



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21-22

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 751

MONDAY 30 MAY 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. 737 (Including Question Nos 8787 to 8789)	30 May 2022
Q & A No. 738 (Including Question Nos 8790 to 8798)	31 May 2022
Q & A No. 739 (Including Question Nos 8799 to 8800)	1 June 2022
Q & A No. 740 (Including Question Nos 8801 to 8802)	2 June 2022
Q & A No. 741 (Including Question Nos 8803 to 8822)	3 June 2022
Q & A No. 742 (Including Question Nos 8823 to 8824)	6 June 2022
Q & A No. 743 (Including Question Nos 8825 to 8829)	7 June 2022
Q & A No. 744 (Including Question Nos 8830 to 8832)	8 June 2022
Q & A No. 745 (Including Question Nos 8833 to 8840)	9 June 2022
Q & A No. 746 (Including Question Nos 8841 to 8855)	10 June 2022
Q & A No. 747 (Including Question Nos 8856 to 8856)	14 June 2022
Q & A No. 748 (Including Question Nos 8857 to 8860)	15 June 2022
Q & A No. 749 (Including Question Nos 8861 to 8861)	16 June 2022
Q & A No. 750 (Including Question Nos 8862 to 8865)	17 June 2022
Q & A No. 751 (Including Question Nos 8866 to 8878)	20 June 2022

9 MAY 2022

(Paper No. 737)

* 8787 **DISABILITY SERVICES—FREE RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY—Ms Abigail Boyd to ask the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Services—**

- (1) In regards to the Government's announcement in April 2022 that it will provide free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for people with disability, how many RATs will be available per person per visit to a designated location?
- (2) What is the criteria to determine eligibility?
 - (a) Is eligibility limited to National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants?
 - (i) If so, does the Government plan to extend the program to include all individuals with disability who are not NDIS participants?
 - (b) Is there an age limit for those eligible?
 - (c) Does the program include immunocompromised individuals?
- (3) Who will be conducting the review after the initial four months of the trial?
 - (a) Will the results of this review be made public?
 - (b) Does the Government plan to extend this trial after the four month duration?
- (4) How many state wide neighbourhood centres funded by the Department of Communities and Justice will be available?
 - (a) Where will these centres be located?
 - (i) Please provide a list including those located in regional and rural areas?
- (5) Does the Government intend to implement the Disability Liaison Officer model or similar to support people with disability to access health services during the pandemic, as is currently operating in Victoria and which has been recommended by several peak disability organisations?
- (6) In regards to individuals who test positive on a free RAT provided by the Government, will they be provided accessible information and self-care kits to safely monitor COVID-19 at home?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Recognising that each individual situation differs, the NSW Government has not placed a limit on the number of tests that are available to people with disability, their carers, and those who are immunocompromised per visit to a designated location. For practicality reasons, it is suggested that one month's supply of rapid antigen tests be provided per visit.
- (2) The initiative is inclusive of all people with disability, their carers, and the immunocompromised. Individuals are asked to self-declare they have a disability, are a carer of a person with disability, or are immunocompromised in order to access free rapid antigen tests.
 - (a) The NSW Government recognises that people with disability are not necessarily participants in the NDIS, and as such this initiative is not limited to NDIS eligibility.
 - (b) There is no age limit to this initiative.
 - (c) This program includes access to free rapid antigen tests for immunocompromised individuals.
- (3) The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) will conduct a review towards the end of winter, drawing on information and the latest health advice available to the NSW Government. The review will consult with key stakeholder groups including industry and peak bodies.
- (4) Rapid antigen tests are available from any of the 216 DCJ funded neighbourhood and community centres located across the state.

- (a) DCJ funded neighbourhood and community centres are spread across metropolitan, regional and rural areas of NSW.
- (i) A list of the centres is publicly available at <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/free-rapid-antigen-tests-for-people-with-a-disability.html>.
- (5) The NSW Government has mechanisms in place to support people with disability to access public health services during the pandemic. NSW Health provides detailed and up to date COVID-19 information for people with disability, including through their website located at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/disability/covid-19/Pages/what-is.aspx>.
- Further questions on COVID-19 supports provided by NSW Health should be directed to the Minister for Health.
- (6) Accessible information, including 'easy read' formats, is provided for people with disability by NSW Health, including through their website located at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/disability/covid-19/Pages/what-is.aspx>. This includes information on testing, what to do if you feel sick and how to get help.

* 8789 INFRASTRUCTURE—CRONY CAPITALISM MISTREATMENT OF GROCON AT CENTRAL BARANGAROO—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Metropolitan Roads, and Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport—

- (1) How much has Infrastructure NSW paid in legal advice dealing with the questions I asked at PC1 Budget Estimates concerning the crony capitalism mistreatment of Grocon at Central Barangaroo?
- (a) Which law firms were involved?

Answer—

I am advised:

Infrastructure NSW has engaged Corrs Chambers Westgarth to provide legal services throughout the ongoing legal proceedings with Grocon. Corrs Chambers Westgarth are engaged pursuant to the NSW Government's Legal Services Panel and charge in accordance with the Panel rules.

10 MAY 2022

(Paper No. 738)

* 8790 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—ROAD SAFETY AUDIT REPORTS—The Hon. John Graham to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Have Road Safety Audit Reports been produced since 2012?
- (a) If so, how many?
- (i) What years were they produced?
- (ii) Are they publicly available?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (i) When will a Safety Audit Report be produced?
- (ii) How is the safety performance and crash data potential being assessed for road projects?
- (iii) Who is responsible for conducting the assessment?
- (iv) Where is it reported?
- (3) The Road Safety Audit Fact Sheet on the Transport for NSW website is dated December 2010. Is there a newer version available?
- (a) If so, where?
- (b) If not, why not?

- (i) When will it be updated?
- (4) Is it still a requirement for Road Safety Auditors to complete the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) NSW Division Road Safety Audits two day training program?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (b) Is there an alternative training requirement?
- (5) Is it still a requirement for Road Safety Auditors to complete the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) NSW Division Road Safety Audit Refresher one day training program to refresh their skills?
- (a) If so, how often do Road Safety Auditors have to complete the refresher training?
- (b) Have all registered Road Safety Auditors completed the refresher training?
- (i) If not why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Road Safety Audits are produced and recorded on Transport for NSW's Register of Road Safety Auditors (the Register). Transport for NSW maintains the Register to verify auditors' performance credentials and promote the professional development of auditors. The Register does not store Road Safety Audit Reports, but records general report information such as report title, location, final sign-off date, audit team members, a brief description of the project, purpose and scope of the audit.

A Road Safety Audit conducts a formal examination of a future road or traffic project or an existing road or road-related area, in which an independent, qualified team reports on the project's crash potential and actual safety performance respectively. Audits are achieved through the identification of risks and hazards to all road user groups with the potential to result in crashes, so that they can be eliminated or mitigated. When aligned with the Safe System, audits are focused on fatal and serious injury crash types, but can include other crash types and severities.

Road Safety Auditors conduct the assessment where an audit team has a minimum of two or more accredited auditors who must all be independent of the project being audited.

Since 2012, the Register has recorded 9,907 audits up until 12 May 2022.

Road Safety Audit Reports are produced every year, typically at the key life cycle stages of a project and have been recorded on the Register since its inception. The reports are the property of the owning client or project sponsor that commissioned the audit. For confidentiality purposes, audits recorded on the Register are not required to upload or attach the report as the verification process is provided by email to the client/project sponsor after registration by the auditors.

- (3) The version on the Transport for NSW website is still current.
- (4) Accreditation for Road Safety Auditors in NSW is attained by completing a recognised training program accepted on the Register, in which the IPWEA NSW Division delivers the two-day course called Conduct Road Safety Audits.

Information about alternative training courses is available on the Road Safety Register website.

- (5) There is no current requirement for Road Safety Auditors to complete the refresher one-day training. As long as Road Safety Auditors continue to meet the eligibility criteria for their accreditation level, refresher training is not required.

11 MAY 2022

(Paper No. 739)

* 8799 INFRASTRUCTURE—SIGHT LINES AT BARANGAROO—The Hon. Anthony D'Adam to ask the Minister for Metropolitan Roads, and Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence representing the Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities, and Minister for Active Transport—

- (1) In relation to the Government's settlement of a dispute concerning 'sight lines' at Barangaroo:
- (a) What persons, entities and Government authorities were party to the settlement?
 - (b) What was the date that the settlement was finalised?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is available on the Infrastructure NSW website.

30 MAY 2022

(Paper No. 751)

8866 LANDS AND WATER—SNOWY WATER INQUIRY OUTCOMES IMPLEMENTATION DEED—Mr Justin Field 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) The below questions relate to the Snowy Water Inquiry Outcomes Implementation Deed (the Deed) committed to by the New South Wales Government in 2002, available here: https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/143617/Snowy-water-inquiry-outcomes-implementation-deed.pdf:
- (a) What roles and responsibilities does New South Wales have under the Deed?
 - (b) Which bodies within the Government currently hold responsibility for implementation of the Deed?
 - (c) Is the Deed still in place?
 - (d) The Deed committed the parties to increase flows in the Snowy River first to 15 per cent, then 21 per cent, and under limited circumstances 28 per cent of the mean annual natural flow. Research has shown those flow levels have not been achieved in any year since the Deed was signed:
 - (i) What is the reason these levels have not been achieved?
 - (e) A 2010 New South Wales Office of Water report found that four of the five environmental objectives under the Deed could not be achieved with the available water:
 - (i) Has any assessment of delivery against the environmental objectives been made since that time?
 - (f) Has the Government formally adopted the 2016 revised environmental objectives of the Deed (12 objectives identified on page 11 of this document https://www.publish.csiro.au/mf/acc/MF21209/MF21209_AC.pdf)?
 - (g) If so, to question (f):
 - (i) When were these objectives formally adopted?
 - (ii) Have they been adopted by all parties?
 - (iii) What assessment or reporting against these objectives has been completed?
 - (h) If not to question (f), why not?
 - (i) What steps has the Government taken since 2016 to ensure commitments under the Deed are delivered?

- (j) Has any corrective action been sought under the Deed by any of the parties?
- (k) Has any compensation been paid by any of the parties as a result of action taken under the Deed?
- (l) Have there been any reviews of the Deed initiated under the section 27 review provisions?
 - (i) If so, who initiated the reviews?
 - (ii) If so, when was the review initiated?
 - (iii) If so, what was the subject of the review?
- (m) Does the Government have any plans to initiate a review regarding the failure to deliver increased flows in the Snowy River?
 - (i) If not, why not?

8867 ENERGY—BAYSWATER POWER STATION—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—

- (1) What discussions about the early closure of the Bayswater Power Station, currently scheduled for closure in 2033, has the Minister or his staff/officials had with:
 - (a) AGL?
 - (b) Mike Cannon-Brookes?

8868 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND EDUCATION REFORM—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) What school improvements have been achieved in Government schools by Simone Walker, the Group Deputy Secretary, School Improvement and Education Reform?
- (2) What education reform experience and qualifications did Ms Walker bring into the position when recruited?

8869 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMPLAINTS TEAM—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Where has the new Department of Education complaints team been recruited from?
- (2) How many have come from the NBN?
 - (a) If any, given the NBN's well-known failures in customer service, why has this been the recruiting ground for the department?

8870 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CULTURE—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) What education qualifications does the new Executive Director to the Office of the Secretary, Department of Education hold for the position?
 - (a) Is the new person's background in public relations?
 - (i) What does this say about the direction in which the Department is headed?
- (2) What action has the Minister taken to end the departmental culture of spin, public relations and secrecy at its senior levels, refocusing on educational outcomes?

8871 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECRUITMENT—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) What transformations has Alex Martin, the Executive Director, Transformation in the Department of Education achieved?
- (2) Why have so many senior officials in the Department been recruited from the limited talent pool of the United Kingdom?

-
- (3) What action has the Minister taken to restore morale in the Department of Education given widespread perceptions of United Kingdom recruitment biases?
- 8872 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—DEPARTMENTAL EMAILS AND VACCINATION MANDATE SURVEY—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—
- (1) Have non-attested casual staff lost access to their departmental emails?
- (a) What are the details and reasons?
- (2) Which staff were allowed to participate in the vaccination mandate survey circulated at the end of May 2022?
- 8873 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—DEPUTY SECRETARY LEARNING IMPROVEMENT—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—
- (1) What learning improvements in Government schools have been achieved by the Deputy Secretary, Learning Improvement, Ruth Owen?
- 8874 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—EDUCATION AND SKILLS REFORM—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—
- (1) For such an important position as Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, why is it under job share arrangements between Chloe Read and Lisa Alonso-Love?
- (a) How does the job share work?
- (2) What has been achieved by the job share in education and skills reform?
- 8875 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—HEALTH AND WELLBEING ADVISORS RECRUITMENT—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—
- (1) How many new health and wellbeing advisors have been recruited by the Department of Education in the following months:
- (a) April 2022?
- (b) May 2022?
- (2) What has been the purpose of this recruitment?
- 8876 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—PHONICS IN LITERACY PROGRAMS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—
- (1) Further to the Minister's answer to Question on Notice 8750:
- (a) What checking or inspection system does the Department of Education use to see if schools are actually using Phonics in their literacy programs, as opposed to Whole Word?
- 8877 LANDS AND WATER—HUME AND HOVELL WALKING TRACK—The Hon. Mick Veitch 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 2020 \$1.5 million was committed to upgrade and improve the Hume and Hovell walking track:
- (a) Can you please advise how much of this was spent in the following years:
- (i) 2020?
- (ii) 2021?
- (iii) 2022 to date?
- (b) How many of the pedestrian bridges have been replaced as part of this work?
- (c) How many sets of galvanised steel steps have been installed?
- (d) How many lookouts have been regenerated?

- (e) How many new camping huts have been built?
- (f) How much has been spent to date on weed removal and maintenance?
- (g) Will the work be completed in time for the Hume and Hovell Bicentenary in 2024?

8878 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—TEACHER SHORTAGE CRISIS IN NEW SOUTH WALES SCHOOLS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Have Deputy Secretaries Murat Dizdar and Leanne Nixon circulated orders to school staff not to share any data about the teacher shortage crisis in New South Wales schools?
 - (a) If so, why?
- (2) Have workforce policies been mismanaged by the Department?
 - (a) If so, does the public have the right to know about this mismanagement and the impact on their children in terms of learning time and opportunities lost?
- (3) Is the resignation of Deputy Secretaries Cachia and Withey linked to the withholding of teacher shortage data from the Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education Budget Estimates?
- (4) Did Secretary Harrisson organise Budget Estimates ‘rehearsals’ prior to the hearings?
 - (a) If so, what was the purpose of the rehearsals?
- (5) Is there a culture of secrecy and denial at the senior levels of the Department of Education?
 - (a) If so, what action is the Minister taking to end this culture?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament