



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21-22

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 692

WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2022

(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.

<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 677 (Including Question Nos 8254 to 8262)	2 March 2022
Q & A No. 678 (Including Question Nos 8263 to 8297)	3 March 2022
Q & A No. 679 (Including Question Nos 8298 to 8300)	4 March 2022
Q & A No. 680 (Including Question Nos 8301 to 8310)	7 March 2022
Q & A No. 681 (Including Question Nos 8311 to 8316)	8 March 2022
Q & A No. 682 (Including Question Nos 8317 to 8321)	9 March 2022
Q & A No. 683 (Including Question Nos 8322 to 8322)	10 March 2022
Q & A No. 684 (Including Question Nos 8323 to 8325)	11 March 2022
Q & A No. 685 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 686 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 687 (Including Question Nos 8326 to 8332)	16 March 2022
Q & A No. 688 (Including Question Nos 8331 to 8372)	17 March 2022
Q & A No. 689 (Including Question Nos 8373 to 8382)	18 March 2022
Q & A No. 690 (Including Question Nos 8383 to 8385)	21 March 2022
Q & A No. 691 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 692 (Including Question Nos 8386 to 8386)	23 March 2022

**9 FEBRUARY 2022**

(Paper No. 677)

\* 8254 HEALTH—FREE TESTS AT TESTING CENTRES—The Hon. Courtney Houssos to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many Rapid Antigen Tests have been distributed for free at testing centres or hubs?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the response provided at LC 8098.

\* 8255 HEALTH—RAT PURCHASES—The Hon. Courtney Houssos to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What was the first date the Government placed an order for Rapid Antigen Tests?  
(2) What was the first date the Government placed an order for Rapid Antigen Tests that was for over 1 million tests in that order?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the response provided at LC 8051, noting that questions regarding whole-of-government procurement of Rapid Antigen Tests are best addressed by the Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade.

\* 8256 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES—5 PRIORITY AREAS—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police—

- (1) In relation to the 5 priority areas of the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund:  
(a) How much of the fund has been spent on each of the priority areas to date?  
(b) How much of the fund has been spent to date on consultants in each of the priority areas?  
(c) How much of the fund has been spent to date on wages and other employment related costs in each of the priority areas?

Answer—

I am advised as of 31 January 2022:

- (1)  
(a) \$130.5 million  
(b) \$1,162,900  
(c) \$11.6 million

\* 8257 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES—SNOWY LEGACY FUND—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police—

- (1) In relation to the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund:  
(a) How much of the fund has been spent to date?  
(b) How much of the fund has been spent to date on consultants?  
(c) How much of the fund has been spent to date on wages and other employment related costs?

Answer—

I am advised as of 31 January 2022:

- (1)
- (a) \$130.5 million
  - (b) \$1,162,900
  - (c) \$11.6 million

\* 8258 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES—HARVEST LEAVE—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police—

- (1) As at 11 February 2022:
- (a) How many applications for Harvest Leave have been submitted by employees of the Department of Regional NSW?
  - (b) How much Harvest Leave has been applied for in terms of days/hours taken?
  - (c) How much Harvest Leave has been granted by the Department?
  - (d) What is the total cost of the leave program to date?
  - (e) Please provide a breakdown of leave applications in terms of:
    - (i) Grades 1-12?
    - (ii) SES bands 1-3?

Answer—

- (1) As at 11 February 2022:
- (a) 35 employees have been granted Harvest Leave.
  - (b) 1157.6 hours across 162 days.
  - (c) All of the above.
  - (d) \$65,315.59.
  - (e)
    - (i) 34
    - (ii) 1

Clerk-equivalent grade	Headcount
Clerk General Scale	1
Clerk GR 1/2	2
Clerk GR 3/4	5
Clerk GR 5/6	10
Clerk GR 7/8	10
Clerk GR 9/10	4
Above GR 11/12 non SE	2
Senior Executive Band 1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>35</b>

\* 8259 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES—REGIONAL JOB CREATION FUND—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police—

Regarding the Regional Job Creation Fund round one process:

- (1) How many applications were received?

- (2) How many were successful?
- (3) What was the total amount of funding allocated under round one of the program?
- (4) Of the successful recipients, how many are located in Coalition held seats?
  - (a) How much funding did these successful applicants receive?
- (5) Of the successful applicants, how many are located in Labor held seats?
  - (a) How much funding did these successful applicants receive?
- (6) Of the successful applicants, how many are located in independent/minor party held seats?
  - (a) How much funding did these successful applicants receive?

Answer—

- (1) 403.
- (2) 119.
- (3) \$94,040,374.
- (4) 57.
  - (a) \$53,608,580.
- (5-6) There were 62 successful applicants in non-coalition seats totalling \$40,431,794.

\* 8260 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES—REGIONAL NSW BRANDING—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Police—

- (1) When was the new branding for the Department of Regional NSW approved?
- (2) What was the total cost of the new branding?
- (3) Were consultants engaged as part of the new branding?
  - (a) If so, which consultants were engaged?
    - (i) If so, what was the total cost of consultants for the new branding?

Answer—

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Customer Service.

\* 8261 METROPOLITAN ROADS—TRANSPORT FOR NSW BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR GRASS CUTTING—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Metropolitan Roads, and Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence—

- (1) What was the Transport for NSW budget allocation for grass cutting and weed removal along state and regional roads in 2020/21?
- (2) What is the Transport for NSW budget allocation for grass cutting and weed removal along state and regional roads in 2021/22?
- (3) What changes been made to the schedule for grass cutting and the treatment and removal of weeds along state and regional roads in the last 12 months?

Answer—

I am advised:

The budget for grass cutting, weed removal is incorporated into a single amenity maintenance projects budget. This budget includes day to day maintenance activities and services that are required to keep the roadway system both operational and presentable to the public. Activities include litter and graffiti removal, vegetation control (including grass mowing), roadside litter collection, landscape maintenance and servicing rest areas toilets.

**10 FEBRUARY 2022**

(Paper No. 678)

- \* 8281 AGRICULTURE—WOOD SUPPLY CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS—Mr Justin Field to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

In answer to a question on notice from the 3 November 2021 Budget Estimates Regional NSW hearing, the CEO of Forestry Corporation provided a copy of a letter sent to wood supply agreement holders on the North Coast regarding negotiations on "possible extension through to 2028 of WSAs expiring on the north coast in 2023".

- (1) Has any formal direction been provided by the Minister to Forestry Corporation (FCNSW) since 3 November 2021 regarding negotiations of WSA's expiring on the North Coast in 2023?
- (2) Has any additional correspondence been sent by FCNSW to North Coast WSA holders regarding negotiations of agreements currently due to expire in 2023 since 3 November 2021?
  - (a) If yes, will you provide a copy of the correspondence?
- (3) Has any other action been taken by FCNSW since 3 November 2021 regarding renegotiation of North Coast WSA due to expire in 2023?
  - (a) If yes, will you outline those actions?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
  - (a) Correspondence sent to individual wood supply agreement holders remains confidential while commercial negotiations are completed with all customers.

Text of correspondence sent to all agreement holders on 21 December 2021 is provided below.

Extension of North Coast Type A, B and C Wood Supply Agreements (WSAs)

You will recall advice in March this year following indications from the previous Deputy Premier, that Forestry Corporation would commence good-faith discussions regarding the possible extension through to 2028 of nominated north coast WSAs expiring in 2023. That correspondence noted that a number of other factors could impact these planned discussions; and FCNSW's consideration of these factors has contributed to delays in the original timelines.

I am now pleased to advise that with support from the Deputy Premier, FCNSW will progress discussions with holders of Type A, B and C WSAs on possible extensions until 31 December 2028 for existing annual quantities. FCNSW will commence discussions initially with holders of Type A WSAs and progress sequentially through to holders of Type B and C WSAs. Following that, FCNSW will develop and implement a separate sales process for any remaining quantities of Low Quality (Salvage Grade) Sawlogs which can be sustainably supplied over the same period.

The process and forecast timeframes are listed below, noting that these timelines may be impacted should any further unforeseen matters arise.

1. Forecast timelines:

Jan-Mar 2022 High Quality Sawlogs and Veneer Logs (Type A and Type B (Sawlog)) WSAs

Mar-Jun 2022 Pole, Pile, & Girder (Type B) WSAs

May-Aug 2022 Low Quality (Salvage Grade) Sawlog (Type C) WSAs

2. Consistent with the above timelines, FCNSW will extend written invitations to all WSA holders outlining its intentions regarding extensions and providing an opportunity to discuss in more detail.

3. For customers seeking face-to-face meetings, FCNSW can develop a schedule of meetings to occur at its Coffs Harbour office.

4. After discussions are complete, FCNSW will prepare and distribute a Variation Agreement for companies to execute and return for final execution by FCNSW and the Deputy Premier on behalf of the State of NSW.

I trust you will view this advice as a positive step towards providing additional security for the north coast hardwood timber industry.

(3) Yes.

(a) Actions taken are consistent with the steps detailed in 2(a).

\* 8283 AGRICULTURE—FORESTRY HARVESTING OPERATIONS—Mr Justin Field to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

(1) What state forests and compartments have been harvested in the Narooma management zone between February 2020 and February 2022?

(a) For each state forest in the Narooma management zone with harvesting operations between February 2020 and February 2022, what was the total area and volume of timber harvested?

(2) What state forests and compartments have been harvested in the Nowra management zone between February 2020 and February 2022?

(a) For each state forest in the Nowra management zone with harvesting operations between February 2020 and February 2022, what was the total area and volume of timber harvested?

(3) What state forests and compartments have been harvested in the Taree management zone between February 2020 and February 2022?

(a) For each state forest in the Taree management zone with harvesting operations between February 2020 and February 2022, what was the total area and volume of timber harvested?

(4) What state forests and compartments have been harvested in the Badja management zone between February 2020 and February 2022?

(a) For each state forest in the Badja management zone with harvesting operations between February 2020 and February 2022, what was the total area and volume of timber harvested?

(5) What state forests and compartments have been harvested in the Bago-Maragle management zone between February 2020 and February 2022?

(a) For each state forest in the Bago-Maragle management zone with harvesting operations between February 2020 and February 2022, what was the total area and volume of timber harvested?

(6) What state forests and compartments have been harvested in the Batemans Bay management zone between February 2020 and February 2022?

(a) For each state forest in the Batemans Bay management zone with harvesting operations between February 2020 and February 2022, what was the total area and volume of timber harvested?

(7) What state forests and compartments have been harvested in the Dorrigo management zone between February 2020 and February 2022?

(a) For each state forest in the Dorrigo management zone with harvesting operations between February 2020 and February 2022, what was the total area and volume of timber harvested?

(8) What state forests and compartments have been harvested in the Eden management zone between February 2020 and February 2022?

- (a) For each state forest in the Dorrigo management zone with harvesting operations between February 2020 and February 2022, what was the total area and volume of timber harvested?
- (9) What state forests and compartments have been harvested in the Glen Innes management zone between February 2020 and February 2022?
- (a) For each state forest in the Glen Innes management zone with harvesting operations between February 2020 and February 2022, what was the total area and volume of timber harvested?

Answer—

- (1-9) Forestry Corporation reports area and products harvested by forest in its annual Sustainability Report.

\* 8288 AGRICULTURE—THREE YEAR REVIEW OF THE LAND MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION REFORMS—Mr Justin Field to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Have the terms of reference for the three year review of the 2016 Land Management Biodiversity Conservation reforms, due in August 2020, been agreed?
- (a) If so, can a copy of these terms of reference be provided?
- (2) Have the terms of reference for the statutory five year review of the 2016 Land Management Biodiversity Conservation reforms, due in August 2022, been agreed?
- (a) If so, can a copy of these terms of reference be provided?

Answer—

- (1) As the Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Framework had already been recently subject to 3 independent reviews, the former Minister for Environment and Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW agreed to prioritise preparations for the statutory 5-year reviews of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Part 5A of the Local Land Services Act 2013, rather than progressing the 3-year review. The Department of Planning and Environment and the Department of Regional NSW continue to work together to complete agreed actions arising from reviews by the NSW Audit Office, Natural Resources Commission and a Legislative Council Inquiry.
- (2) No.

## 2 MARCH 2022

(Paper No. 692)

8386 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—UNISEX TOILETS AT MONA VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that students in years 3 to 6 are being required to use unisex toilets at Mona Vale Public School?
- (2) Who else in the school community has access to these toilets in the school community, for example teaching and other staff?
- (3) What consultation has there been with the parents in this school before this change in policy took effect?
- (a) If there hasn't been any consultation, what measures have been taken, or are planned to be taken, for ascertaining parental consent for such policy changes?

David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliament