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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 621

MONDAY 8 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. 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
Q & A No. 618 (Including Question Nos 7731 to 7738)	24 November 2021
Q & A No. 619 (Including Question Nos 7739 to 7740)	25 November 2021
Q & A No. 620 (Including Question Nos 7741 to 7744)	26 November 2021
Q & A No. 621 (Including Question Nos 7745 to 7753)	29 November 2021

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(Paper No. 606)

* 7683 WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING—LAND SALES BY VENDOR—The Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—

- (1) Please update the data provided in LC Question on Notice 3819 (answer published in Questions & Answers Paper No. 427) in regards to:
 - (a) The totals for state-owned land sold by the Government to non-state government purchasers for the following financial years:
 - (i) 2020-21?
 - (ii) 2021-22 (Projected)?
 - (b) Provide a breakdown of the yearly total by every Government vendor (Department, Agency, or other body) - including for each vendor, both the dollar value, and the total number of properties sold for the following financial years:
 - (i) 2020-21?
 - (ii) 2021-22 (Projected)?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The total number of NSW Government-owned properties sold in financial year 2020/21 was 1,733.

The total sale revenue derived from the sale of NSW Government-owned properties in financial year 2020/21 was \$774,717,361.

A breakdown of the yearly total by every NSW Government vendor for the 2020/21 financial year is provided as an attachment on the Parliament's website.

* 7684 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—CALD STAFF NETWORK—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) When was the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) CALD Staff Network launched?
 - (a) Why was it needed?
- (2) Which DPIE employees are not allowed to join the CALD Network?
 - (a) Why not?
- (3) What are the other staff networks and support groups operating at DPIE?
- (4) Why does DPIE need so many staff support networks?
 - (a) Is it because DPIE is a bad and unsupportive place to work?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (OPIE) launched its Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALO) Staff Network on 13 October 2021.
 - (a) CALO Staff Network is a voluntary employee network group.
- (2) Anyone at OPIE can join the group.
- (3) There are no support groups operating at OPIE. Other staff networks include:

- Aboriginal Staff Network
 - Disability Employee Network
 - Environment, Energy & Science Women's Employee Network
 - Young Professionals Network
 - Rainbow Connection
- (4) Employee networks are not support groups, they are employee-led voluntary networking groups.

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7745 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Has the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) provided Veolia any waste levy exemptions for their current Woodlawn facility in Tarago New South Wales?
 - (a) If so, why?
- (2) The EPA Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan (Sep 2021) states that waste incinerators must not be built in Greater Sydney urban areas to protect human health and air quality, but can be built in four regional locations:
 - (a) Why did the EPA decide that the health and air quality of regional communities living in these areas didn't require the same protection as those in Sydney?
- (3) The EPA states that they have put in place the world's strictest emissions limits in the world for waste incineration to protect health and the environment:
 - (a) If so, why aren't they being built at the source of the waste in Sydney, similar to where these facilities are placed throughout the United Kingdom (UK) and Europe?
- (4) If a waste incineration facility breaches their emissions limits, will they be immediately fined by the EPA?
- (5) What is the value of that fine compared to the revenue generated by such facilities?
- (6) What would it take for the EPA to shut one of these facilities down?
- (7) The NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer advised the Minister for Environment in November 2020, via his review of Energy from Waste, of the need to avoid placing waste incinerators in proximity to food production:
 - (a) Why did the EPA disregard this advice and make no mention of it in their Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan (Sep 2021) and identify locations as appropriate for waste incineration, such as the Southern Goulburn Mulwaree Precinct are surrounded by farming land including crops such as Canola, and large scale sheep and cattle grazing?
- (8) If these waste incineration facilities are built in regional areas, such as Tarago, given these communities rely on tank water capture from their roofs:
 - (a) Who will be liable when the emissions from the incinerators landing on their roofs contaminate their water supply?
- (9) The NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 states that one waste to energy facility is required by 2030, and an additional three between 2030 and 2040 (Jun 2021). The Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan (Sep 2021) states that it is critical to ensure the number and capacity of waste incineration facilities is strategically managed so it does not exceed the forecast volume or risk undermining higher priority waste options:
 - (a) How is the Government going to manage this when there are currently four active State Significant Project applications for these facilities already underway?

7746 BETTER REGULATION AND INNOVATION—QUAD BIKE SAFETY REBATE—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) What is the annual cost of the Government's Quad Bike Safety Rebate?

7747 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—LINDFIELD LEARNING CENTRE—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) Following the recent review of the Lindfield Learning Centre:
 - (a) What action is the Minister taking about the substandard academic performance of the school, as evident in:
 - (i) The review showing that one-third of Year 9 students have gone backwards in Reading and Numeracy in their two years of 'learning' since Year 7?
 - (ii) The school under-performing in NAPLAN results when compared to its local rival schools, Lindfield Public and Lindfield East?

7748 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMS—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 Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Further to the Minister's answer to Question on Notice 433, as a product of the Government's climate change programs:
 - (a) What has been the net reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide in New South Wales for each of the following years:
 - (i) 2019?
 - (ii) 2020?
 - (iii) 2021 (estimated)?

7749 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—OUTER SYDNEY ORBITAL ROUTE—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 reference to an email from Helen Borland, an AECOM consultant, to Transport for NSW (TFNSW) on 23 September 2015 highlighting the "additional costs" to Government of moving the Outer Sydney Orbital (OSO) route away from the Sydney Science Park (SSP) land:
 - (a) Given that the initial planning for the OSO bisected the SSP site and the final OSO route follows a S-bend alignment between Badgerys Creek and Luddenham to avoid impacts on the SSP:
 - (i) What is best estimate of the additional costs involved in the future construction of the OSO corridor (road and rail freight) by following the longer route now adopted by Government?

7750 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—DEVELOPMENTS IMPACTING WILDLIFE—The Hon. Mark Pearson to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Regarding the Kamay Ferry Wharf proposal at La Perouse, is the Department aware of any endangered species that would be impacted by the development?
 - (a) If so, how is the Department ensuring their protection?
- (2) Is the Department aware of the Frensham School's proposed development at Southern Highland Shale Woodland, which is listed as critically endangered by the Commonwealth and endangered by the State of New South Wales?

- (3) Given Frensham School's proposed development would see 249 koala trees cleared along with the destruction of habitat belonging to wombats, platypus and at least 50 other species, can the Department explain:
- (a) How such a project is allowed to proceed in a critically endangered ecological community?
 - (b) What action it intends to take?

7751 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—MAGPIES—The Hon. Mark Pearson to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) How many licenses to harm magpies did the Department issue to landholders in the last year?
- (2) In regards to the National Parks and Wildlife Service's 2003 policy "Management of Native Birds That Show Aggression to People" which has been undergoing review and was scheduled for release in 2021:
 - (a) Can the Department provide an estimate as to when this new policy will be published and come into effect?
 - (b) Did the Department take into consideration society's increasing expectation for wildlife management to be non-lethal?
 - (i) If so, how did this shape the new policy?

7752 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—WILDLIFE RESCUE—The Hon. Mark Pearson to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) How many wildlife rescue organisations and individually licensed wildlife carers are currently licensed in the Blue Mountains Local Government Area?
- (2) Over the last five years, how many applications were made by members of the Blue Mountains Local Government Area (LGA) to become individually licensed wildlife carers?
 - (a) How many of these were accepted?
- (3) Of the rejected applications of individuals in the Blue Mountains seeking to become individually licensed wildlife carers:
 - (a) What was the most common justification for rejection?
- (4) Over the last five years, how many applications were made by members of the New South Wales public to become individually licensed wildlife carers?
 - (a) How many of these were accepted?
- (5) Of the rejected applications of individuals in New South Wales seeking to become individually licensed wildlife carers?
 - (a) What was the most common justification for rejection?
- (6) What is the Department's position on multiple wildlife rescue organisations operating in an overlapping area?
 - (a) Why is this the Department's position?
- (7) How many complaints of bullying or related misconduct within the wildlife care sector has the Department received each year over the last 20 years?
- (8) How many complaints of funds misappropriation within the wildlife care sector has the Department received each year over the last 20 years?
- (9) How much funding has the Department dedicated toward financially supporting wildlife carers each year over the last 20 years?
- (10) How much funding has the Department dedicated toward supporting the mental health of wildlife carers each year over the last 20 years?

7753 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—WOMBAT MANGE—The Hon. Mark Pearson to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) In regards to the Ministers previous statement that the Minister supports a “national approach” to combatting mange in wombats:
 - (a) Can the Minister clarify to what extent the Government will be providing financial or other resources to assist with this problem?
- (2) In regards to the Ministers previous statement that bare-nosed wombats are not threatened in New South Wales and that the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) “actively manages threats to their populations”:
 - (a) Can the department please provide:
 - (i) The best estimate as to the percentage of wombats in New South Wales that are affected by mange?
 - (ii) An explanation as to how this was estimated?
- (3) Given NPWS is working with Sydney University to assess mange in wombats using 10 years of data:
 - (a) Can the Minister provide an update on the research findings so far?
 - (b) Can the Minister provide an indication of when the final study results will be made public?
- (4) Given NPWS is conducting a Bravecto drug trial in the Bents Basin area, and taking into consideration that several wildlife carers say Bravecto is not the “magic bullet” for mange:
 - (a) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of how much funding is being provided for:
 - (i) The Bravecto trial?
 - (ii) Other treatment plans?
 - (b) Please provide a list of the other treatment plans identified in (4) (a) (ii)?
- (5) Given the Minister says the Government has dedicated \$6.25 million toward its Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Strategy, can the Minister state:
 - (a) How much of this funding will be dedicated to mange?
 - (b) Which wildlife rescue groups will get what amounts of funding?
 - (c) Which wombat-focused rescue groups will receive what amount of this funding?
- (6) Over the last five years, how much money has the Government dedicated to treating mange in wombats?
- (7) Has the Department considered allowing individual members of the public to apply for permits to use moxidectin to treat wombats suffering with mange on their property?
 - (a) Has the Department written to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority in order to request this?
- (8) Has the Department undertaken any study of the wombat’s role in maintaining biodiversity in New South Wales?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (9) How many licenses to harm wombats did the Department issue to landholders each calendar year over the last 10 years to 2020?
- (10) In cases where the Department has given landholders licenses to harm wombats over the last 10 years:
 - (a) Does the Department record the justifications landholders give?
 - (b) What was the most common justification used to obtain a license to harm wombats?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales