for 2020?

Answer—

(1) While it is not possible to predict and address every contingency at this time, the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) COVID-19 Response Committee which comprises the heads of all the education sectors - will meet regularly and share information with the sectors, as a priority.

Decisions and advice of the NESA COVID-19 Response Committee will be based on the principles of fairness and equity that have always underpinned the internationally recognised Higher School Certificate (HSC) credential.

To help principals support HSC students at this time, principals and system authorities have been given the power to determine the number and nature of HSC assessment tasks for their students. They also have the authority to determine the number, type and weighting of tasks for Year 11 school-based assessment.

If students become unwell, their school and NESA have provisions for illness/misadventure.

(2) Practical assessments for HSC will be adjusted in line with current social distancing requirements.

For the 2020 HSC the mandatory group performance exam in Drama and the mandatory ensemble performance exam in Music Extension have been cancelled.

Other performance exams that breach social distancing requirements will be modified.

Year 11 (Preliminary) and Year 12 (HSC entry) VET students will not be required to undertake NESA work placement.

Advice on major projects for Visual Arts, Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, Textiles and Design, English Ext 2 and Society and Culture will be issued following the next meeting of the NESA Board COVID-19 Response Committee.

*2715 HOUSING NSW PROPERTIES LOST IN BUSHFIRES RE-ACCOMMODATING TENANTS—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

Will the original tenants of Housing NSW properties lost in the bushfire crisis of 2019-20 in New South Wales be re-accommodated in the re-built homes?

Answer—

I am advised by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) that only one property owned by the NSW Land & Housing Corporation (LAHC) was destroyed during the recent New South Wales bushfires. This property is located at Batemans Bay.

I am further advised DCJ is currently supporting and working with the tenant who occupied this property, and have offered temporary accommodation as required. DCJ are actively seeking a suitable dwelling to have this tenant resettled into a different property.

Questions about the re-build and development of social housing owned by LAHC should be referred to the Minister for Water, Property and Housing.

*2716 LED STREETLIGHT ROLLOUT—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Is Wollongong Local Government Area eligible to have street lights replaced with light-emitting diode (LED) street lights as part of the Government's LED Streetlight Rollout?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (2) How many street lights have been replaced under the rollout (as at 24 March 2020)?
- (3) How many street lights will be replaced under the rollout in:
 - (a) 2020;
 - (b) 2021?
- (4) How many street lights in the Wollongong Local Government Area have been replaced under the rollout (as at 24 March 2020)?
- (5) How many street lights in the Wollongong Local Government Area will be replaced under the rollout

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in:

- (a) 2020;
- (b) 2021?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As at 24 March 2020 approximately 36,000 streetlights have been upgraded across the state.
- (3) It is forecast that the number of upgraded streetlights across the state will exceed 60,000 by December 2021, with approximately:
 - (a) 15,000 upgrades in 2020.
 - (b) 25,000 upgrades in 2021.
- (4) As at 24 March 2020 approximately 2,200 street lights have been upgraded in the Wollongong Local Government Area.
- (5) It is forecast 5,500 streetlights will be upgraded in the Wollongong Local Government Area by December 2021 with approximately:
 - (a) 1,300 upgrades in 2020.
 - (b) 2,000 upgrades in 2021.

*2717 MINE REHABILITATION SECURITY DEPOSITS—Mr Paul Scully asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) What is the total value of mine rehabilitation security deposits held (as at 24 March 2020)?
- (2) What was the total value of mine rehabilitation deposits collected in the following financial years:
 - (a) 2018-19;
 - (b) 2019-20 (as at 24 March 2020)?
- (3) What was the total value of mine rehabilitation deposits released in:
 - (a) 2018-19;
 - (b) 2019-20 (as at 24 March 2020)?

Answer—

- (1) \$3.134 billion.
- (2) (a) \$309 million.
- (b) \$324 million.
- (3) (a) \$47 million.
- (b) \$2 million.

*2718 PAYROLL TAX—Mr Paul Scully asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Small Business—

- (1) How many businesses in each of the following electorates paid payroll tax in the 2019-20 financial year:
 - (a) Heathcote;
 - (b) Keira;
 - (c) Wollongong;
 - (d) Shellharbour;
 - (e) Kiama?
- (2) What was the total amount of payroll tax paid in each of the above electorates in the 2019-20 financial year?

Answer—

(1)

Electorate	Number of Businesses
Heathcote	174
Keira	333
Wollongong	371
Shellharbour	154
Kiama	248
Total	806

(2)

Electorate	Amount Paid
Heathcote	\$12,395,712
Keira	\$49,300,428
Wollongong	\$55,469,597
Shellharbour	\$17,681,425
Kiama	\$21,067,692
Total	\$89,538,036

Notes:

(1) Revenue NSW does not collect this data by electorate. The following postcodes are used for each electorate:

Heathcote: 2226, 2230, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2508, 2515

Kiama: 2527, 2529, 2530, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2540, 2541, 2577, 2622

Keira: 2500, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2525, 2526

Shellharbour: 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530

Wollongong: 2500, 2502, 2505, 2506, 2518, 2519, 2525, 2526, 2528

(2) The business address recorded in Revenue NSW's production system is used for the location of the business. This may differ from the trading location of the business.

*2719 MOBILE PHONE DETECTION CAMERAS—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

(1) How many drivers with vehicles registered in the following electorates received a warning notice during the three month warning period following the introduction of mobile phone detection cameras (as at 24 March 2020):

- (a) Heathcote;
- (b) Keira;
- (c) Wollongong;
- (d) Shellharbour;
- (e) Kiama?

(2) How many drivers with vehicles registered in the following electorates received a penalty as a result of an offence detected by a mobile phone detection camera since 1 March 2020 (as at 24 March 2020):

- (a) Heathcote;
- (b) Keira;
- (c) Wollongong;
- (d) Shellharbour;
- (e) Kiama?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW does not collect or maintain relating to offences on the basis of electorate.

*2720 RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONES—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

(1) Where are the nine potential locations for Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) in New South Wales for solar, wind generation and pumped hydro identified in the Chief Scientist and Engineer's Scoping Paper on the New South Wales Decarbonisation Innovation Study?

(2) What is the process for the further study of the suitability of each location identified as a potential REZ?

(3) What is the estimated timeline for establishing each REZ location?

(4) What is the estimated cost for establishing each REZ location?

(5) What is the estimated employment opportunity for establishing each REZ location?

(6) Have consultations been held with local government and businesses in each potential REZ location?

- (a) If not, why not?
- (b) If so:
 - (i) Who has been consulted?

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(ii) When were the consultations held?

Answer—

- (1) The nine potential locations were identified in the Australian Energy Market Operator's Draft 2020 Integrated System Plan. They are New England, North West New South Wales, Central West New South Wales, Southern New South Wales Tablelands, Broken Hill, South West New South Wales, Wagga Wagga, Tumut and Cooma-Monaro.
- (2) The NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy, released in 2018, identified three priority Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) in the South-West, Central-West and New England regions. The NSW Electricity Strategy, released in 2019, set out a plan to deliver these REZs, starting with a 3,000 megawatt (MW) pilot in the Central-West.
- (3) As outlined in the NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy, the Government is aiming to deliver 17,700 MW of new generation capacity in the three REZs by 2040. The pilot Central-West REZ is expected to be 'shovel-ready' by the end of 2022.
- (4) The three NSW REZs in the Central-West, New England and South-West regions represent \$23 billion in potential investment. The pilot Central-West REZ represents around \$4.4 billion in private sector investment once fully developed.
- (5) The three NSW REZs in the Central-West, New England and South-West regions are expected to support up to 2,000 construction jobs each year over the next two decades. The pilot Central-West REZ is expected to support 450 construction jobs in the local region.
- (6) Engagement with local government and businesses will be a central part of the REZ program. A market sounding was undertaken from December 2019 to January 2020 to seek feedback from energy businesses and investors. Initial targeted consultation for the Central-West REZ has begun.

*2721 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Have any locations in the Newcastle, Cessnock, Maitland, Singleton, Lake Macquarie, Muswellbrook, Dungog, and Upper Hunter local government areas been examined for their suitability for medium to large scale wind, pumped hydro or solar energy generation?
 - (a) If so, which locations were considered to be suitable for:
 - (i) Wind energy generation;
 - (ii) Solar generation;
 - (iii) Pumped hydro generation?
 - (b) If not, does the Government have plans to assess all regional areas for suitable locations for medium to large-scale renewable energy generation?

Answer—

- (1) Yes. I am advised that detailed geospatial mapping analysis has been undertaken for all regional areas of NSW as to their suitability for large scale wind, solar and pumped hydro energy generation.
 - (a) Locations considered suitable for:
 - (i) Wind energy generation - the quality of wind resources in the area is generally rated as low to medium. Small, elevated parts of the north of the Singleton, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter, Dungog and Maitland local government areas could support individual wind farms.
 - (ii) Solar generation - the quality of solar resources in the area is generally rated as low to medium. Small parts of the Singleton, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter and Maitland local government areas could support individual solar farms.
 - (iii) There are numerous locations in the elevated, northern parts of the Upper Hunter, Singleton and Dungog local government areas that have strong to very strong potential for pumped hydro projects. These are broadly identified in the NSW Pumped Hydro Roadmap and in more spatial detail on the Australian Renewable Energy Mapping Infrastructure website.
 - (b) Not applicable.

*2722 ECONOMIC STIMULUS—Mr Paul Scully asked the Treasurer—

- (1) How many small businesses in the following electorates have had their fees and charges waived under the COVID-19 stimulus package announced (as at 24 March 2020):
 - (a) Wollongong;
 - (b) Keira;
 - (c) Shellharbour;

- (d) Kiama;
- (e) South Coast;
- (f) Heathcote?
- (2) What has been the total amount of fees and charges waived for the small businesses in these electorates (as at 24 March 2020)?
- (3) Are these small businesses automatically entitled to have fees and charges waived, or must they apply for the waiver?
- (4) Which Department of agency is responsible for administering the waiver?
- (5) Has this Department or agency been in direct contact with small businesses in New South Wales to advise of the waiver?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (i) Will the Government directly contacting small businesses now?
- (6) How many additional cleaners of public infrastructure have been employed since the economic stimulus was announced in the electorates listed in (1)?
 - (a) Are these cleaners employed on a full-time, part-time, or casual basis?
- (7) What is the total number of maintenance that been brought forward for public assets in the electorates in the electorates listed in (1)?
- (8) What is the total amount of the \$500 million capital works funding brought forward in each of the electorates listed in (1)?
- (9) What specific projects have been brought forward in each of the electorates listed in (1)?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Government announced on 17 March 2020 it would be waiving \$80 million across a range of licence and permit fees for businesses for 12 months as part of its \$2.3 billion health and economic stimulus package.

The relief period commenced on 1 April 2020 or 15 April 2020 depending on the licence type.

(3) For most licences, new applications or renewals will be free of charge. For annual liquor licence fees, most licensees will have their annual liquor licence base fee and trading hours risk loading fee waived for 12 months (2020-2021 fee period).

(4) Service NSW, NSW Fair Trading and SafeWork NSW are the responsible agencies for administering the fee waiver initiatives.

(5) All licence fee waivers are communicated directly with the applicants of the specific licences at the time of application or renewal.

(6) The package is expected to provide jobs for 1,500 to 2,000 new or redeployed cleaners state-wide this financial year.

Additional cleaning has already commenced in schools, TAFE, Police and Transport facilities across New South Wales.

The Government has launched the Emergency Cleaning Stimulus Prequalification Scheme to allow cleaning service providers to prequalify for a range of work categories.

(7) The Government is delivering \$60.5 million worth of maintenance works and upgrades on public housing properties; including 50 percent in regional New South Wales. This stimulus program will deliver public housing upgrades and new supply while generating employment and economic relief. Local Government Area-level data has not yet been published.

(8) and (9) Local Government Area-level data has not yet been published.

*2723 INDUSTRY CAPABILITY AND SUPPLY CHAIN NETWORKS—Mr Paul Scully asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) Has the Government asked the Department of Industry to review the New South Wales' industry capability and supply chain networks in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (i) Will that request now be made?
 - (b) If so, when will the Department provide its report?

Answer—

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There is no Department of Industry. However, the New South Wales Government has been undertaking this work to secure critical supplies, raw materials or manufacturing capability to produce critical supplies during the COVID-19 crisis.

*2724 ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL HOUSING—Mr Paul Scully asked the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) What portion of the \$250 million in additional maintenance expenditure will be spent on maintenance of social housing?
 - (a) Of that amount:
 - (i) How much will be spent on social housing properties in the:
 - (i) Wollongong Local Government Area;
 - (ii) Wollongong electorate?
 - (ii) How many properties will this provide maintenance for in:
 - (i) Wollongong Local Government Area;
 - (ii) Wollongong electorate?
 - (iii) When will these additional maintenance activities commence?
 - (iv) Are there any restrictions or limitations, other than the quantum of funds available, on the type of maintenance activities that can be undertaken?
 - (i) If so, what are the restrictions?

Answer—

The Government has allocated \$47 million towards accelerated maintenance and repairs to social housing assets across New South Wales, as part of the Health and Economic Stimulus Package 2.

The Government has also allocated \$16 million for the cleaning of social housing assets as part of its first Health and Economic Stimulus Package.

The social housing locations for the expenditure of the monies are currently being considered, and will be actioned on a priority and ability-to-deliver basis.

The Government's economic stimulus packages are aimed at keeping people in jobs, helping businesses and supporting our most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information is available at www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/Covid-19Stimulus.

*2725 KARIONG JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRE—Ms Liesl Tesch asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

- (1) How many assaults against staff took place at the Kariong Juvenile Justice Centre in each financial year from 2015-16 to 2018-19?
- (2) How many staff were on extended medical leave in each financial year from 2015-16 to 2018-19?
- (3) How many staff left the centre due to a workers compensation reason in each financial year from 2015-16 to 2018-19?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government makes the safety of staff and detainees the highest priority. I am advised incidents of assault by a young person on staff at Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre for 2015-16 to 2018-19 are approximately:

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (to 31 March 2020)
Total	15	21	26	40	28

It is important to note that Youth Justice custodial staff report all incidents of assault in a client management database (CIMS), without discriminating based on severity.

- (2) I am advised Youth Justice does not keep specific records of 'extended medical leave'.
- (3) I am further advised that staff leave Youth Justice centres for a variety of reasons (i.e. retirement, promotion, resignation). Youth Justice does not record the numbers of staff who have left a centre specifically due to a workers compensation reason. Similarly, this is not tracked through the workers compensation system.

*2726 PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL HILL ROAD BENNELONG PARKWAY INTERSECTION—Ms Lynda Voltz asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Has the Minister written to Parramatta Council regarding the impact of Stage 2 of the Parramatta

Light Rail on the intersection of Hill Road and Bennelong Parkway Wentworth Point?

- (a) If not, when will the Minister inform Parramatta City Council so they can undertake work to improve the safety of this intersection which is currently a place of regular motor vehicle accidents and considered so dangerous it tops the Parramatta City Council priorities for works?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW wrote to the City of Parramatta Council in August 2019 to advise that the proposed Stage 2 alignment should not impede Council from installing traffic signals at the intersection of Hill Road and Bennelong Parkway.

*2727 FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHERS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Customer Service—

- (1) In 2019, how many Creative Kids vouchers were claimed in the Fairfield electorate?
(2) What is the breakdown by activity claimed?

Answer—

- (1) 3,346 vouchers were redeemed in the Fairfield electorate in the 2019 calendar year.
(a) The breakdown of redeemed voucher by Activity type is:

Activity Type	Total
Coding	157
Music	783
Dance	1,672
Language(s)	148
Mutlimedia	53
Parkour	174
Creative Expression	10
Drawing	324
Painting	22
Creative writing	3
Activity Total	3,346

*2728 SANITARY MEASURES IN NEW SOUTH WALES SCHOOLS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

What extra sanitary measures have been put in place to protect students in New South Wales schools, given that schools will remain open during the COVID-19 crisis?

Answer—

During the current situation the Department of Education is implementing the recommendations of NSW Health.

The Department is increasing the supply of hygiene products, including soap to public schools and is reinforcing school hygiene practices to limit the impact of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in our schools.

Due to the difficulty schools are having in sourcing some hygiene supplies the Department is centrally sourcing supplies for distribution to schools. Schools are receiving supplies of materials from a number of distribution centres across the State.

Where schools notify the Department they require additional products, internal processes are in place to respond quickly with targeted provisions.

Where there has been a positive COVID-19 test on a site, the recommendations of NSW Health are followed and a Hygienic clean of the school is undertaken.

Enhanced cleaning commenced progressively across NSW schools starting 23 March 2020. The enhanced cleaning process includes an additional 25 per cent in cleaning hours each day and this will continue for as long as necessary.

*2729 MEASURES FOR RETAILERS COVID-19—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

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What measures have been taken to ensure retailers do not significantly raise prices on essential items due to panic-buying during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer—

Complaints about retailers unreasonably raising prices during the pandemic made to NSW Fair Trading will be investigated, and if appropriate traders will be asked to justify any unreasonable price increases on essential items.

Legitimate business reasons could include increased transportation costs, increased staff costs, shortage of a particular good due to extenuating circumstances such as drought or price increases from the manufacturer or supplier.

If there is no known legitimate business reason for the increased price, a public warning can be issued under section 86A of the Fair Trading Act, which allows the Minister to warn the public about the conduct of a business.

Complaints can be reported to NSW Fair Trading online or by calling 13 32 20. A copy of my announcement on these reforms can be viewed at www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-better-regulation-and-innovation/media-releases/price-hikes.

*2730 RESOURCES ALLOCATED FOR FAIRFIELD AND CUMBERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

(1) What extra resources have been allocated to assist with panic-buying for:

- (a) Fairfield Local Government Area;
- (b) Cumberland Local Government Area?

(2) Where have the extra resources been placed?

Answer—

Extra taskings of police have been deployed to major supermarkets in the Fairfield City, Cumberland and Auburn Police Area Commands each day.

The additional taskings are also supported by deployments of high-visibility police to central business districts and major shopping precincts on an ongoing basis.

*2731 SERVICE NSW CENTRES SANITARY MEASURES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Customer Service—

What sanitary measures have been put in place to assist representatives at Service NSW outlet counters to limit the spread of COVID-19?

Answer—

Service NSW has and continues to comply with all Public Health Orders as publicly available on the NSW Legislation website. Service NSW has implemented various measures to assist representatives and customer to limit the spread of COVID -19. A summary of these measures can be found on the Service NSW website.

*2732 SOCIAL DISTANCING ENFORCEMENT—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Are police attending private property premises such as shopping centres to ensure social distancing practices are taking place?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is working closely with NSW Health and other government agencies to minimise risks to the wider community in relation to COVID-19. Police are working with retailers and customers across the state and have an increased presence in supermarkets and retail centres in the interest of community safety.

*2733 REMOTE SCHOOL LEARNING—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

(1) Will a remote learning system be put in place for students in New South Wales schools at all levels of education?

- (a) If so, when?

Answer—

(1) Yes a remote learning system has been put in place for students in New South Wales schools to support all levels of education. On 6 March 2020, the Learning from Home hub (platform) was established on the Departments website at education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home to create a repository of information, resources and key information to guide principals, teachers and parents in the delivery of learning for students from home.

(a) Teachers, School Leaders, parents and students have had access to the Learning from Home hub since 14 March 2020.

*2734 EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL PROTECTION—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

What extra protection has been provided such as facemasks and sanitiser to limit the exposure to COVID-19 for emergency service personnel?

Answer—

The Government is taking all steps necessary to protect the community and our emergency service workers and their agencies.

Emergency services agencies continue to liaise with NSW Health to determine where any further personal protective equipment or clothing is required for the activities of emergency services personnel.

Information relating to extra protection for emergency services personnel is widely available on agency websites and social media pages, as well as the Government's COVID-19 information page, available at www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19.

*2735 POSTPONEMENT EVENT FEES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

What measures are in place to stop event co-ordinators and vendors from charging postponement fees to customers who have had their events postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer—

The Australian Consumer Law has a national unfair contract term provision that protects consumers by removing unfair terms in standard consumer contracts.

Under the provision, a term is unfair if these conditions are met:

- if the contract term is one-sided and greatly favours the business over the consumer;
- there is no satisfactory commercial reason why the business needs such a term; and
- the consumer will suffer financial loss, inconvenience or other disadvantage if the term is enforced.

*2736 STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES FAIRFIELD SUPERMARKETS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

Has State Emergency Services been deployed in Fairfield to assist with traffic and crowd control as a result of panic-buying sprees at supermarkets?

Answer—

I am advised:

No.

*2737 CHARGES FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

How many people have been charged in the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 for domestic abuse behaviour that could be described as 'coercive control'?

Answer—

I am advised:

As "coercive control" is a broad term which is not covered by a specific offence in New South Wales, this information is not available.

*2738 IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

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What action, if any, has been taken to introduce the public education initiative recommended in Recommendation 10 of the 2011-12 report of the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team Annual Report?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government is committed to increasing primary prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault and increasing public awareness through education initiatives.

Recommendation 10 of the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team 2011-2021 Report has been implemented.

The Government completed the rollout of targeted ethical bystander initiatives for high risk communities in year one of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence for Reform 2016-2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children.

The Government supports the 'Stop it at the Start' campaign, which aims to help break the cycle of violence by encouraging adults to reflect on their attitudes and have conversations about respect with young people. The Government contributed \$2.5 million in 2016-2017 to this national primary prevention campaign that aims to contribute to a reduction in violence against women and their children.

Additionally, on 16 March 2020, the Government committed to consulting on laws to ban coercive and controlling behaviour in recognition of it being identified as a precursor to intimate partner homicides in a significant number of cases. Consultation will be undertaken in 2020.

The Government continues to make significant financial contributions to other national efforts for the prevention of domestic violence, such as contributing to Our Watch in 2019 and Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety.

*2739 DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW INTO INTENSIVE CORRECTION ORDERS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections—

(1) Have you ordered a departmental review into Intensive Correction Orders?

(a) If so:

- (i) When did it commence?
- (ii) When will it be completed?
- (iii) Where will it be available?

Answer—

The Attorney General and I requested a departmental review into Intensive Correction Orders on 23 December 2019. The timing for completion of the review is subject to change pending other priorities concerning COVID-19.

*2740 INTENSIVE CORRECTION ORDERS DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

(1) Have you ordered a departmental review into Intensive Correction Orders?

(a) If so:

- (i) When did it commence?
- (ii) When will it be completed?
- (iii) Where will it be available?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections and I requested a departmental review focusing on whether operational processes associated with Intensive Correction Orders have been implemented in practice. The review is occurring 18 months after reforms to Intensive Correction Orders were made. The review was requested on 23 December 2019. The timing for completion of the review is subject to change pending other priorities concerning COVID-19.

*2741 VICTIMS COMPENSATION COSTS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

(1) Does the information on page 88 of the NSW Department of Justice Annual Report 2018-19 mean victim's compensation costs were over twice as large in 2019 as in 2018?

(a) If so, why?

Answer—

I am advised:

The victims compensation costs for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19 disclosed in the NSW Department of Justice Annual Report 2018-19 are correct.

The year on year movement in the expense account is principally explained by an increase in claims recognised and a differential impact from the independent actuarial valuation adjustment of the Victims Support Scheme liabilities. The remainder relates to end of year accounting adjustments and other non-cash movements.

*2742 INFORMATION ABOUT HOUSING TENANTS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—

What personal information does your Department seek or obtain from Community Housing Services about housing tenants?

Answer—

I am advised the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) does not obtain personal information about tenants living in properties managed by community housing providers.

Community housing providers do provide de-identified program delivery information to DCJ on a quarterly basis. Information is collected at a de-identified resident level.

*2743 DRAFT WESTERN SYDNEY AEROTROPOLIS PLAN—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

(1) Why does the Draft Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan include much of the Kelvin Park Estate as Regional Parkland?

(2) What compensation is proposed for the land owners of the area included in Regional Parkland?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) There are two potential regional parks identified in the Draft Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan (the Plan) for investigation. The southern park is indicatively shown in the structure plan in the vicinity of Kelvin Park Estate extending into the Aerotropolis Core. It is intended that this southern regional park will connect the environmental setting of the Wianmatta-South Creek corridor to the urban areas in the Aerotropolis Core.

(2) At this stage only the lands identified in the Plan with a commitment to acquire will be acquired under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 with its legislative mechanisms to provide compensation for land acquisition on just terms. Submissions received in response to the exhibition of the Plan will be considered prior to any land being rezoned.

*2744 DISCUSSIONS WITH JAMES HARDIE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

What was the substance of your discussion with James Hardie concerning the Asbestos Injuries Compensation Fund on 27 August 2019?

Answer—

My discussions with James Hardie focused on the legal and operating environment of the Asbestos Injuries Compensation Fund.

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Appendix A

	Full Time		Part Time		Total Police Officer Headcount	Total Police Admin Headcount	Vacancies
	Police Officer Headcount	Police Admin Officer Headcount	Police Officer Headcount	Police Admin Officer Headcount			
30 June 2014	2	68	0	13	2	81	9
30 June 2015	2	67	0	10	2	77	13
30 June 2016	2	72	0	8	2	80	14
30 June 2017	2	82	0	11	2	93	10
30 June 2018	2	80	0	10	2	90	12
30 June 2019	4	63	0	9	4	72	27