



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21-22

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 724

TUESDAY 19 APRIL 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.

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 711 (Including Question Nos 8588 to 8590)	19 April 2022
Q & A No. 712 (Including Question Nos 8591 to 8597)	20 April 2022
Q & A No. 713 (Including Question Nos 8598 to 8600)	21 April 2022
Q & A No. 714 (Including Question Nos 8601 to 8603)	22 April 2022
Q & A No. 715 (Including Question Nos 8604 to 8610)	25 April 2022
Q & A No. 716 (Including Question Nos 8611 to 8618)	26 April 2022
Q & A No. 717 (Including Question Nos 8619 to 8619)	27 April 2022
Q & A No. 718 (Including Question Nos 8620 to 8624)	28 April 2022
Q & A No. 719 (Including Question Nos 8625 to 8628)	29 April 2022
Q & A No. 720 (Including Question Nos 8629 to 8631)	2 May 2022
Q & A No. 721 (Including Question Nos 8632 to 8673)	3 May 2022
Q & A No. 722 (Including Question Nos 8674 to 8686)	4 May 2022
Q & A No. 723 (Including Question Nos 8687 to 8703)	5 May 2022
Q & A No. 724 (Including Question Nos 8704 to 8707)	10 May 2022

28 MARCH 2022

(Paper No. 710)

* 8584 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—PERIOD PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Ms Abigail Boyd to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) With regards to the roll out of free period products in public schools, has the Government considered sourcing products which are environmentally friendly?
- (2) Will the period products provided be 100 per cent organic, cotton, biodegradable, compostable, and/or plastic free?
- (3) Will the period products provided have biodegradable, plastic free and/or recyclable wrappers?
- (4) Will there be ingredient disclosure for the products provided?

Answer—

- (1-3) An evaluation process is currently underway in relation to the appropriate options for sourcing and supplying dispensers for menstrual hygiene products in schools. Accordingly, supplier and product details are yet to be confirmed.

The program is expected to be rolled out to every school by 30 June 2022.

- (4) The Department of Education expects that product information will be made available by the relevant manufacturer/supplier.

* 8585 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—LGBTQIA+ KITS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of Woolworths-sponsored, Minus18-produced LGBTQIA+ kits promoting gender fluidity, sent to 1250 schools?
- (2) If gender fluidity is not part of the school curriculum, what action has the Minister taken to ensure schools either return the kits to their authors or bin them?

Answer—

It is understood that Woolworths engaged in a campaign, through their supermarkets, to fund the development of LGBTQIA+ resource kits by Minus 18 that would then be distributed to 1250 schools nationally. The Department of Education has not partnered with or funded this initiative.

* 8586 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) With teacher shortages in schools, what action has the Minister taken to streamline the professional standards for teachers who left the profession prior to 2011 and now want to return to teaching to fill the shortages?

Answer—

Teachers may apply to NESAs for accreditation, or re-accreditation in the case of returning teachers, at any time.

Alongside NESAs usual processing of applications for provisional/conditional accreditation, NESAs staff have given high priority to a 'fast-track' accreditation service where school principals and employers seek the accreditation of a trained but unaccredited teacher or final year teaching student that they wish to immediately employ. The average time to process these 'fast track' accreditations is 24 hours upon receipt of academic transcripts and Working with Children Check details.

In 2019, NESAs introduced a provision for returning teachers to apply for immediate accreditation at Proficient Teacher. This streamlined the process for eligible returning teachers by enabling them to be accredited at Proficient Teacher without needing to complete the full accreditation process that applies to beginning teachers.

* 8587 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—TEACHER ABSENCES—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) For each school day this year, how many Government school teachers have been absent with:
 - (a) COVID-19?
 - (b) Non-COVID-19 reasons?
- (2) Which Government schools have had more than:
 - (a) Five teacher absences?
 - (i) On which days did this occur?
 - (b) Ten teacher absences?
 - (i) On which days did this occur?

Answer—

Please see the answer as an attachment on the Parliament's website.

29 MARCH 2022

(Paper No. 711)

* 8588 ARTS—ARTS MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADE PROGRAM—The Hon. Walt Secord to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Regional Youth—

- (1) For the Arts Maintenance and Upgrade Program:
 - (a) How much has been allocated to the program, in total, for the following financial years:
 - (i) 2019-20?
 - (ii) 2020-21?
 - (iii) 2021 to date?
 - (b) How much has been expended in the following financial years:
 - (i) 2019-20?
 - (ii) 2020-21?
 - (iii) 2021 to date?

Answer—

- (1)
 - (a) How much has been allocated to the program, in total, for the following financial years:
 - (i) No allocation. The Arts Maintenance and Upgrade Program commenced in 2020-2021.
 - (ii) \$35.7 million.
 - (iii) \$68.8 million.
 - (b) How much has been expended in the following financial years:
 - (i) No expenditure. The Arts Maintenance and Upgrade Program commenced in 2020-2021.
 - (ii) \$35.7 million was expended in 2020-2021.
 - (iii) More than \$48.5 million had been expended as at 31 March 2022.

30 MARCH 2022

(Paper No. 712)

* 8591 AGRICULTURE—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS - FINANCIAL YEARS—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Can the Minister provide the annual expenditure by the Department of Primary Industries on Research and Development programs and projects for the following financial year:
- (a) 2015-16?
 - (b) 2016-17?
 - (c) 2017-18?
 - (d) 2018-19?
 - (e) 2019-20?
 - (f) 2020-21?
 - (g) 2021 to date?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government remains committed to undertaking world class primary industries research and development. The Hon. Mick Veitch is directed to LC 7776 where this question has been both asked and answered previously, however for completeness, please refer to summary table below for an annual summary of costs:

	Financial Year	Recurrent Expenditure	Capital Investments	Total
(a)	2015-16	159,364,000	5,400,801	164,764,801
(b)	2016-17	154,383,000	5,486,988	159,869,988
(c)	2017-18	175,006,000	4,664,628	179,670,628
(d)	2018-19	193,693,000	33,373,000	227,066,000
(e)	2019-20	196,392,000	23,751,000	220,143,000
(f)	2020-21	199,336,000	39,983,000	239,319,000
(g)	YTD Feb 2022	106,910,373	22,895,000	129,805,373
TOTAL		1,185,084,373	135,554,417	1,320,638,790

* 8592 CUSTOMER SERVICE AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT—NEW BRANDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL NSW—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government—

- (1) When was the new branding for the Department of Regional NSW approved?
- (2) What was the total cost of the new branding?
- (3) Who paid for the new branding?
- (4) 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—

- (1) The Department of Customer Service released a central NSW Government branding visual identity system in December 2021 to provide guidelines and templates for agencies to ensure consistent application of NSW Government branding in their communications. NSW Government branding guidance applies to all government agencies including the Department of Regional NSW.
- (2) The NSW Government visual identity system is available at no cost to the Department of Regional NSW.
- (3) The NSW Government visual identity system is managed by the Department of Customer Service and is available at no cost to the Department of Regional NSW.
- (4) There is no requirement set by the Department of Customer Service for the Department of Regional NSW to engage consultants in order to apply the NSW Government visual identity system.
 - (a) Not applicable.
 - (i) Not applicable.

* 8593 ARTS—NEW SOUTH WALES CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Regional Youth—

- (1) Can the Minister please update his answer to Question on Notice 8066?
- (2) When will all New South Wales cultural institutions be open to all citizens?

Answer—

The following New South Wales Cultural Institutions do not require patrons to provide proof of vaccination status:

- Art Gallery of NSW
- Australian Museum
- Powerhouse Museum
- State Library of NSW
- Sydney Living Museums
- Sydney Opera House

* 8596 AGRICULTURE—DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES FISHERIES—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Why has the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries commenced a review into the maximum boat length for the Hawkesbury sector of the EPT Fishery?
- (2) When were affected fishers first contacted by the Department about these proposed changes?
- (3) What are the financial consequences for fishers with boats exceeding the new proposed maximum length?
- (4) Is the Department aware of how many boats current in service may exceed the proposed maximum length?
- (5) Has the Government given consideration to any form of compensation for affected farmers?
 - (a) If not why not?

Answer—

- (1) To seek feedback from Hawkesbury River Estuary Prawn Trawl shareholders on a maximum boat length for the Hawkesbury River sector of the Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery. The review was initiated in response to concerns from some of these shareholders that a maximum boat length of 16 metres is too large for this estuary.
- (2) All NSW fishers were invited to provide feedback on changes to boat licensing in NSW commercial fisheries on 12 February 2021. The current round of consultation with Hawkesbury River Estuary Prawn Trawl shareholders commenced on 16 March 2022. Industry feedback from this consultation

has been considered by the Commercial Fisheries Advisory Council and a revised recommendation has been made to provide a maximum boat length of 12m for the Hawksbury River sector of the Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery.

- (3) There are no known financial consequences for fishers who own a boat that is longer than a new maximum length for a fishery.
- (4) No boats that have been active in the Hawkesbury River Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery in recent years that are longer than 16 metres.
- (5) There are no known financial consequences for fishers who own a boat that is longer than a new maximum length for a fishery.

* 8597 AGRICULTURE—RECREATION FISHING IN SYDNEY WATER SUPPLY DAMS—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) What was the Government's response to the Department of Primary Industries' Final Report, Risk Assessment of Recreation Fishing in Sydney's water supply dams dated January 2019?
- (2) Has a decision been made on opening up recreational fishing in Sydney's water supply dams?
 - (a) If so, what is it?
- (3) Has the decision been made public?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) A key finding of the report was that a more detailed qualitative risk assessment would be required to provide higher level detail on potential water quality risks and mitigation options at Prospect and Cataract Reservoirs, which are an integral part of Sydney's water supply. A Working Group comprising of NSW Department of Primary Industries, WaterNSW and NSW Health representatives is investigating opportunities for new access to Woodford Dam and to improve/enhance fishing at Tallowa Dam and Fitzroy Falls Reservoir.
- (2) No.
- (3) N/A. See (2) above.

4 APRIL 2022

(Paper No. 715)

* 8608 AGRICULTURE—OBLIGATIONS OF CONTRACT PARTIES TO COMPLY WITH ASIC REQUIREMENTS—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Are there any obligations for companies with contracts such as Wood Supply Agreements with the Forestry Corporation to comply with obligations to lodge Annual Financial Statements and other required documents with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC)?
- (2) Does the Department know why Allied Natural Wood Enterprises (ANWE) has not lodged an Annual Financial Statement to ASIC since 2018/19?
- (3) What due diligence does the Department do about the financial arrangements of companies it contracts with like ANWE?
- (4) Has any representative of the Forestry Corporation or the Government raised this issue with ANWE?
 - (a) If so, what was the outcome?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (5) What proportion of Community Service Obligations payments to the Forestry Corporation in each year for the following years:

- (a) 2019 for:
 - (i) Native forest logging?
 - (ii) The plantation sector?
- (b) 2020 for:
 - (i) Native forest logging?
 - (ii) The plantation sector?
- (c) 2021 for:
 - (i) Native forest logging?
 - (ii) The plantation sector?

Answer—

- (1) Wood Supply Agreements do not specifically contain any obligations for companies to comply or submit documents with ASIC. Wood Supply Agreements obligate parties to comply with the provisions of the Forestry Act and other Acts of the State of NSW and the laws of NSW.
- (2) No.
- (3) Wood Supply Agreements contain provisions for credit arrangements and sufficient security to be held by Forestry Corporation over log deliveries under the contracts. Forestry Corporation undertakes regular assessments through a third party provider, of each company's capacity to make ongoing payments for logs delivered under Wood Supply Agreements.
- (4) No.
 - (a) N/A.
 - (b) Wood Supply Agreements do not specifically contain any obligations for companies to comply or submit documents with ASIC.
- (5)
 - (a)
 - (i) Nil.
 - (ii) Nil.
 - (b)
 - (i) Nil.
 - (ii) Nil.
 - (c)
 - (i) Nil.
 - (ii) Nil.

* 8609 AGRICULTURE—REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) What volumes of logs in each category have been produced from the Southern Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) region: and the Eden RFA region:
 - (a) Pulp?
 - (b) Sawlogs?
 - (c) Firewood?
 - (d) Biomass?
- (2) What volumes of logs in each category have been produced from the Eden RFA region:

- (a) Pulp?
 - (b) Sawlogs?
 - (c) Firewood?
 - (d) Biomass?
- (3) What volume of logs in each category was supplied to Allied Natural Wood Enterprises in 2021?
- (4) What proportion in (1) and (2) was from:
- (a) Unburnt forest?
 - (b) Burnt forest?
- (5) What quantity of logs has been supplied by the Forestry Corporation to South Coast Timber Holdings Pty Ltd at Eden?
- (a) Including:
 - (i) Volumes?
 - (ii) Categories of logs?
 - (iii) Price?
- (6) How are prices set for logs supplied outside the provisions of Wood Supply Agreements?
- (7) What is the current delivered price (as specified in Wood Supply Agreements) for each category of logs in:
- (a) Southern Regional Forest Agreement?
 - (b) Eden Regional Forest Agreement?
- (8) What is the current stumpage price for each category of logs in:
- (a) Southern Regional Forest Agreement?
 - (b) Eden Regional Forest Agreement?

Answer—

- (1) Southern RFA volumes provided are financial year 2022, year to date.
- (a) 27,993m³.
 - (b) 68, 110m³.
 - (c) 12,146m³.
 - (d) 0
- (2) Eden RFA volumes provided are financial year 2022, year to date.
- (a) 72,389m³.
 - (b) 13, 103m³.
 - (c) 211m³.
 - (d) 0
- (3) ANWE volumes provided are financial year 2022, year to date.
- (a) 100,382m³.
 - (b) 21,838m³.
 - (c) 211 m³.
 - (d) 0
- (4) Percentages are based on volumes for financial year 2022, year to date. Burnt forest is understood to refer to forests impacted by fires in 2019-20.

- (a) 4.28%.
- (b) 95.72%.
- (5) South Coast Timbers volumes provided are financial year 2022, year to date.
 - (a)
 - (i) 1,660m³.
 - (ii) High Quality and Low Quality Sawlogs.
 - (iii) Refer to current sawlog stumpage price provided for question 8.
- (6) Prices are quoted to customers on a case by case basis.
- (7)
 - (a) Southern RFA weighted average delivered prices.
 - (i) \$100.31/m³
 - (ii) \$139.51/m³
 - (iii) \$80.54/m³
 - (iv) N/A
 - (b) Eden RFA WSAs are stumpage agreements, delivered pricing is not applicable.
- (8) The current stumpage price schedule for high quality sawlogs is in a table as an attachment on the Parliament's website. Stumpage prices for other categories of logs are either not applicable or commercial in confidence.

19 APRIL 2022

(Paper No. 724)

8704 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DIOCESE PROJECTS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Which capital works projects has the Department of Education helped to fund in the past five years at the Parramatta Catholic Schools Diocese?
 - (a) For each project, how much capital funding was involved?
 - (b) Which projects in the funding applications to Government were Alleanza Architecture listed as the architects?
- (2) Were any conflicts of interest declared in the commissioning of Alleanza?
 - (a) If so, what were the details?

8705 AGRICULTURE—PRODUCE LEFT IN THE FIELD—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) I have asked two previous Questions on Notice 7321 and 7621 in relation to what steps the Government would be taking to ensure the fruit and vegetables grown in New South Wales are harvested:
 - (a) What fruit and vegetables have failed to be harvested by New South Wales farmers in the last six months due to a lack of seasonal workers?
 - (b) What quantities in tones and what percentage of overall yield of fruit and vegetables was not harvested in the last six months due to a lack of seasonal workers?
 - (i) How has this affected the price of fruit and vegetables for the average family in New South Wales?
 - (ii) How has this affected the incomes of New South Wales farmers?

- (c) What is the Minister doing to ensure the fruit and vegetables grown in New South Wales are harvested in full in the future?

8706 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—SPORTING LOCATIONS FOR TRIAL BIKE RIDERS—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Regional Youth representing the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) In New South Wales there is a significant number of people who enjoy the sport of trail bike riding:
- (a) What National Parks in New South Wales are accessible to residents to lawfully pursue the sporting and recreational activity of trail bike riding?
 - (b) What National Parks in New South Wales traditionally accessed by trail bike riders have been blocked or prohibited since 2011?
 - (c) Will the area known as “The Gardens of Stone State Conservation area” which has long been an area used by trail bike riders, be prohibited for use by trail bike riders?
 - (d) What is the Government doing to ensure residents of this state who wish to pursue the sport and recreational activity of trail bike riding can do so in lawful and dedicated locations?

8707 LANDS AND WATER—SPORTING LOCATIONS FOR TRIAL BIKE RIDERS CROWN LANDS—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Regional Youth representing the Minister for Lands and Water, and Minister for Hospitality and Racing—

- (1) In New South Wales there is a significant number of people who enjoy the sport of trail bike riding:
- (a) What Crown Lands are accessible to residents of New South Wales to lawfully pursue the sporting and recreational activity of trail bike riding?
 - (b) What Crown Lands traditionally accessed by trail bike riders have been blocked or prohibited since 2011?
 - (c) What is the Government doing to ensure residents of this state who wish to pursue the sport and recreational activity of trail bike riding can do so in lawful and dedicated locations?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament