



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 463

WEDNESDAY 24 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. 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
Q & A No. 451 (Including Question Nos 5107 to 5121)	29 March 2021
Q & A No. 452 (Including Question Nos 5122 to 5123)	30 March 2021
Q & A No. 453 (Including Question Nos 5124 to 5124)	31 March 2021
Q & A No. 454 (Including Question Nos 5125 to 5126)	01 April 2021
Q & A No. 455 (Including Question Nos 5127 to 5135)	02 April 2021
Q & A No. 456 (Including Question Nos 5136 to 5141)	05 April 2021
Q & A No. 457 (Including Question Nos 5142 to 5142)	06 April 2021
Q & A No. 458 (Including Question Nos 5143 to 5147)	07 April 2021
Q & A No. 459 (Including Question Nos 5148 to 5150)	08 April 2021
Q & A No. 460 (Including Question Nos 5151 to 5152)	09 April 2021
Q & A No. 461 (Including Question Nos 5153 to 5178)	12 April 2021
Q & A No. 462 (Including Question Nos 5179 to 5180)	13 April 2021
Q & A No. 463 (Including Question Nos 5181 to 5190)	14 April 2021

3 MARCH 2021

(Paper No. 448)

*5094 PUBLIC SERVICE AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS, ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS, AND THE ARTS—AHIP FOR WAHLUU—Mr Shoebridge 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—

- (1) When did the process for the AHIP commence?
- (2) Which individual applied for the AHIP?
 - (a) What organization did this individual represent?
- (3) Who finalised and signed off on the outcome of the AHIP?
- (4) Were there any conflict of interest declarations, at any stage, of the AHIP process?
- (5) Is there evidence that the AHIP satisfied the community consultation requirements set out under the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019?

Answer—

- (1) There was no Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for the Mt Panorama Go-Kart approved development.
- (2) Not applicable. Approval under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, through an AHIP application, was not required. (b) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable. Approval under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, through an AHIP application, was not required.
- (4) Not applicable. Approval under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, through an AHIP application, was not required.
- (5) Not applicable. Approval under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, through an AHIP application, was not required.

*5095 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE—REGIONAL NSW CLUSTER REDUNDANCIES—Ms Sharpe asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) As the lead Minister for the Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at Regional NSW from July 2020 to date?
 - (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (2) As you are the lead Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at Regional NSW?
 - (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (3) As the lead Minister for the Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at Local Land Services from July 2020 to date?
 - (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (4) As you are the lead Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or

- announced but not yet finalised at Local Land Services?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (5) As the lead Minister for the Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (6) As you are the lead Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (7) As the lead Minister for the Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Cross-Border Commissioner from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (8) As you are the lead Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Cross-Border Commissioner?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (9) As the lead Minister for the Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Department of Primary Industries from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?
 - (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (10) As you are the lead Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Department of Primary Industries?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (11) As the lead Minister for the Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been finalised at the Public Works Advisory from July 2020 to date?
- (a) Which departmental areas were these affected position/s previously allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s were these affected position/s previously located within?

- (c) What date/s were these redundancies finalised?
 - (d) What is the full monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?
- (12) As you are the lead Regional NSW Cluster, how many redundancies have been proposed and/or announced but not yet finalised at the Public Works Advisory?
- (a) Which departmental area/s are these affected position/s currently allocated to?
 - (b) Which geographical area/s are these affected position/s currently located within?
 - (c) What date/s are these redundancies proposed to be finalised?
 - (d) What date/s were these redundancies proposed and/or announced?
 - (e) What is the full projected monetary value of these redundancies in savings per annum?

Answer—

As of July 2020:

There have been no forced redundancies in the Department of Regional NSW and there are no planned forced redundancies.

24 MARCH 2021

(Paper No. 463)

- 5181 POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES—ILLEGAL BOW HUNTING OF DEER IN SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Ms Hurst to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—
- (1) How many reports of deer killed or injured by arrows have been received by Sutherland Police in the last three years?
 - (2) How many penalty notices have been issued by Sutherland Police for bow and arrow hunting in the last three years?
- 5182 SKILLS AND TERTIARY EDUCATION—PUBLIC UNIVERSITY OVERSIGHT—Mr Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education, and Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans—
- (1) How does public oversight of the management of public universities currently occur?
 - (a) What are the mechanisms, regulations, laws and policies for public oversight?
 - (2) Is the Minister aware that current NSW legislation, introduced during the premiership of Barry O'Farrell, watered down provisions for independent oversight and accountability of university executives and senior management?
 - (3) Is it true that student and staff representation on university governing bodies has been reduced and the powers of academic senates to review or question executive decisions have also been reduced or removed in universities in NSW?
 - (a) Is this consistent with their public funding and mission?
 - (4) What steps has the Minister taken regarding the use of 'commercial-in-confidence' clauses to shield university executives from financial scrutiny and accountability?
 - (5) What consultation with staff and students are required by university executives for decisions about staffing, curricula and expenditure?
 - (a) Are there plans to mandate increased consultation?
 - (6) Given the importance of the tertiary sector in terms of the education of our young people, the vital research it conducts, and its major contribution to the country's economy, why is there no federal or state legislation specifying the manner in which formal consultation with staff by university management should occur over all of these issues?
 - (7) Based on five-year averages, which university faculties and schools in the state/territory have the highest levels of international student enrolments?
 - (8) Based on five-year averages, which university faculties and schools employ the most casuals to

teach international students?

- (a) If this information is not available, why not?
- (9) Why are statistical and financial details that used to be contained in the annual reports of public universities only ten to fifteen years ago no longer contained in those reports?
- (10) In what ways are universities required to conduct due diligence of their finances?
- 5183 TREASURER—DINE AND DISCOVER—Mrs Houssos to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—
- (1) So far on the Dine and Discover voucher program, given the vouchers can only be used for a single transaction, what is the average transaction spend per voucher used?
- (a) Is it above, at, or below \$25?
- 5184 TREASURER—TOLLS IN THE BUDGET—Mrs Houssos to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—
- (1) For each financial year since 2011, please outline the revenue and expenditure line items resulting in the final toll road figure as published in the budget.
- 5185 TREASURER—FINES IN THE BUDGET—Mrs Houssos to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—
- (1) For each financial year since 2011, please outline the revenue and expenditure line items resulting in the final fines figure as published in the budget.
- 5186 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—TOLLS IN THE BUDGET—Mrs Houssos to ask 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 each financial year since 2011, please outline the revenue and expenditure line items resulting in the final toll road figure as published in the budget.
- 5187 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—FINES IN THE BUDGET—Mrs Houssos to ask 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 each financial year since 2011, please outline the revenue and expenditure line items resulting in the final fines figure as published in the budget.
- 5188 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—FINES FOR TRUCK DRIVERS—Mrs Houssos to ask 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 Regional Transport and Roads—
- (1) At a recent public hearing of the Senate's inquiry into the Australian road transport industry, the committee heard evidence of heavy fines imposed on truck drivers by Transport for NSW for minor indiscretions and discrepancies including spelling mistakes. One driver provided evidence that he was fined \$5000 by Transport for NSW for not giving the yellow copy of one page in his work-diary to himself as an owner-driver. How was this decision reached and how was the fine calculated?
- (2) The Chair of the Senate's inquiry into the Australian road transport industry, Senator Glenn Sterle from Western Australia received the following account from a driver: "I have been an interstate driver for a number of years and on three occasions, I have missed the turn off to Mount White southbound due to weather conditions and simply missing the turn off. Last year I missed the turn off. I turned around and went to the northbound weigh station and informed the officers of what I had done. They went through my log book and stamped my logbook with the time and they then gave me directions to get back onto the highway to go back to Sydney. When I got my fine, I wrote to the

police explaining what had happened and gave them a photo proof on my logbook that I had turned around and done the right thing however I was still fined for this offense." If a driver has acknowledged that they have done the wrong thing, like in the above account, and have made efforts to remedy the situation, why did Transport for NSW pursue this fine?

- (3) At the same inquiry, Senator Sterle also received an account from a driver who was fined almost \$700 because he abbreviated Coffs Harbour to 'Coffs Hbr' in his work diary.
 - (a) When the intent of the driver is this clear, why was this driver fined?
 - (b) How was the amount of this fine determined?
- (4) How many fines has Transport for NSW issued to heavy vehicle truck drivers per year, over the last 5 years, for spelling mistakes?
- (5) What dollar amount in fines has Transport for NSW issued to heavy vehicle truck drivers per year, over the last 5 years, for spelling mistakes?

5189 FINANCE AND SMALL BUSINESS—FINES FOR TRUCK DRIVERS—Mrs Houssos to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business—

- (1) At a recent public hearing of the Senate's inquiry into the Australian road transport industry, the committee heard evidence of heavy fines imposed on truck drivers by Transport for NSW for minor indiscretions and discrepancies including spelling mistakes. One driver provided evidence that he was fined \$5000 by Transport for NSW for not giving the yellow copy of one page in his work-diary to himself as an owner-driver. How was this decision reached and how was the fine calculated?
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5190 CUSTOMER SERVICE—FINES FOR TRUCK DRIVERS—Mrs Houssos to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Customer Service—

- (1) At a recent public hearing of the Senate's inquiry into the Australian road transport industry, the committee heard evidence of heavy fines imposed on truck drivers by Transport for NSW for minor indiscretions and discrepancies including spelling mistakes. One driver provided evidence that he was fined \$5000 by Transport for NSW for not giving the yellow copy of one page in his work-diary to himself as an owner-driver. How was this decision reached and how was the fine calculated?
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- (4) How many fines has Transport for NSW issued to heavy vehicle truck drivers per year, over the last 5 years, for spelling mistakes?
- (5) What dollar amount in fines has Transport for NSW issued to heavy vehicle truck drivers per year, over the last 5 years, for spelling mistakes?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments