



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 30

TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2023

(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. 15 (Including Question Nos 0121 to 0123)	20 June 2023
Q & A No. 17 (Including Question Nos 0125 to 0134)	22 June 2023
Q & A No. 18 (Including Question Nos 0135 to 0146)	23 June 2023
Q & A No. 19 (Including Question Nos 0147 to 0148)	26 June 2023
Q & A No. 20 (Including Question Nos 0149 to 0175)	27 June 2023
Q & A No. 21 (Including Question Nos 0176 to 0178)	28 June 2023
Q & A No. 22 (Including Question Nos 0187 to 0299)	29 June 2023
Q & A No. 23 (Including Question Nos 0300 to 0355)	30 June 2023
Q & A No. 24 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 25 (Including Question Nos 0356 to 0399)	4 July 2023
Q & A No. 26 (Including Question Nos 0400 to 0471)	5 July 2023
Q & A No. 27 (Including Question Nos 0472 to 0580)	6 July 2023
Q & A No. 28 (Including Question Nos 0581 to 0583)	7 July 2023
Q & A No. 29 (Including Question Nos 0584 to 0618)	10 July 2023
Q & A No. 30 (Including Question Nos 0619 to 0623)	11 July 2023

29 MAY 2023

(Paper No. 15)

* 0121 ENVIRONMENT—MT WARNING NATIONAL PARK—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister please advise if the National Parks and Wildlife Service has stationed security guards at Mt. Warning National Park?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) Which security company is providing this security service?
 - (i) What was the tender process through which their services were obtained?
 - (b) How many security guards are employed on site?
 - (c) Are the security guards engaged on a permanent, part time or other contractual basis?
 - (d) What is the weekly cost of stationing these security guards on site?
 - (e) Why is security needed?
- (2) How much did the removal of the temporary council gate located on Mt. Warning, three kilometres from the Breakfast Creek carpark in February 2023, cost?
- (3) What were the installation costs of the replacement steel barriers across the park entrance at the National Park boundary?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Security has been engaged to implement the park closure in Wollumbin National Park.
 - (a) Safe Security Services has been engaged.
 - (i) Safe Security Services was engaged after a Request for Quotation from a registered small to medium regional enterprise.
 - (b) For personal safety, two guards must be on site given the remote location.
 - (c) The company is engaged on a casual hourly basis.
 - (d) Approximately \$7000 per week.
 - (e) Security was engaged to ensure public safety while the park remains under repair and to ensure the current closure of the Summit Walking Track and the Wollumbin Aboriginal Place is maintained. It was an immediate response to increased attempts to illegally access the closed park once the barrier across Mount Warning Road was removed (1-2 April 2023) and then over the Easter long weekend (7-10 April 2023). Security services have been extended due to significant numbers of people still trying to unlawfully access the site.
- (2) There was no cost to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in relation to removing the gate on Mount Warning Road. The temporary gate was removed by Tweed Shire Council as part of maintenance works on the road.
- (3) There is no cost for the temporary barriers erected at the park boundary. The temporary safety barriers are owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and are used to secure building sites as standard practice.

A permanent NPWS gate has been erected at the park boundary for an estimated cost of \$11,500, excluding GST.

* 0122 HEALTH—COVID COMMUNICATIONS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Can the Minister please advise how much New South Wales Health is spending on Covid vaccination advertising and promotion:
 - (a) This financial year?
 - (b) Next financial year?
- (2) What is the current Health advice regarding:
 - (a) Third jabs?
 - (b) Fourth jabs?
 - (c) Fifth jabs?
- (3) What are the New South Wales Covid vaccination rates for:
 - (a) Jab 1?
 - (b) Jab 2?
 - (c) Jab 3?
 - (d) Jab 4?
 - (e) Jab 5?

Answer—

I am advised by the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast that;

- (1)
 - (a) In 2022-23, \$200,000 has been allocated to the COVID-19 campaign for promotional activities, including messaging about COVID-19 vaccination.
\$970,000 has also been provided for the Winter Respiratory Campaign 2023, which aims to promote ways to protect against respiratory infections (particularly influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus infection. Some elements of the campaign, which will run between May and August 2023, include COVID-19 vaccination messaging.
 - (b) Budgets for 2023-24, including for COVID-19 vaccination promotion, are still being determined.
- (2)
 - (a) - (c)
NSW Health's advice on COVID-19 vaccinations is identical to the recommendations issued by Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), available on the [Clinical recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#) webpage.
- (3)
 - (a) - (e)
The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care is responsible for reporting official statistics on COVID-19 vaccination rates and publish this data on their website.

* 0123 PREMIER—COVID GOVERNMENT VACCINATIONS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Premier—

- (1) Given the Premier's strict adherence to New South Wales Health Covid advice and the importance of the public example of the Government, can the Minister please advise how many Covid jabs each of his Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries have received?

Answer—

This information is not collected. Everyone in NSW is being urged to ensure they are up to date with their recommended COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations.

20 JUNE 2023

(Paper No. 30)

0619 AGRICULTURE—LICENSED HEMP GROWERS—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Can the Minister please advise how many farmers are licensed to grow low- tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) hemp in New South Wales?

0620 AGRICULTURE—REGIONAL JOB CREATION FUND—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) How many applications were received for the regional job creation fund?
- (2) How many applicants have been invited to progress to stage 2?
- (3) Funding assistance is subject to funds being available:
 - (a) Is funding available?
 - (b) How much funding is available?

0621 FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES—CHILDREN'S GUARDIAN—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion—

- (1) In January 2023, Mr Steve Kinmond was appointed to the role of Children's Guardian (CG), Section 183 of the Children's Guardian Act 2019 required that a review of that Act be tabled in both Houses by 1 March 2022, can the Minister advise:
 - (a) Was that review tabled in accordance with the Act?
 - (b) If not, why not?
 - (i) When will the review be tabled?
- (2) In July 2022, the Office of the Children's Guardian published a discussion paper inviting public comment in relation to a review of the Children's Guardian Act 2019 and advised that Mr Mark Tedeschi AM KC had been engaged to coordinate consultation on Part 4 of the Act dealing with the reportable conduct scheme, can the Minister advise:
 - (a) Who provided submissions in response to that discussion paper?
 - (b) Did Mr Tedeschi complete his engagement?
 - (c) How much was Mr Tedeschi paid?
 - (d) Why hasn't the review been tabled in accordance with legislation?
- (3) Can the Minister advise, whether a report of the review of the Children's Guardian Act 2019 (the Act) ever provided to the Department of Premier and Cabinet?
 - (a) If not, why was that report not tabled in this House as required by the Act?
- (4) Earlier this year, the Guardian newspaper reported that Omara Partners, a reputed Senior Executive recruitment agency, was engaged to assist with recruiting a suitable candidate to be appointed to the role of NSW Children's Guardian, can the Minister advise:
 - (a) Did Omara Partners recommend any suitable candidates for appointment to the role?
 - (i) If so, was Mr Steve Kinmond among those candidates?

- (ii) If not, what was the process for appointing Mr Kinmond to the role?
- (b) How much was paid to Omara Partners?
- (5) The former Government was accused of irregular appointments to senior government roles and for awarding "jobs for the boys", can the Minister advise whether this Government supports fair and transparent recruitment practices to senior government roles?
- (6) In accordance with section 121 of the Children's Guardian Act 2019, the position of NSW Children's Guardian becomes vacant when the holder attains the age of 65, can the Minister advise:
 - (a) Why at the age of 64 was Mr Kinmond appointed to the role on a five-year contract?
 - (b) What arrangements have been made to allow Mr Kinmond to continue in the role after he turns 65?

0622 ENVIRONMENT—SNOWY 2.0 MAIN WORKS APPENDIX M3 OFFSET STRATEGIES - STAKEHOLDERS—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

I refer the answer provided to Question on Notice 89 (1)(g):

- (1) Regarding the original question, can the Minister please provide a complete list of registered or primary stakeholders that engaged in the consultative process?
 - (a) Can the Minister reveal which specific individuals or entities are meant by the inclusion of "other stakeholder representatives"?

0623 GAMING AND RACING—ENHANCED GREYHOUND PERFORMANCE—The Hon. Robert Borsak to ask the Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) Could the Minister please provide references to published peer reviewed scientific research that categorically proves enhanced performance in racing greyhounds that exceed the NSW Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission urinary threshold for cobalt of 100 nano grams per millilitre, if at all?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament