



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 602

TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 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. 589 (Including Question Nos 7539 to 7560)	12 October 2021
Q & A No. 590 (Including Question Nos 7561 to 7571)	13 October 2021
Q & A No. 591 (Including Question Nos 7572 to 7600)	14 October 2021
Q & A No. 592 (Including Question Nos 7601 to 7602)	15 October 2021
Q & A No. 593 (Including Question Nos 7603 to 7621)	18 October 2021
Q & A No. 594 (Including Question Nos 7622 to 7626)	19 October 2021
Q & A No. 595 (Including Question Nos 7627 to 7634)	20 October 2021
Q & A No. 596 (Including Question Nos 7636 to 7636)	21 October 2021
Q & A No. 597 (Including Question Nos 7637 to 7638)	22 October 2021
Q & A No. 598 (Including Question Nos 7639 to 7640)	26 October 2021
Q & A No. 599 (Including Question Nos 7641 to 7655)	28 October 2021
Q & A No. 600 (Including Question Nos 7656 to 7656)	29 October 2021
Q & A No. 601 (Including Question Nos 7657 to 7663)	1 November 2021
Q & A No. 602 (Including Question Nos 7664 to 7672)	2 November 2021

21 SEPTEMBER 2021

(Paper No. 589)

* 7540 CUSTOMER SERVICE—COVID PERMIT SYSTEM—The Hon. Walt Secord to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Customer Service, and Minister for Digital—

- (1) Since the COVID-19 permit system that allows people to leave local government areas (LGAs) of concern was introduced:
- (a) How many permits have been issued to people allowing them to enter the following LGAs:
 - (i) Tweed Shire?
 - (ii) Byron Shire?
 - (iii) City of Lismore?
 - (iv) Kyogle Council?
 - (v) Clarence Valley Council?
 - (vi) Tenterfield Shire?
 - (b) What is the postcode area breakdown of the permits issued allowing people to enter the following LGAs:
 - (i) Tweed Shire?
 - (ii) Byron Shire?
 - (iii) City of Lismore?
 - (iv) Kyogle Council?
 - (v) Clarence Valley Council?
 - (vi) Tenterfield Shire?
 - (c) What postcode areas were the permit holders permitted to travel to?
 - (d) What is the postcode breakdown of the areas that the permit holders were able to travel to?
 - (e) What is the breakdown by reasonable excuse for issuing permits?
 - (f) What is the check and compliance regime for permit holders?

Answer—

- (1)
- (a)
 - (i-vi) Service NSW does not capture the location the customer is intending on traveling to.
 - (b)
 - (i-vi) As above.
 - (c) As above
 - (d) As above
 - (e) Data is available on the breakdown of reasonable excuse – NSW wide.

Reasons	Count
Authorised transport worker outside Greater Sydney	3.10k

Authorised transport worker within Greater Sydney	28.32k
Authorised worker	864.89k
Authorised worker in LGA of concern	87.75k
Authorised worker with unknown work addresses	163.80k
Government inspector or worker	63.44k
Inspecting a property to live in	63.42k
Inspecting property to live in	3.62k
Moving between places of residence	15.70k
Moving residence for other reason	70.51k
Moving residence for work	34.49k
Other worker	383.06k
Other worker in Greater Sydney	36.91k
Others	3.63k
Transport worker outside Greater Sydney	2.43k
Transport worker within Greater Sydney	15.16k
Worker with unknown work addresses	104.7k

(f) This is a matter for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

* 7541 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) On 17 September, the Daily Telegraph published an article titled “Harsh lesson on gift game” Within this article it references that “in 2019, another education director accepted ticket to see U2 as gift from Allianz Insurance”:
- (a) How did the Executive Director for Health and Safety Directorates respond under the gift test to the following:
- (i) Who is providing the gift, benefit or hospitality and what is their relationship to me?
 - (ii) Does my role require me to select contractors, award grants or determine/implement policies?
 - (iii) Could the person or organisation benefit from a decision I make?
 - (iv) Are they seeking to influence my decisions or actions?
 - (v) Has the gift, benefit or hospitality been offered to me publicly or privately?
 - (vi) Is it a courtesy, a token of appreciation or highly valuable?
 - (vii) Does its timing coincide with a decision I am about to make?
 - (viii) Are they seeking a favour in return for the gift, benefit or hospitality?

- (ix) Has the gift, benefit or hospitality been offered honestly?
- (x) Has the person or organisation made several offers over the last 12 months?
- (xi) Would accepting it create an obligation to return a favour?
- (xii) Would accepting the gift, benefit or hospitality diminish public trust?
- (xiii) How would I feel if the gift, benefit or hospitality became public knowledge?
- (xiv) What would my colleagues, family, friends or associates think?
- (b) Were these responses recorded or documented in anyway?
 - (i) If not, why not?
- (c) Did Deputy Secretary Deidre Mulkerin cite these recorded or documented responses before approving this gift?
- (d) Is the approver of such gifts obliged to check the accuracy of responses to the gift test questionnaire?
- (e) Was the Deputy Secretary aware that in and around the date of gift, the Executive Director was directly implicated in a case before the Workers Compensation Commission for Bullying and Harassment in which Allianz Insurance was supporting the department in its case?
 - (i) If so, why did the Deputy Secretary not deem this a potential conflict of interest?
 - (ii) If not, why did the Executive Director not notify the Deputy Secretary of this potential conflict of interest?
- (f) Given that the advertised prices of a single ticket were as follows Category 1 Reserved - \$367.05*, Category 2 Reserved - \$264.60*, Category 3 Reserved - \$193.80*, Category 4 GA Standing - \$126.35* Category 5 Reserved - \$61.20*:
 - (i) What was the true and accurate value of the tickets gifted to the Executive Director?

Answer—

(1)

- (a) The list of 14 questions for the ‘gift test’ appear in Section 5 of the Department’s Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Procedures which are published on the internet. This aspect of the procedures was inserted in July 2020, after this gift was accepted and approved. The ‘gift test’ is additional guidance and helps inform whether a gift should be accepted or declined.
- (b) A Gift Declaration form was completed and signed by the recipient and Deputy Secretary.
- (c) Refer to 1(a) The ‘gift test’ was not in existence as part of the Department’s procedures at the time the gift was accepted.
- (d) Refer to answer 1(c).
- (e) Workers compensation matters are managed in accordance with appropriate legislation. The appointment of Allianz to any government panels or contracts is the responsibility of icare.
- (f) The estimated value of the gift declared on the gifts and benefits register was \$200. The acceptance of the offer was publicly declared and placed on the gifts register in accordance with the policy at the time.

* 7545 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—PATRONAGE EXPECTED ON THE WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT METRO—The Hon. Mark Latham 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) Given the low level of patronage expected on the Western Sydney Airport Metro (WSAM) at its opening in 2026, with the business case estimating that “the rail line would have peak line loadings

of approximately 880 passengers per hour, or about 11 per cent of the capacity of the Metro in one direction” (page 4 of the February 2021 Infrastructure Australia report):

- (a) What Sydney Metro projections are available comparing the 2026 WSAM patronage numbers with equivalent stations constructed on a South-West Rail Link (SWRL) from Leppington to Badgerys Creek Airport, servicing (five years from now) the Austral to Bringelly urban corridor and residential areas along the Northern Road, including Oran Park, Harrington Park, Cobbitty, Narellan and Camden (currently without commuter rail access)?
 - (i) What are the details?
- (b) What Transport for NSW projections are available comparing the 2026 WSAM patronage numbers with equivalent stations constructed on a South-West Rail Link (SWRL) from Leppington to Badgerys Creek Airport, servicing (five years from now) the Austral to Bringelly urban corridor and residential areas along the Northern Road, including Oran Park, Harrington Park, Cobbitty, Narellan and Camden (currently without commuter rail access)?
 - (i) What are the details?

Answer—

I am advised:

Projected patronage information about the Western Sydney Airport Metro is publicly available.

* 7546 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—UNSTAFFED ARRANGEMENTS—The Hon. Mark Latham 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) Which Sydney rail stations were moved to unstaffed arrangements in July-September this year?
 - (a) Why?
 - (b) What has happened to the staff no longer working at the stations?
 - (c) How many staff have been reallocated to other duties?
 - (d) How many staff have been stood down?

Answer—

I am advised:

Sydney Trains has temporarily reduced staff at a number of its smaller train stations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated Public Health Orders.

No employees have been stood down and station employees have not been reallocated to perform new duties. Instead, station employees have been utilised within their current role descriptions across the network.

* 7547 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—SOUTH WEST GROWTH CENTRE—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) What planning has the Government undertaken of the expected demand for school places over the next two decades in the South West Growth Centre?
- (2) What are the number and size of schools that will be needed as well as the estimated numbers of teaching staff to meet this demand?
- (3) The NSW Education Act provides that it is the duty of the State to ensure that every child receives an education of the highest quality; and that the principal responsibility of the State in the education of children is the provision of public education:
 - (a) Do all aspects of the Government’s planning for the provision of schools in the South West Growth Centre comply with the Act?
 - (i) Please provide the analysis which had been done to ensure compliance with the Act?

- (4) Are the Government's plans for the provision of schools in the South West Growth Centre publicly available?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (5) What assumptions do the Government's plans make about the number of non-government schools and places in the South West Growth Centre?
- (a) Do these plans include sites earmarked by the Government for non-government schools
- (i) If so, how many?
- (6) Has the Government had discussions with any non-government school authorities, including the Catholic Education Office or the Association of Independent Schools, about the development of new private schools in the South West Growth Centre?
- (7) Has the Government given any assurances to non-government school authorities or interest groups regarding the establishment of new government and non-government schools in this area?

Answer—

- (1-2) The Department of Education continuously monitors population and development trends so that it can plan to meet enrolment needs in government schools across NSW. Longer term projections are informed by census data, as well as dwelling and population forecasts, provided by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) in conjunction with local councils. DPIE prepares and releases these population projections to NSW Government agencies, and other organisations including Councils, to ensure a consistent view of the future NSW population. This enables NSW Government agencies to work with an agreed set of projections for proposals, business plans and strategies.

The Department's NSW student population projections are based on the NSW Population Projections. School Infrastructure NSW produces a range of investment cases and major projects for increasing supply, which are Cabinet in Confidence until approved by the NSW Government.

More information about planning for growth and school projects across NSW can be found on the Department's website at

<https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/we-build-schools/planning-for-growth-fact-sheet.html>.

- (3)
- (a)
- (i) Ensuring that students have access to a high quality education is of the utmost priority. The Department has a responsibility to provide a place in a local government school for every student seeking to enrol and we will always honour that commitment.
- Numerous strategies are used in the short to medium term to manage fluctuating enrolment demand, such as reviewing school intake areas, enforcing the Department's enrolment policy, and the use of demountable buildings. The utilisation of demountable buildings also allows the Department to be highly responsive to school enrolment needs. In cases of sustained and longer term enrolment growth, capital works interventions may be considered.
- (4) Information regarding school infrastructure projects is made available on the Department's website at <https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/>.
- (5)
- (a)
- (i) The Department refers to the Australian Bureau of Statistics for government and non-government assumptions. The Department is aware that non-government education providers may purchase land zoned for education establishments.

The Department does not earmark sites for non-government schools. That is a matter for the non-government school sector.

- (6-7) The Department works with a range of stakeholders when planning to address enrolment growth and school infrastructure needs in the South West Growth Area.

* 7548 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—PONDICHERRY LAKES PRECINCT—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Is the Government aware of an advertisement by the Greenfields Development Company in the Sydney Morning Herald (23 August 2021) calling for expressions of interest from private educational institutions for the purchase of a school site located in what is described as “an emerging prestigious precinct” – the Pondicherry Lakes Precinct?
- (2) When was permission granted for this site to be sold for the establishment of a private school campus?
 - (a) How did this occur?
 - (b) By whom?
- (3) Is the Pondicherry Lakes Precinct, which is part of the Oran Park Development, a partnership between the Greenfields Development Company and the Government agency Landcom?
- (4) According to the brief provided for Expressions of Interest, “the project developers GDC are solely responsible for bringing Pondicherry to life...”:
 - (a) Is the Greenfields Development Company solely responsible or are Landcom and the project developers jointly responsible for identifying this site for a non-government school campus?
- (5) Was the site identified initially as part of Government planning for a school, or, more specifically for a non-government school?
- (6) Will the responsibility for assessing the merits of the expressions of interest put forward by competing private educational institutions in response to this advertisement rest with the Greenfields Development Company?
- (7) Does the Greenfields Development Company have the necessary educational expertise to exercise this responsibility?
- (8) Does the Government consider that it is the role of property developers to solicit proposals for the establishment of private schools under the Education Act as part of their marketing strategy for selling properties in “prestigious developments”?
- (9) Is the Government itself involved, through Landcom, in soliciting such proposals?
- (10) What steps have been taken by the Government, to assess the impact of the establishment of a private school campus on this site in the Pondicherry Lakes Precinct on existing schools in the area?
- (11) What contact has been made by the Greenfields Development Company or Landcom with NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), as the registering authority for non-government schools?
- (12) What contact has been made by potential buyers of the land with NESA or the Department of Education regarding plans for the establishment of a school on this site in the Pondicherry Lakes Precinct?
- (13) What assurances have been sought or given, in the process of the land sale, regarding registration for the proposed school?
- (14) At what stage will NESA, as the registering authority for private schools, be involved in the sale of this site for this new private school?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Education does not hold this information.
- (3) The Department of Education does not hold this information.

- (4) The Department of Education does not hold this information.
- (5) There is no site referred to in the Expression of Interest. The Department continues to work with a range of stakeholders to secure sites for new schools in the South West Growth Area
- (6) The Department of Education does not hold this information.
- (7) The Department of Education does not hold this information.
- (8) Proposals for new housing developments including reserving land for potential future schools are considered as part of the planning processes usually through the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and local government.
- (9) The Department of Education does not hold this information.
- (10) The Department considers the provision of non-government schools in its forecasts for enrolments in existing public schools and when planning for new schools.
- (11) NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has no record of any contact from the Greenfields Development Company or Landcom.
- (12) NESA has no record of any contact from potential buyers of the land.
- (13) NESA has provided no assurances and none have been sought in regard to the land sale and the registration of a proposed school.
- (14) NESA will not be involved at any stage in the sale of the site.

* 7549 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—COVID-19 RESPONSE - HUNTER—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many ICU beds are available at each hospital in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (2) What is the ICU surge capacity at each hospital in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (3) How many ICU staff are employed at each hospital in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (4) What is the surge workforce capacity at each hospital in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (5) How many ventilators are available at each hospital in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (6) To date have any COVID-19 positive patients been transferred from Sydney to hospitals in the Hunter New England Local Health District?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) When?
 - (ii) What hospital?
- (7) How many doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines did NSW Health receive in the following weeks commencing:
 - (a) 5 July 2021?
 - (b) 12 July 2021?
 - (c) 19 July 2021?
 - (d) 26 July 2021?
 - (e) 2 August 2021?
 - (f) 9 August 2021?
 - (g) 16 August 2021?

- (h) 23 August 2021?
 - (i) 30 August 2021?
 - (j) 6 September 2021?
 - (k) 13 September 2021?
- (8) How many doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines did the Hunter New England Local Health District receive in the following weeks commencing:
- (a) 5 July 2021?
 - (b) 12 July 2021?
 - (c) 19 July 2021?
 - (d) 26 July 2021?
 - (e) 2 August 2021?
 - (f) 9 August 2021?
 - (g) 16 August 2021?
 - (h) 23 August 2021?
 - (i) 30 August 2021?
 - (j) 6 September 2021?
 - (k) 13 September 2021?
- (9) How many doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines were administered at the Belmont Mass Vaccination Centre for each the following weeks commencing:
- (a) 5 July 2021?
 - (b) 12 July 2021?
 - (c) 19 July 2021?
 - (d) 26 July 2021?
 - (e) 2 August 2021?
 - (f) 9 August 2021?
 - (g) 16 August 2021?
 - (h) 23 August 2021?
 - (i) 30 August 2021?
 - (j) 6 September 2021?
 - (k) 13 September 2021?
- (10) What is the total number of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine doses have been disposed of or wasted at the Belmont Mass Vaccination Centre?

Answer—

- (1-5) Since March 2020, the NSW Government's response to COVID-19 has been flexible and scalable to respond to the evolving situation. The NSW Government has committed to help transform our healthcare system to increase its capacity and ensure it is well placed to manage the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

NSW Health monitors Intensive Care Unit (ICU) utilisation and capacity in real time and can significantly expand ICU beds if required. Additional ventilators and other necessary equipment have been purchased to meet increased demand for ICU services.

Local health districts and speciality health networks have developed workforce surge and demand management plans to ensure there is sufficient capacity across NSW to manage both non-COVID-19 patients and patients with COVID-19.

Information about NSW's ICU and demand modelling is available on the NSW Government website at https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-09/Intensive_Care_Capacity.pdf

- (6) Two patients were transferred to John Hunter Hospital on 14 and 21 September 2021 respectively.
- (7-9) The Australian Government leads the national vaccination program, including distributing vaccine supply to states and territories. The Australian Government Department of Health website provides details regarding the number of doses provided to NSW.

The Australian Department of Health publishes vaccination rates by Local Government Area (LGA) weekly at <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/australias-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

The NSW Government publishes vaccination rates by postcode and LGA at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/find-the-facts-about-covid-19#map-of-nsw-vaccinations-by-home-postcode-and-lga>

- (10) The Australian Government requires states and territories to report all wastage, defined as five or more vials in a single instance. Since its opening on 19 July 2021 to 30 September 2021, no instances of Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine wastage have been reported at the Belmont Mass Vaccination Centre. NSW Health vaccination clinics have strategies in place to ensure minimal wastage.

* 7550 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—AGEING POPULATION AND ACCESSIBLE LIVING SPACES—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting the rising need for accessible living spaces for New South Wales's ageing population:
 - (a) What steps is the Government taking to ensure that there is sufficient supply to meet demand?
 - (i) If the Government is not taking steps, why is this the case?

Answer—

I am advised:

A clearer, simpler pathway for delivering new seniors housing is being introduced as part of the proposed Housing State Environmental Planning Policy. The proposed policy was recently exhibited for public comment and is expected to be finalised before the end of 2021.

The seniors living design guide is also being reviewed to ensure that housing for seniors and people with disability is designed to meet the needs of residents.

Regulatory analysis is currently being undertaken by the Australian Building Codes Board regarding options for potential minimum accessibility standards for housing applied through the National Construction Code.

* 7551 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—APARTMENTS AND LIVEABLE HOUSING DESIGN GUIDELINES SILVER LEVEL STANDARDS - LANDCOM - SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting that the Government has policies in place to ensure that all new social and affordable housing built by government is constructed to Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards, and that policies have been put in place policies requiring at least 20 per cent of all medium to high density dwellings developed by Landcom to meet or exceed the silver accessibility standard:
 - (a) How many social and affordable housing properties have so far been constructed which meet Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?

- (i) How many were built in financial year 2019-2020?
 - (ii) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties did these constructions constitute?
 - (iii) How many were built in financial year 2020-2021?
 - (iv) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties did these constructions constitute?
 - (v) What are the projections of social and affordable housing properties to be built before the conclusion of financial year 2021-2022?
 - (vi) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties will these constructions constitute?
- (b) How many social and affordable housing properties have so far been constructed to exceed the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
- (i) How many were built in financial year 2019-2020?
 - (ii) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties did these constructions constitute?
 - (iii) How many were built in financial year 2020-2021?
 - (iv) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties did these constructions constitute?
 - (v) What are the projections of social and affordable housing properties to be built before the conclusion of financial year 2021-2022?
 - (vi) What percentage of social and affordable housing properties will these constructions constitute?

Answer—

I am advised:

Landcom's Housing Affordability and Diversity Policy targets apply to projects that commenced between the 2017 and 2021 financial years.

Landcom released a total of 432 dwellings in scope with the Universal Housing target from 2017-2021, and met its target of 20% dwellings with a minimum of 'silver level' standard (86 dwellings).

The NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) is responsible for social housing delivery and applies a minimum Liveable Housing Australia Silver Level rating to all of its new social housing properties where level (step-free) access is available, including ground level and dwellings serviced by a lift. Where properties comprise upper level dwellings without a lift, LAHC applies a Silver Level equivalent rating to the internal spaces.

* 7552 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—APARTMENTS AND LIVEABLE HOUSING DESIGN GUIDELINES SILVER LEVEL STANDARDS - PRIVATE—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting that NSW Apartment Design Guide encourages 20 per cent of apartments within new residential apartment buildings to achieve, at a minimum, Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards:
- (a) What are the detailed steps the Government taking to ensure that developers are meeting this goal?
 - (b) How is the Government keeping track of how many apartments are meeting Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
 - (i) How many were built in financial year 2019-2020?

- (ii) What percentage of new apartments built in financial year 2019-2020 met the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
- (iii) How many were built in financial year 2020-2021?
- (iv) What percentage of new apartments built in financial year 2020-2021 met the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
- (v) How many are projected to be built in financial year 2021-2022?
- (vi) What percentage of new apartments projected to be built in the financial year 2021-2022 are expected to meet the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines Silver Level standards?
- (c) If the Government is not currently monitoring the number of apartments that meet the standards:
 - (i) When does it intend to start?
- (d) If the Government is not taking monitoring steps to ensure developers are meeting this goal:
 - (i) Why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Apartment Design Guide (the Guide) currently includes a benchmark of 20 per cent of apartments to incorporate Silver Level universal design features. Local council planning rules can require apartment developments to consider and apply these standards, and take the Guide's benchmarks into consideration when assessing apartment development applications.

The Guide is currently under review as part of the development of the new Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy, and an updated draft Guide will be exhibited for public comment later this year. This Guide will form part of any future universal housing design guide, and is structured to enable alignment of future design guidance for other housing types.

* 7553 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—MINIMUM ACCESSIBILITY PROVISIONS IN NCC—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting that announcement on 30 April 2021 that a majority of Commonwealth, state and territory Building Ministers agreed to include minimum accessibility provisions for residential housing and apartments in the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022 based on the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines (LHDG) silver standards:
 - (a) What is the rationale for the New South Wales Government declining to adopt these standards?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation.

* 7554 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—NCC AND INCREASING ACCESSIBLE HOUSING—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting that the Housing 2041: 2021-2022 Action Plan includes action item 2.7.1. calling for the Government to “Consider the proposed changes to the National Construction Code (NCC) to increase the accessibility of housing for all people”:
 - (a) What steps has the Minister taken to progress the implementation this recommendation?
 - (b) What has the Minister done to:
 - (i) Consider proposed changes to the NCC?

- (ii) Consult with stakeholders in respect to this action item?

Answer—

I am advised:

Consideration of proposed changes to the National Construction Code is being led by the Department of Customer Services in collaboration with NSW Government agencies, including the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and the Department of Communities and Justice.

The NSW Government introduced a new comprehensive housing strategy in May 2021, which sets a strategic vision and holistic approach to delivering good housing outcomes across 4 pillars of supply, diversity, affordability, and resilience. Whilst Housing 2041 outlines the long-term vision and objectives for housing in NSW, inaugural actions for delivery in the first two years have been outlined within the first Action Plan, for delivery in 2021–2022. This is publicly available at

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Reports/Policy-and-legislation/NSW-Housing-2021-22-Action-Plan-mayv2-2021.pdf>.

- * 7555 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—UNIVERSAL DESIGN REQUIREMENTS—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Noting that the Housing 2041: 2021–2022 Action Plan includes action item 2.7.2. calling for the Government to “Undertake further research to assess the cost–benefit of introducing, potentially, mandatory universal design requirements in NSW”:
- (a) Is the Minister able to provide an update on the progress of implementing this action item?
- (b) Can the Minister please outline:
- (i) What research has been undertaken as per the action item?
- (ii) Will this research be made public?
- (iii) What decisions have been driven by this research?
- (iv) What findings from this research have driven any decisions taken?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government introduced a new comprehensive housing strategy in

May 2021 that sets a strategic vision and holistic approach to delivering good housing outcomes across for pillars of supply, diversity, affordability and resilience.

While Housing 2041 outlines the long-term vision and objectives for housing in NSW, inaugural actions for delivery in the first two years have been outlined within the first Action Plan, for delivery in 2021–2022.

Teams within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) are facilitating the delivery of the following action items within the Housing Strategy Action Plans:

- 2.5.1 Develop a unified housing design guide, that will include the principles of intergenerational living and universal design (Government Architect NSW)
- 2. 7.1 Consider the proposed changes to the National Construction Code to increase the accessibility of housing for all people (Department of Customer Service in partnership with other NSW Government agencies)
- 2.7.2 undertake further research to assess the cost-benefit of introducing, potentially, mandatory universal design requirements in NSW (Housing and Property)
- 2.7.3 Prepare new universal design guidance to ensure NSW Government takes the lead (Housing and Property and Department of Communities and Justice). Note that this action item has been part completed as the Disability Inclusion Action Plan Guideline has been updated to reference universal design.

The NSW Apartment Design Guide is currently under review as part of the development of the new Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy, and an updated draft Guide will be exhibited for public comment later this year. This Guide will form part of any future unified housing design guide, and is structured to enable alignment of future design guidance for other housing types.

Work to understand the costs and benefits associated with 2. 7.2 is underway, with ongoing collaboration between the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Department of Customer Service to understand the state wide and national implications of future universal housing design requirements in NSW.

* 7557 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

(1) The Federal Government Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies describes the rich tapestry of the world's oldest surviving culture as being spread wide across the Australian continent. Many of these ancestral lands cross western imposed state and local government borders:

- (a) What steps has the Minister taken to ensure our First Nations people can travel freely across their ancestral lands without the risk of breaching COVID-19 health orders?
- (b) Does the Minister acknowledge the increased trauma caused to First Nations people who are isolated if denied access to their ancestral lands and contact with their elders?

Answer—

(1)

- (a-b) COVID-19 is a highly contagious and potentially fatal condition. Restrictions on movement and gathering have been implemented throughout the pandemic to keep people safe and prevent transmission of the disease, particularly to at-risk and vulnerable people. Restrictions are reviewed on a regular basis and will be eased as soon as it is safe to do so.

NSW Government agencies are working in partnership with local Aboriginal organisations and health services to deliver culturally appropriate COVID-19 public health responses that are informed by community need.

NSW Health has collaborated with the Australian Government and local primary care, including the Aboriginal Medical Services, to boost access to COVID-19 vaccines for communities in the Western NSW Local Health District, including pop-up vaccination clinics and mobile teams in over 30 communities to date.

* 7558 SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE—FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts—

(1) The Federal Government Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies describes the rich tapestry of the world's oldest surviving culture as being spread wide across the Australian continent. Many of these ancestral lands cross western imposed state and local government borders:

- (a) What steps has the Minister taken to ensure our First Nations people can travel freely across their ancestral lands without the risk of breaching COVID-19 health orders?
- (b) Does the Minister acknowledge the increased trauma caused to First Nations people who are isolated if denied access to their ancestral lands and contact with their elders?

Answer—

(1)

- (a) To deal with the public health risk of COVID-19 and its possible consequences, the Minister for Health and Medical Research has made a number of Orders, under section 7 of the Public Health Act 2010, which are aimed at protecting all NSW citizens including the NSW

Aboriginal community. These orders are aimed at keeping community safe and protecting Elders, and include restrictions of the movement of people into regional areas.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW has been working directly with Aboriginal communities to ensure their voice is heard and they have input about decisions impacting their communities.

- (b) While the NSW Government is aware of the impact of disconnection from country and kin has on Aboriginal peoples, the priority remains ensuring that all communities are kept safe through compliance with Public Health Orders.

* 7559 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—FRIENDS BUBBLE—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) As of 21 September 2021 a ‘friends bubble’ has been permitted under the health orders. This relaxing of the health order still has restrictions, the adults in the home are required to be fully vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus:
 - (a) Is the Minister concerned that requiring adults to be fully vaccinated for the child to be eligible to be part of a friends bubble may divide the community again between the vaccinated and unvaccinated?
 - (b) Is the Minister concerned that requiring adults to be fully vaccinated for the child to be eligible to be part of a friends bubble has the potential to cause disharmony within families?
 - (c) Is the Minister concerned that requiring adults to be fully vaccinated for the child to be eligible to be part of a friends bubble will effectively identify the medical decisions of some adult residents of New South Wales. I.e.: the parents of children not eligible to join a friends bubble?
 - (d) Given that infection rates appear to be significantly lower in outdoor environments has the Minister considered allowing children to play and interact with one another in outdoor environments regardless of their parent’s vaccination status?
 - (e) Will the Minister release the health advice supporting this relaxation of the health order?

Answer—

Encouraging adults to get vaccinated against COVID-19 reduces their risk of severe illness, hospitalisation, and death. This helps to keep people, their families, and the whole community safe, including children under 12 years of age that are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.

Restrictions will be eased further when NSW passes the 70 per cent double dose COVID-19 vaccination target for adults. The four-step National Plan agreed by National Cabinet outlines Australia’s planned transition to post-vaccination settings focused on public health management of COVID-19, consistent with other infectious diseases.

* 7560 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—NSW PARAMEDICINE COUNCIL—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Why did the NSW Paramedicine Council suspend the paramedic John Larter on 20 September 2021?
- (2) Why wasn’t Mr Larter told of the reasons for this in his suspension notice?
- (3) Why has the Minister allowed the Paramedicine Council to act in this way, without natural justice?
 - (a) What will the Minister do to rectify this problem?

Answer—

(1 & 3) I refer the Member to the response at LC 7457.

- (2) Mr Larter was advised that he would be sent a copy of the written reasons for the Council’s decision within a month. On 8 October 2021, the Council’s written reasons for the decision were sent to Mr Larter.

12 OCTOBER 2021

(Paper No. 602)

- 7664 **TRANSPORT AND ROADS—NEWGATE COMMUNICATIONS**—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads—
- (1) What was the rationale behind hiring a marketing company i.e. Newgate Communications Ltd, to manage the consultation process on the proposed new Marine Safety regulations as opposed to public servants within Maritime?
 - (2) Why was it deemed necessary for an employee of Newgate Communications to chaperone the participation of senior public servants from Maritime in an online webinar on 14 September 2021?
 - (3) What additional skills and expertise in videoconferencing and basic communication that which wasn't available within Maritime did Newgate Communications possess to perform this role?
 - (4) What is the total cost of this contract with Newgate Communications in promoting the consultation process?
- 7665 **PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—AEROTROPOLIS**—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads—
- (1) In the Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan and Precinct Plans for the Aerotropolis why have South Creek, Badgerys Creek and Kemps Creek been subject to wider conservation and open space zones than Cosgrove Creek?
- 7666 **PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—STATE INFRASTRUCTURE LEVIES**—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads—
- (1) Which land owners in the Aerotropolis have paid State Infrastructure levies since the levies have been struck by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment?
 - (a) How much has been paid?
 - (2) What infrastructure development plans have been created for the expenditure of the levies?
- 7667 **SPORT, MULTICULTURALISM, SENIORS AND VETERANS—EQUESTRIAN NSW GRANTS**—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans—
- (1) Which Office of Sport grants to Equestrian NSW have been used for national events conducted outside of New South Wales for each of the following years:
 - (a) 2021?
 - (i) What are the details?
 - (b) 2020?
 - (i) What are the details?
 - (c) 2019
 - (i) What are the details?
 - (d) 2018?
 - (i) What are the details?
 - (e) 2017?
 - (i) What are the details?
- 7668 **TREASURER—SBS INCLUSION COURSES**—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) For the two past financial years how much has the Treasury spent on SBS Inclusion courses?
 - (a) When were there courses run?
 - (b) For which staff?
 - (c) What were the contents of the courses?
- (2) How have the courses added to productivity and economic growth in New South Wales?

7669 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—COVAX 19—Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) In regards to the new COVAX-19 vaccine being developed in South Australia:
 - (a) Can the Minister please provide the following details for the COVAX-19 vaccine:
 - (i) List the biological ingredients?
 - (ii) List the non-biological ingredients?
 - (iii) What is the concentrations of these ingredients for the purpose of establishing their safety?
 - (b) Phase one of human trials were conducted in Adelaide but phase two of clinical trials are to be conducted in Iran, collaborating with local biotech CinnaGen:
 - (i) Can the Minister please explain why the change of location?
 - (c) The Iranian Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) approved the initiation of Phase 2 clinical study:
 - (i) How does the IFDA regulations and rules of transparency compare with that of the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)?

7670 SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE—EVENT INSURANCE SCHEME—Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts—

- (1) The live performance and events sectors have been hit the hardest because of the COVID-19 lockdowns.

In August 2021, the Australian Music Industry Network and the Australian Festival Association [released its latest report](#), finding that since 1 July this year, more than 28,000 live events have been cancelled, resulting in a loss of more than \$84m.

The Australian Bridal Industry Academy (ABIA Weddings) who represent 15,000 wedding businesses have stated, the wedding industry has been decimated by these lockdowns with an estimated annual financial loss in excess of \$3.3 Billion from an annual pre-COVID turnover of \$4.2 Billion.

There are a companies in the Theatre, Film, Music, Festival, Art Exhibition, Wedding, and Harbour Cruise industries that have approached us asking for a state based insurance scheme for these industries.

- (a) Will the Minister introduce such a scheme?
- (b) If the Minister agrees to introduce an insurance scheme:
 - (i) How large a pool of funds can the government allocate to such a scheme?
 - (ii) Can the Minister please outline how the scheme will be structured?
 - (iii) Will there be a cap amount per claim?
 - (iv) How much will each cap be?
 - (v) How will this cap be decided?
 - (vi) When will the scheme be introduced?

7671 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—CENTRAL COAST PUBLIC TRANSPORT—Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) We have received correspondence from constituents in the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Hunter regions that are concerned about the diminishing rail services in their areas:
 - (a) Considering the increasing number of housing developments in these regions when will planning take place so that some of these lines can be reopened or reinstated to provide frequent and reliable public transport services?
 - (b) How soon can these lines reopen?
 - (c) When rail lines are reopened, what measures will the Minister put in place to prevent fare evasion?
 - (d) What measures can the Minister implement to guarantee trains run on time and more frequently once these lines are reopened?

7672 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—NUMBER OF FARMS—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) Can the Minister indicate how many farms/farm businesses in New South Wales fall within the following bands as used in the 2019-2020 annual report into the National Drought Agreement:
 - (a) Small farms (less than \$250,000 turnover)?
 - (b) Medium farms (\$250,000-\$750,000)?
 - (c) Large farms (\$750,000 to \$2,000,000)?
 - (d) Very large farms (> \$2,000,000)?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament