



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 571

THURSDAY 26 AUGUST 2021

(The Questions and Answers Paper published on Monday to Friday of each week will contain, by number and title, all questions to which answers have been received the previous day and any new questions asked that 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. 556 (Including Question Nos 7084 to 7096)	26 August 2021
Q & A No. 557 (Including Question Nos 7097 to 7104)	27 August 2021
Q & A No. 558 (Including Question Nos 7105 to 7115)	30 August 2021
Q & A No. 559 (Including Question Nos 7116 to 7146)	31 August 2021
Q & A No. 560 (Including Question Nos 7147 to 7168)	1 September 2021
Q & A No. 561 (Including Question Nos 7169 to 7178)	2 September 2021
Q & A No. 562 (Including Question Nos 7179 to 7188)	3 September 2021
Q & A No. 563 (Including Question Nos 7189 to 7191)	6 September 2021
Q & A No. 564 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 565 (Including Question Nos 7192 to 7196)	8 September 2021
Q & A No. 566 (Including Question Nos 7197 to 7206)	9 September 2021
Q & A No. 567 (Including Question Nos 7207 to 7212)	10 September 2021
Q & A No. 568 (Including Question Nos 7213 to 7218)	13 September 2021
Q & A No. 569 (Including Question Nos 7219 to 7272)	14 September 2021
Q & A No. 570 (Including Question Nos 7273 to 7275)	15 September 2021
Q & A No. 571 (Including Question Nos 7276 to 7278)	16 September 2021

5 AUGUST 2021

(Paper No. 556)

* 7084 POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES—FIREARMS REGISTRY—The Hon. Robert Borsak to ask the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) During the COVID-19 pandemic the NSW Firearms Registry has repeatedly stated it is "business as usual" at the Firearms Registry:
 - (a) Why have we not seen a quarterly update to the 'Firearm Licensing and Ownership Statistics and Firearm and Weapon Prohibition Order Statistics' reports since December 2020?
- (2) What is the status of the update to the Registry's 'Performance Dashboards'?
 - (a) When will the Firearms Registry start delivering these reports again?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) With the recent roll out of the Gun Safe Platform, the next phase of the project includes building the Performance Dashboards. While building the Dashboards, the Quarterly Reports will be unavailable.
- (2) The Performance Dashboards are currently under development, and should be operational by the end of 2021.
 - (a) Once the Performance Dashboards have been built, the Firearms Registry will recommence publishing the reports.

* 7085 POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES—PROHIBITED WEAPONS—The Hon. Robert Borsak to ask the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) Of the prohibited weapons (silencer) permits issued for the Business/Employment Purposes genuine reason:
 - (a) What is the breakdown by the applicant's firearm licence type (i.e. Primary Production; Vertebrate Pest Animal Control; Occupational Requirements Relating to Rural Purposes; Animal Welfare; Firearms Collection) for the following years:
 - (i) 2015?
 - (ii) 2016?
 - (iii) 2017?
 - (iv) 2018?
 - (v) 2019?
 - (vi) 2020?
 - (vii) 2021 to 30 June 2021?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (i) 2015
 - Primary Production - 0
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Contract Shooter - 1
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Govt Agency - 2
 - Business/Employment - 3
 - Dealer (outside of their PW Dealer Authority) - 1

- (ii) 2016
 - Primary Production - 0
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Contract Shooter - 5
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Govt Agency - 1
 - Business/Employment - 0
 - Dealer (outside of their PW Dealer Authority) - 1
- (iii) 2017
 - Primary Production - 8
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Contract Shooter - 14
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Govt Agency - 2
 - Business/Employment - 5
 - Dealer (outside of their PW Dealer Authority) – 0
- (iv) 2018
 - Primary Production - 13
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Contract Shooter - 17
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Govt Agency - 3
 - Business/Employment - 5
 - Dealer (outside of their PW Dealer Authority) – 1
- (v) 2019
 - Primary Production - 22
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Contract Shooter - 26
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Govt Agency - 1
 - Business/Employment - 10
 - Dealer (outside of their PW Dealer Authority) – 1
- (vi) 2020
 - Primary Production - 25
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Contract Shooter - 30
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Govt Agency - 5
 - Business/Employment - 5
 - Dealer (outside of their PW Dealer Authority) – 1
- (vii) 2021
 - Primary Production - 3
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Contract Shooter - 31
 - Vertebrae Pest Animal Control – Govt Agency - 5
 - Business/Employment - 9
 - Dealer (outside of their PW Dealer Authority) – 0

Notes: The above figures reflect permit issue date (by calendar year).

*Permits issued in partial calendar year (1 Jan – 30 Jun 2021)

* 7086 CUSTOMER SERVICE—COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMS—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Customer Service, and Minister for Digital—

- (1) What was the total number of staff in Service NSW when 2021 COVID-19 business support programs were announced?
- (2) What was the total number of staff in Service NSW when 2021 COVID-19 business support programs were opened for applications?
- (3) Have more staff been allocated to Service NSW to process these programs?
 - (a) If so, how many additional staff have been allocated to Service NSW?
 - (b) Of the additional staff how many are:
 - (i) New permanent employees of Service NSW?

- (ii) New part-time or casual employees of Service NSW?
- (iii) Re-deployed from other Government departments or agencies?
- (iv) Contractors?
- (c) If the new staff in (3) (b) (iii) above are re-deployed from other departments or agencies, from where these employees were re-deployed?
 - (i) How long will these re-deployments last?
- (d) What is the average cost per contract staff member in (3) (b) (iv) above?

Answer—

- (1) 4154 Service NSW employees and 1213 contractors.
- (2) Applications opened 19 July 2021, on 22 July 2021 Service NSW had 4308 employees, plus 1133 contractors.
- (3) Yes.
 - (a) 195 employee roles and 499 contractor roles. This includes new roles and roles created to cover attrition.
 - (b)
 - (i) 34
 - (ii) No casual employees, 160 temporary employees.
 - (iii) 4 staff from Transport for NSW, and over 311 staff from other areas of the Department of Customer Service.
 - (iv) 499
 - (c) Refer to the answer to question 3 b (iii).
 - (i) There is no fixed end date to redeployment arrangements. Service NSW is continually evaluating its resourcing needs to ensure that it continues supporting the NSW community as part of the NSW Government's response to COVID19. Redeployment arrangements are reviewed in consultation with other agencies.
 - (d) Contract based staff are paid at market rates reflective of the role they are undertaking.

* 7087 CUSTOMER SERVICE—GRANT APPLICATIONS—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Customer Service, and Minister for Digital—

- (1) How many applications were received from the Wollongong local government area for:
 - (a) 2021 COVID-19 business grant?
 - (b) JobSaver payment?
 - (c) 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant?
- (2) How many applications were received from the Shellharbour local government area for:
 - (a) 2021 COVID-19 business grant?
 - (b) JobSaver payment?
 - (c) 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant?
- (3) For the applications in (1) and (2):
 - (a) How many applications have been approved?
 - (b) What was the average processing time for applications?
 - (c) How many applications have yet to be assessed?
 - (d) How many applications have been rejected?

- (i) What were the top 3 reasons for their rejection?
- (4) What was the average grant approved to businesses in the Wollongong local government area for:
 - (a) 2021 COVID-19 business grant?
 - (b) JobSaver payment?
 - (c) 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant?
- (5) What was the average grant approved to businesses in the Shellharbour local government area for:
 - (a) 2021 COVID-19 business grant?
 - (b) JobSaver payment?
 - (c) 2021 COVID-19 micro-business grant?
- (6) What was the average number of days between approval and payment for the assistance in (1) and (2)?

Answer—

This question is best directed to the Minister for Finance and Small Business.

* 7088 CUSTOMER SERVICE—REBATES FOR SMALL BUSINESS—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Customer Service, and Minister for Digital—

- (1) How many businesses in the Wollongong local government area have applied for rebates for small business fees and charges?
 - (a) How many business have been:
 - (i) Approved?
 - (ii) Rejected?
 - (iii) Awaiting approval?
 - (b) What is the average rebate that has been approved for businesses?
- (2) How many businesses in the Shellharbour local government area have applied for rebates for small business fees and charges?
 - (a) How many business have been:
 - (i) Approved?
 - (ii) Rejected?
 - (iii) Awaiting approval?
 - (b) What is the average rebate that has been approved for businesses?

Answer—

This question is best directed to the Minister for Finance and Small Business.

* 7089 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—WOLLONGONG MASS VACCINATION CENTRE—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) What is the total cost of the lease of the building accommodating the Wollongong Mass Vaccination Centre in Crown Street, Wollongong?
- (2) What is the length of the lease for the building accommodating the Wollongong Mass Vaccination Centre?
- (3) What was the total cost of the fit-out of the Wollongong Mass Vaccination Centre?
- (4) Was any material from Illawarra used in the fit-out?

- (a) If so, please list the materials supplied?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (5) Was any labour sourced from Illawarra used in the fit-out?
 - (a) If so, please list the labour sourced?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1-5) I am advised the Wollongong Mass Vaccination Centre is leased for one year starting from 1 July 2021, with an option for a six-month extension, at a cost of \$1.122 million per annum including GST. The total cost of the fit out was \$5.1 million. All electrical components and some other materials were sourced from Illawarra suppliers. Labour was sourced locally.

* 7090 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—KANAHOOKA ROAD—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Has Transport for NSW commissioned any designs for a southbound on-ramp and northbound off-ramp at Kanahooka Road?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) How long ago was this commissioned?
 - (ii) What was the estimated total cost of the ramps?

Answer—

I am advised:

Refer to the response to LA 6024.

* 7091 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—M1 BETWEEN WOLLONGONG AND DAPTO—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Has the modelling and assessment of the future performance of the M1 between Wollongong and Dapto been completed?
 - (a) If so, when will the results be available to the public?
 - (b) If not, on what date will it be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The modelling and assessment of the future performance of the M1 in this locality is being considered as part of a holistic study of the Mount Ousley to Yallah movement corridor. Modelling and assessment is ongoing and a public release date is still to be determined.

* 7092 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—FAIRY MEADOW STATION—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What was the total cost of the access upgrade of Fairy Meadow station?
 - (a) Was material from the Illawarra used on the project?
 - (i) If so, what was the proportion?
 - (ii) If not, why not?
 - (b) Was labour sourced from the Illawarra used on the project?

- (i) If so, what was the proportion?
- (ii) If not, why not?
- (2) On what date did the lifts at Fairy Meadow station become available for public use?
- (3) On how many days since the lifts at Fairy Meadow station were available for public use have they unavailable?

Answer—

- (1) Fairy Meadow Station upgrade was completed at a cost of \$9.7 million as part of the Transport Access Program, which provides better experiences for public transport customers by delivering modern, safe and accessible infrastructure.

As part of this project, all concrete, earthworks and asphalt material were sourced from Illawarra plants and quarries, with approximately a quarter of labour on the project also sourced from the Illawarra.

- (2-3) The lifts at Fairy Meadow station were opened for public use on 12 October 2020. Since operation, the lifts have been out of service on seven occasions and returned to service the same day.

* 7093 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—TOWRADGI STATION ACCESS UPGRADE—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) On what date is construction expected to be completed on the Towradgi Station access upgrade?
- (2) What is the total expected cost of the access upgrade at Towradgi Station?
 - (a) Was material from the Illawarra used on the project?
 - (i) If not, why not?
 - (ii) If so, what was the proportion?
 - (b) Was labour sourced from the Illawarra used on the project?
 - (i) If not, why not?
 - (ii) If so, what was the proportion?
- (3) How long after construction has been completed will the lifts at Towradgi Station be available for public use?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on project completion and the total expected cost payable to the contractor is publicly available.

The procurement of materials for the upgrade has not yet concluded. Where possible, the contractor will procure materials sourced locally. A series of material and services will be sourced from the Illawarra during the project, including concrete, earthworks material, hardware supplies, demolition works, asbestos removal, excavation of contaminated material, and labour hire.

Labour for the project has been sourced from the Illawarra. This will continue to increase as the project moves through the construction phase. The current proportion of labour sourced from the Illawarra for this project is approximately 25%.

* 7094 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—UNANDERRA STATION ACCESS UPGRADE—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Has a construction contract been awarded for the Unanderra Station access upgrade?
 - (a) If so, on what date?
 - (b) If not, why not?

- (2) On what date will construction commence?
- (3) What is the expected completion date of construction?
- (4) How long after construction has been completed will the lifts at Unanderra Station be available for public use?
- (5) Does the final plan include a covered walkway for the footbridge?
 - (a) If not:
 - (i) Why not?
 - (ii) What is the estimated cost of providing a covered walkway for the footbridge?

Answer—

I am advised:

In March 2021, Degnan Constructions were awarded the contract to carry out building modifications and forecourt work for the Unanderra Station access upgrade.

A second contract to build a new footbridge and lifts is expected to be awarded in late September 2021, with construction expected shortly thereafter. Construction will include a new, covered walkway as part of this project.

Information on project completion and the total expected cost payable to contractors is publicly available.

* 7095 WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING—TOUCHDOWN OFFICE NETWORK—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Further to the answer to LA question on notice 5755:
 - (a) Have the final sites for the Government's touchdown office network been decided?
 - (i) If so, does it still include a site in Wollongong?
 - (ii) If not, why not?
 - (b) On what date will the touchdown office in Wollongong be available for use?

Answer—

I am advised:

Property and Development NSW is currently reviewing the public service's future workplace requirements in Wollongong, allowing for significant changes arising from machinery of government changes, changing work practices and the impact of COVID19 on flexible working.

* 7096 WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING—WOLLONGONG DESALINATION PLANT—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Has a site for the Wollongong desalination plant been selected?
 - (a) If so, what is the address of the site?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (2) What is the estimated construction cost of the proposed Wollongong desalination plant?
- (3) What is the capacity of the proposed Wollongong desalination plant?
- (4) What date will the Wollongong desalination plant be operational?

Answer—

Sydney Water is currently undertaking strategic planning for a range of water supply augmentation options. The Illawarra has been identified as a potential location for a future desalination plant. Initial investigations

have previously been undertaken by Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment (DPIE) and Water NSW. More information will be available through the Greater Sydney Water Strategy.

6 AUGUST 2021

(Paper No. 557)

* 7097 FINANCE AND SMALL BUSINESS—BLUE WREN FARM—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business—

- (1) Why has the Government granted \$146,980 to the Blue Wren Farm in Mudgee for the creation of a Barn Restaurant?
 - (a) What funding program was the money allocated from?
 - (b) Who initiated the grant?
- (2) Why can't the Blue Wren Farm as a profitable enterprise fully fund its own business expansion and capital works into the Barn Restaurant?
- (3) What role did the Member for Dubbo play in securing the government money for Blue Wren Farm?
- (4) Was there a competitive process in the determination of funding?
- (5) In the 2020/21 financial year, what other private enterprises in New South Wales have received government funding for capital works and facility expansion?
 - (a) What are the details?

Answer—

This question is best directed to the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney.

* 7099 TREASURER—BLUE WREN FARM—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—

- (1) Why has the Government granted \$146,980 to the Blue Wren Farm in Mudgee for the creation of a Barn Restaurant?
 - (a) What funding program was the money allocated from?
 - (b) Who initiated the grant?
- (2) Why can't the Blue Wren Farm as a profitable enterprise fully fund its own business expansion and capital works into the Barn Restaurant?
- (3) What role did the Member for Dubbo play in securing the government money for Blue Wren Farm?
- (4) Was there a competitive process in the determination of funding?
- (5) In the 2020/21 financial year, what other private enterprises in New South Wales have received government funding for capital works and facility expansion?
 - (a) What are the details?

Answer—

On behalf of the Treasurer, I can advise that this question is best directed to the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney.

* 7100 CUSTOMER SERVICE—SERVICE NSW CLAIM DELAYS—Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Customer Service, and Minister for Digital—

- (1) What is the average turnaround time for processing claims for small businesses impacted by the State Government's mandatory lockdown?
 - (a) How many claims have been made?

- (b) How many claims have been processed?

Answer—

This question is best directed to the Minister for Finance and Small Business.

- * 7102 JOBS, INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND WESTERN SYDNEY—DEFENCE STRATEGY—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney—

- (1) What is the status of the Defence Strategy announced as part of the 2021-21 Budget?
- (2) How much money was spent on the Defence Strategy in 2020-21?
- (3) How much money has been allocated to the Defence Strategy in 2021-22?
- (4) When will the Defence Strategy be completed?

Answer—

- (1) The revised NSW Defence and Industry Strategy, announced as part of the 2020-21 Budget, is in the final stages of development. The NSW Government continues to support the defence industry across NSW and the update to the existing Strategy will be released in the near future.

26 AUGUST 2021

(Paper No. 571)

- 7276 BETTER REGULATION AND INNOVATION—RENTERS AND LANDLORDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) On 14 July the Government announced new support for renters and landlords impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown, including up to \$210 million in grants to eligible landlords:
 - (a) How many residential landlords have applied for a Residential Tenancy Support Payment for agreeing to reduce the rent for COVID-19 impacted tenants from 14 July 2021?
 - (b) How many residential landlords have applied the COVID-19 land tax benefit for agreeing to reduce the rent for COVID-19 impacted tenants from 14 July 2021?
 - (c) How much of the \$210 million the Government allocated to rent relief has been spent?

- 7277 CUSTOMER SERVICE—RENTERS AND LANDLORDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Customer Service, and Minister for Digital—

- (1) On 14 July the Government announced new support for renters and landlords impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown, including up to \$210 million in grants to eligible landlords:
 - (a) How many residential landlords have applied for a Residential Tenancy Support Payment for agreeing to reduce the rent for COVID-19 impacted tenants from 14 July 2021?
 - (b) How many residential landlords have applied the COVID-19 land tax benefit for agreeing to reduce the rent for COVID-19 impacted tenants from 14 July 2021?
 - (c) How much of the \$210 million the Government allocated to rent relief has been spent?

- 7278 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—BRUMBY MANAGEMENT IN KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK (KNP)—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) How many brumbies have been trapped and removed from the northern end of Kosciusko National Park (KNP) since 1 September 2019?

- (2) Has on-site euthanasia at trap site by shooting been trialled in northern end of KNP since 1 September 2019 to current date?
 - (a) If so, how many brumbies were shot?
- (3) Has on-site euthanasia at trap site by shooting in the northern end of KNP been adopted as part of the post 2020 fire control programme?
 - (a) If so, how many brumbies have been shot?
- (4) Have any brumbies been destroyed by shooting by National Park Wildlife Services (NPWS) field staff away from trap sites in the northern end of KNP since 1 September 2019?
- (5) Have any brumbies been destroyed by shooting by NPWS contractors away from trap sites in the northern end of KNP since 1 September 2019?
- (6) How many brumbies have trapped and removed from Yarrangobilly and surrounds since 1st September, 2019?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament