



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 450

FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2021

(The Questions and Answers Paper published every Tuesday of each week will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous sitting and any new questions. On subsequent days, new questions are printed, as are questions to which answers were received the previous day. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.)

Notice given on date shown

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 435 (Including Question Nos 4998 to 5014)	05 March 2021
Q & A No. 436 (Including Question Nos 5015 to 5021)	08 March 2021
Q & A No. 437 (Including Question Nos 5022 to 5022)	09 March 2021
Q & A No. 438 (Including Question Nos 5023 to 5035)	10 March 2021
Q & A No. 439 (Including Question Nos 5036 to 5045)	11 March 2021
Q & A No. 440 (Including Question Nos 5046 to 5046)	12 March 2021
Q & A No. 441 (Including Question Nos 5047 to 5078)	15 March 2021
Q & A No. 442 (Including Question Nos 5079 to 5086)	16 March 2021
Q & A No. 443 (Including Question Nos 5087 to 5088)	17 March 2021
Q & A No. 444 (Including Question Nos 5089 to 5089)	18 March 2021
Q & A No. 445 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 446 (Including Question Nos 5090 to 5090)	22 March 2021
Q & A No. 447 (Including Question Nos 5091 to 5093)	23 March 2021
Q & A No. 448 (Including Question Nos 5094 to 5095)	24 March 2021
Q & A No. 449 (Including Question Nos 5096 to 5100)	25 March 2021
Q & A No. 450 (Including Question Nos 5101 to 5106)	26 March 2021

12 FEBRUARY 2021

(Paper No. 435)

*4998 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD PAYMENT—Mr Latham asked the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Why have the following groups been excluded from the \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card payment?
- (a) Disability pensioners?
 - (b) Carers?

Answer—

I am advised:

This question was asked of the Minister for Transport and Roads, but has been referred to me, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, for response.

I refer you to the previous response to LA 4161.

*4999 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—DRIVING FINES—Mrs Houssos asked the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Can the Minister please provide a table with the following information relating to driving offences, (similar to <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/roads/safety-rules/demerits-general.pdf>), including:
- (a) The law?
 - (b) The description?
 - (c) The fine level?
 - (d) The fine dollar amount?
 - (e) The number of demerit points?
- (2) For c. d. and e. at question (1) above, please provide this information for each financial year from 2011-12, to 2020-21.

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW regularly publishes information on driving offences under road transport laws (including the law reference, offence description, fine amount, and the applicable demerit points). The information is provided as a guide only and does not substitute the relevant legislation.

Information about driving offences as at 14 August 2020 can be located at: <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/index.cgi?action=demeritpoints.form>

*5000 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—PARKING FINES—Mrs Houssos asked the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Can the Minister please provide a table with the following information relating to parking offences, (similar to <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/roads/safety-rules/demerits-parking.pdf>), including:
- (a) The law?

- (b) The description?
 - (c) The fine level?
 - (d) The fine dollar amount?
 - (e) The number of demerit points?
- (2) For c. d. and e. at question (1) above, please provide this information for each financial year from 2011-12, to 2020-21.

Answer—

I am advised:

Transport for NSW regularly publishes information on parking offences under road transport laws (including the law reference, offence description, fine amount, and the applicable demerit points). The information is provided as a guide only and does not substitute the relevant legislation.

Information about parking offences as at 14 August 2020 can be located at: <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/roads/safety-rules/demerits-parking.pdf>

*5001 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—SMART DRUMLINE TRIAL TOTAL COSTS—Mr Field asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) In the 2019/20 financial year (or comparable reporting period) how much was spent in total (including contractor and scientific assessment costs) on the Shark Management Alerts in Real Time (SMART) drumline trial (which appears to be only on the North Coast)?
- (2) In the 2018/19 financial year (or comparable reporting period) how much was spent in total (including contractor and scientific assessment costs) on the SMART drumline trials (which appears to include the North Coast, Newcastle, Sydney and Bega Valley)?
- (3) In the 2017/18 financial year (or comparable reporting period) how much was spent in total (including contractor and scientific assessment costs) on the SMART drumline trials (which appears to include Coffs Harbour and Sawtell, Forster/Tuncurry, Kiama and Shell Cove, Ulladulla and Narrawallee, Ballina)?

Answer—

- (1) In 2019/20-\$2,485,144.
- (2) In 2018/19 - \$2,292,825.
- (3) In 2017/18 - \$2,267,409.

*5002 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—SMART DRUMLINE SOURCE OF FUNDING—Mr Field asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) Has all of the funding for the Shark Management Alerts in Real Time (SMART) drumline trials been sourced from the NSW Shark Management Strategy?
 - (a) If not, how much funding came from other sources?
 - (i) What are these sources?
- (2) Has all of the funding for contractors engaged in the SMART drumline trials been sourced from the NSW Shark Management Strategy?
 - (a) If not, how much funding came from other sources?
 - (i) What are these sources?

Answer—

- (1) No.
 - (a) See table for costs per year:

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	TOTAL
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1,444,642	2,267,409	2,292,825	2,485,144	8,490,020
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- (b) Treasury supplementary funding.
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(2) No.

- (a) As per 1a above.
(b) As per 1 b above.

*5003 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—SMART DRUMLINE TRIAL STATUS—Mr Field asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) What is the status of the Shark Management Alerts in Real Time (SMART) drumline trial for each of the following regions:
- (a) North Coast region?
 - (b) Newcastle region?
 - (c) Sydney region?
 - (d) Bega Valley region?
 - (e) Coffs Harbour and Sawtell?
 - (f) Forster/Tuncurry?
 - (g) Kiama and Shell Cove?
 - (h) Ulladulla and Narrawallee?
- (2) For each of the above trials, what is the status of the independent verification of the trial results, as previously committed to?
- (a) When are the verified results expected to be made public?
- (3) The SharkSmart website lists the North Coast trial as the only SMART drumline trial conducted during the 2019/2020 Summer. Is this correct?
- (a) If so, why were trials in other regions not conducted over this period?

Answer—

- (1) Status per region:
- (a) North Coast region - continuing.
 - (b) Newcastle region - completed.
 - (c) Sydney region - completed.
 - (d) Bega Valley region - completed.
 - (e) Coffs Harbour and Sawtell - completed.
 - (f) Forster/Tuncurry - completed.
 - (g) Kiama and Shell Cove - completed.
 - (h) Ulladulla and Narrawallee - completed.
- (2) All data provided by the SMART drumlines contractors is checked for accuracy and completeness by DPI research staff, and once the data is entered into the database, it undergoes another check for accuracy and completeness.
- (a) All data from the SMART drumline trials is on the DPI SharkSmart website.
- (3) Yes.
- (a) Trials have concluded in the other regions.

*5004 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—NSW SHARK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY—Mr Field asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) In the 2019/20 financial year how much was spent on the following program areas (or similarly detailed program areas), as part of the NSW Shark Management Strategy:

- (a) Aerial surveillance?
 - (b) Drone trials and drone training programs?
 - (c) Shark tagging program, excluding use of the Shark Management Alert in Real Time (SMART) drumlines?
 - (d) SMART drumlines
 - (e) Contractors engaged in the SMART drumline trial?
 - (f) Meshing program?
 - (g) Contractors engaged for the meshing program?
 - (h) The development and monitoring of other emerging technology, including sonar trials and electric fence?
 - (i) Any other program areas?
- (2) What is the anticipated spending for the 2020/21 financial year, for the following program areas (or similarly detailed program areas), as part of the NSW Shark Management Strategy:
- (a) Aerial surveillance?
 - (b) Drone trials and drone training programs?
 - (c) Shark tagging program, excluding use of the SMART drumlines?
 - (d) SMART drumlines?
 - (e) Contractors engaged in the SMART drumline trial?
 - (f) Meshing program?
 - (g) Contractors engaged for the meshing program?
 - (h) The development and monitoring of other emerging technology, including sonar trials and electric fences?
 - (i) Any other program areas?

Answer—

- (1) In the 2019/20 financial year under the NSW Shark Management Strategy funding was spent on:
- (a) \$1,435,694.
 - (b) \$135,000.
 - (c) \$29,404.
 - (d) \$0 under Shark Management Strategy due to separate supplementary funding.
 - (e) \$0 under Shark Management Strategy due to supplementary funding.
 - (f) \$0 under Shark Management Strategy as it is covered under a different funding allocation.
 - (g) \$0 under Shark Management Strategy as it is covered under a different funding allocation.
 - (h) \$0.
 - (i) i. Any other program areas:
- (2) The anticipated spend for the 2020/21 financial year for the NSW Shark Program is:
- Aerial surveillance for the meshing program - \$0.2 million
 - Drone surveillance with Surf Life Saving NSW - \$2 million
 - SMART drumlines on the North Coast - \$1.3 million
 - Shark Observation Grants Program - \$0.2 million
 - Shark meshing program - \$1.8 million
 - Capital upgrade of VR4G technology - \$0.3 million
 - NSW SharkSmart community education campaign, research, maintenance, and management of current technologies - \$2.158 million.

*5005 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—SMART DRUMLINE TRIAL COST BREAKDOWN—Mr Field asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) For each of the 2019/20 and 2018/19 financial years (or comparable reporting period) North Coast Shark Management Alerts in Real Time (SMART) drumline trials, how much was spent on the following components of the trails:
- (a) SMART drumlines (with number of drumlines)?

- (b) Acoustic tags (with number of tags)?
 - (c) Mini-tag satellite external (with number of tags)?
 - (d) Internal tags (with number of tags)?
 - (e) Contractor costs?
 - (f) Scientific assessment costs?
 - (g) Other?
- (2) For each of the 2019 Summer (or comparable reporting period) Newcastle, Sydney and Bega SMART drumline trials, please provide a breakdown of spending:
- (a) SMART drumlines (with number of drumlines)?
 - (b) Acoustic tags (with number of tags)?
 - (c) Mini-tag satellite external (with number of tags)?
 - (d) Internal tags (with number of tags)?
 - (e) Contractor costs?
 - (f) Scientific assessment costs?
 - (g) Other?

Answer—

- (1) Trials per year.* Asterisk denotes a combination of tagging by DPI scientists and Contractors

(a)	2018/2019	2018/2019	2019/2020	2019/2020
	Cost (\$)	Number	Cost (\$)	Number
a) SMART drumlines	375	0	0	35
b) Acoustic tags	69,764	163	71,476	167
c) Mini-tag satellite external *	52,500	20	48,500	21
d) Internal tags	0	0	0	0
e) Contractor costs	1,096,888	7	2,157,035	5
f) Scientific assessment costs	1,006,343		16,807	
g) Community Engagement and education	189,594		311,302	

*Asterisk denotes a combination of tagging by DPI scientists and Contractors

- (2) Breakdown

- (a) Newcastle ** SMART Drumlines purchased in a previous year.

	Cost (\$)	Number
a) SMART drumlines	0	10**
b) Acoustic tags	3424	167
c) Mini-tag satellite external *	0	
d) Internal tags	0	0
e) Contractor costs	256,880	1

- (b) Sydney ** SMART Drumlines purchased in a previous year.

(Cost (\$)	Number
a) SMART drumlines	0	20***
b) Acoustic tags	3424	8
c) Mini-tag satellite external *	0	0
d) Internal tags	0	0
e) Contractor costs	567,091	2

- (c) Bega ** SMART Drumlines purchased in a previous year.

	Cost (\$)	Number
a) SMART drumlines	0	10**
b) Acoustic tags	2996	7

c) Mini-tag satellite external *	0	0
d) Internal tags	0	0
e) Contractor costs	256,880	1

*5006 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—SHARK MESHING (BATHER PROTECTION) PROGRAM—Mr Field asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) What was the total spend, including contractor costs, for the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program, for:
 - (a) Financial year 2018/19?
 - (b) Financial year 2019/20?
- (2) Was all of the funding for the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years sourced from the NSW Shark Management Strategy?
 - (a) If no, how much funding is coming from other sources?
 - (i) What are these sources?
- (3) How many peer reviewed studies have used data from the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program since its inception?

Answer—

- (1) Total spend:
 - (a) \$2 million
 - (b) \$2 million
- (2) No
 - (a) \$2 million
 - (i) Treasury Department allocation
- (3) 18 - with DPI research scientists as authors. The data is publicly available on the DPI SharkSmart website for external research scientists to access.

*5007 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE—REGIONAL DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM—Mrs Houssos asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) Regarding the Regional Digital Connectivity Program, what is:
 - (a) The total allocation to the fund or program?
 - (b) Each project or initiative funded within the fund or program?
 - (c) The purpose of each project or initiative funded?
 - (d) The total dollar amount provided to each project or initiative funded?
 - (e) The New South Wales electorate location of each project or initiative funded?

Answer—

The \$400 million Regional Digital Connectivity Program is fully funded through the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund. The program builds on the Government's \$50 million Connecting Country Communities Fund which has delivered improved connectivity services to a wide range of locations across regional NSW.

The Regional Digital Connectivity Program includes:

- \$100 million Gig State project to improve internet connectivity and services. Target locations have been announced publically.
- \$300 million Mobile Coverage program to address mobile blackspots where people live and work in regional NSW.
- Farms of the Future, a pilot program which showcases the benefits agricultural technology can

deliver for drought resilience, improved productivity and enhanced water security.

*5008 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE—SNOWY HYDRO LEGACY FUND—Mrs Houssos asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

(1) Regarding the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund, what is:

- (a) The total allocation to the fund or program?
- (b) Each project or initiative funded within the fund or program?
- (c) The purpose of each project or initiative funded?
- (d) The total dollar amount provided to each project or initiative funded?
- (e) The New South Wales electorate location of each project or initiative funded?

Answer—

The \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest in major and transformative infrastructure across regional NSW.

The fund will help to deliver critical infrastructure and priority initiatives identified in the 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW, NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2018- 2038 and other long-term government plans.

The five areas of immediate focus will be improved water security, rail and road transport connections, freight linkages, digital connectivity and Special Activation Precincts to attract more industry investment in the regions.

For further information, please refer to the Budget Papers.

*5009 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE—CONNECTING COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND—Mrs Houssos asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

(1) Regarding the Connecting Country Communities Fund, what is:

- (a) The total allocation to the fund or program?
- (b) Each project or initiative funded within the fund or program?
- (c) The purpose of each project or initiative funded?
- (d) The total dollar amount provided to each project or initiative funded?
- (e) The New South Wales electorate location of each project or initiative funded?

Answer—

The NSW Government has committed \$50 million to the Connecting Country Communities Fund, including \$39 million for the Mobile Blackspot Program and \$11 .5 million for the Regional Digital Connectivity Project which invests in fixed wireless pilot projects.

This investment will improve regional voice and data connectivity where people live and work across regional NSW.

To date, 120 mobile towers are in operation and have been announced with a further 20 coming soon.

*5010 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE—TOLL RELIEF BY ELECTORATE—Mrs Houssos asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) For financial year 2019-20, please provide the following data on the toll relief free or discounted registration program, for each New South Wales electorate. If electorate breakdown is not available, please provide by Local Government Area or suburb:
- (a) Number of drivers eligible for free registration
 - (b) Number of drivers eligible for half priced registration
 - (c) Number of drivers who successfully received free registration
 - (d) Number of drivers who successfully received half priced registration

Answer—

This is a matter for the Minister for Customer Service.

***5014 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—M5 CASHBACK BY ELECTORATE—**Mrs Houssos asked the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) For financial year 2019-20, please provide the following data on the M5 cashback program, for each New South Wales electorate. If electorate breakdown is not available, please provide by Local Government Area or suburb:
- (a) Number of drivers eligible or registered for cashback?
 - (b) Number of drivers who successfully claimed cashback at least once in the financial year?

Answer—

I am advised: Transport for NSW does not hold the information requested in this form.

5 MARCH 2021

(Paper No. 450)

5101 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—PUBLIC SERVICE SENIOR EXECUTIVES REMUNERATION AND REDUNDANCIES—Mr Mookhey to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

In the Department of Education:

- (1) How many public service senior executive (PSSE) redundancies were made in the 2020-21 financial year? Please provide a break-down by PSSE band.
- (2) What was the total pre-tax amount paid in redundancies, including redundancy payments and accrued entitlements, to PSSE staff in 2020-21 financial year? Please provide a total for each PSSE band.
- (3) What was the mean total remuneration package for each PSSE band as at 1 September 2020?
- (4) What was the mean total remuneration package for each PSSE band as at 1 March 2021?

5102 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—HOME SCHOOLING—Mrs Houssos to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Does the Minister support the recommendations of the 'Measurement and outcome-based funding in New South Wales schools' Inquiry, in particular the recommendation "That the Department of Education require its schools to seek to conduct exit interviews of parents when students leave a school"?
- (2) How many children have been registered for home schooling in 2020?
- (3) What percentage of these have been listed as choosing to do so because of:
 - (a) Bullying
 - (b) Disability
 - (c) abuse
- (4) What funding, if any, goes towards the education of children who are home schooled?

- (5) What happens to the funding that children did have, who then move to home schooling?
- (6) Given the significant increases in children who are home schooled, what is the Department doing to stem this tide away from the Department and is it recognising there are systemic failings for many children, including those with a disability?
- 5103 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—TEACH PROGRAMS—Mrs Houssos to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—
- (1) How many teach scholarships are available for:
- (a) Rural experience program
 - (b) Teach and learn scholarship
 - (c) Inclusive Practice in education?
- (2) How many applications have you had for the following scholarship programs in 2019, 2020 and 2021?
- (a) Rural experience program
 - (b) Teach and learn scholarship
 - (c) Inclusive Practice in education?
- 5104 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RESTRUCTURE—Mrs Houssos to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—
- (1) What was the cost of the most recent Department of Education restructure?
- (2) How much of this money was spent on payment to external consultants (not already employed by the NSW government) to carry out this restructure?
- (3) How much was spent on paying out redundancies and other such payments or packages for departmental employees as a result of this restructure?
- 5105 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—DISABILITY STUDENT SUPPORT—Mrs Houssos to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—
- (1) How many NSW public school students have a hearing impairment?
- (a) How many NSW public school students who have hearing loss currently have access to an itinerant hearing teacher?
- (2) Do you collect data on the number of students in NSW who have dyslexia or other learning difficulties?
- (a) If so, do these students qualify for equity loadings?
 - (b) What other support are these students offered?
- (3) How many NSW public schools currently access the specialised allied provider scheme? Please provide a figure broken down by school funded and parent funded.
- (4) How many NSW public school students accessed the specialised allied health provider scheme in 2019, 2020 and 2021 so far? Please provide a list of the allied health professionals that can be accessed as part of the provider scheme.
- 5106 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—CLASSROOM FURNITURE—Mrs Houssos to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—
- (1) How many NSW Public schools currently use modular furniture in the classroom?
- (2) Are you aware of any NSW Public Schools who don't have enough desks and/or chairs for every student?
- (a) If so, how many?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales