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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 617

TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 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. 602 (Including Question Nos 7664 to 7672)	2 November 2021
Q & A No. 603 (Including Question Nos 7673 to 7675)	3 November 2021
Q & A No. 604 (Including Question Nos 7676 to 7682)	4 November 2021
Q & A No. 605 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 606 (Including Question Nos 7683 to 7684)	8 November 2021
Q & A No. 607 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 608 (Including Question Nos 7685 to 7685)	10 November 2021
Q & A No. 609 (Including Question Nos 7686 to 7686)	11 November 2021
Q & A No. 610 (Including Question Nos 7687 to 7687)	12 November 2021
Q & A No. 611 (Including Question Nos 7688 to 7705)	15 November 2021
Q & A No. 612 (Including Question Nos 7706 to 7712)	16 November 2021
Q & A No. 613 (Including Question Nos 7713 to 7721)	17 November 2021
Q & A No. 614 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 615 (Including Question Nos 7722 to 7724)	19 November 2021
Q & A No. 616 (Including Question Nos 7725 to 7727)	22 November 2021
Q & A No. 617 (Including Question Nos 7728 to 7730)	23 November 2021

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(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?

Answer—

I am advised:

Following a competitive procurement process, Transport for NSW engaged Newgate Communications Pty Ltd to design and deliver an engagement program to address maritime safety issues as well as support the development of the Maritime Safety Plan 2026.

This engagement was intended to augment existing resources and enable Transport for NSW staff to maintain delivery of other maritime safety initiatives.

The value of the contract is publicly available on the eTendering website.

* 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?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan (WSAP) is a strategic land use plan informed by relevant data, including the flooding data adopted by Liverpool and Penrith City Councils and the South Creek Flood Study where Cosgroves Creek is located. This study shows the 1:100 flood area is generally narrower for Cosgroves Creek when compared to South Creek, Badgerys Creek and Kemps Creek.

The Environment and Recreation Zone under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Aerotropolis) 2020* applies to all land affected by the 1:100 chance per year flood planning level, including Cosgroves Creek and is consistent with the flood study from Penrith Council. The zone also includes vegetation protected under the existing Biodiversity Certification program and the Strategic Assessment program and all Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan vegetation and landscape features such as streams.

The Draft Aerotropolis Precinct Plan was placed on exhibition in November 2020 and incorporates a finer level of detail than the WSAP by including an indicative layout plan for land within the initial precincts of the Aerotropolis. The draft Precinct Plans align with the Environment and Recreation zoning provided in the SEPP.

* 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?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) One landowner has paid a monetary contribution under the existing Western Sydney Growth Areas Special Infrastructure Contribution Plan (SIC) within the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan.
Two landowners have entered into state planning agreements within the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan. These landowners are required to provide monetary contributions and infrastructure works.
 - (a) \$192,212 has been paid in monetary contributions and the dedication of road work land.
- (2) Detail on the Special Infrastructure Contributions Plans and State Planning Agreements is available at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au, <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/svpa> and www.planning.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/Annual-Report-and-Corporate-Plan. These web addresses also provide detail on the expenditure of contributions made.

* 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?

Answer—

No funding has been provided by the Office of Sport to Equestrian NSW for national events conducted outside of New South Wales during this period.

* 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?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Treasury has spent \$56,000.00 (exclusive of GST).
 - (a-b) Courses have been available on the Learning Management System (LMS) since April 2020 and available to all staff.
 - (c) Course titles include: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; Age; Core Inclusion; Culture; Disability; Gender; LGBTIQ+
- (2) The courses have furthered employees' knowledge of diversity and the diverse communities they serve supporting the customer centricity of policies developed by Treasury.

* 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)?

Answer—

- (1)
 - (a-c) The Australian Government is leading the national COVID-19 vaccine program, including assessing vaccine safety and effectiveness and approving vaccines for use in Australia, and entering into agreements with manufacturers to buy and supply COVID-19 vaccines.

COVAX-19 (SpikoGen) is not currently approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use in Australia. More information about the TGA process is located at <https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-vaccine-approval-process>

* 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?

Answer—

The Government will continue to assess options to support industries impacted by COVID and provide greater business certainty.

Through Service NSW, the NSW Government offers a range of support packages of grants, loans and other financial assistance to support businesses that have been impacted by COVID over recent months. Full details of the support packages are available at [https://www .service. nsw .gov. au/campaign/covid-19-help-businesses/grants-loans-and-financial-assistance](https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/covid-19-help-businesses/grants-loans-and-financial-assistance).

In addition, on 17 October 2021, an \$86 million package was announced to support the arts and cultural sectors, which includes a further \$50 million to support the reopening of the performing arts sector, and \$25 million to provide certainty for the staging of music festivals across NSW.

As part of the announcement on 17 October 2021, the NSW Government has also established an Event Saver Fund that will provide support in the event major festivals and events are impacted by COVID-19 cancellations or postponements in 2022. More details on this initiative will be released in the coming weeks.

* 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?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

* 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)?

Answer—

- (1) The following number of farm businesses in New South Wales by the turnover bands is published on the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, AgSurf website;
 - (a) Less than \$500,000 turnover – 13,384
 - (b) \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 – 1,925
 - (c) More than \$1,000,000 – 1,296
 - (d) Total Farm Survey Population – 16,605

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7728 JOBS, INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND WESTERN SYDNEY—DESTINATIONS NSW GRANTS—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 Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, and Minister for Industry and Trade—

- (1) What are the various grant programs run by Destinations NSW?
 - (a) What are the terms and conditions of the grants?
 - (b) What is the amount spent in 2020/21?
- (2) For each of the programs in (1) above:
 - (a) When were they last evaluated?
 - (b) What did the evaluations show?

7729 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES—REGIONAL NSW GRANTS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, and Minister for Regional New South Wales—

- (1) What are the various Grant programs run by Regional NSW?
 - (a) What are the terms and conditions for the grants?
 - (b) What is the amount of money spent in 2020/21?
- (2) For the grant programs in (1) above:
 - (a) When were they last evaluated?
 - (b) What did these evaluations show?

7730 TREASURER—ASSETS LINE ITEMS—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) For the most recent budget, please provide the breakdown, including monetary amount and line item descriptions, of items or categories that underpin or sit behind the Assets line items:

- (a) Financial Assets at Fair Value?
- (b) Investments in Other Public Sector Entities?
- (c) Investments in Associates?
- (d) Land and Buildings?
- (e) Plant and Equipment?
- (f) Infrastructure Systems?
- (g) Right of Use Assets?
- (h) Assets Classified as Held for Sale?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament