



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 34

MONDAY 26 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. 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
Q & A No. 31 (Including Question Nos 0624 to 0625)	12 July 2023
Q & A No. 32 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 33 (Including Question Nos 0626 to 0652)	14 July 2023
Q & A No. 34 (Including Question Nos 0653 to 0670)	17 July 2023

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(Paper No. 19)

* 0147 CORRECTIONS—SERIOUS OFFENDERS REVIEW COUNCIL—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections—

- (1) Could the Minister please inform, how many prisoners have been released by the Serious Offenders Review Council in the years:
 - (a) 2022?
 - (b) 2021?
 - (c) 2020?
 - (d) 2019?
 - (e) 2018?
- (2) For each of the years listed in (1) above:
 - (a) What was the original term of incarceration of each early released individual?
 - (b) What was the crime for which each early released individual was convicted?
- (3) Can the Minister please provide this information in tabulated form?

Answer—

I am advised by the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building and Minister for Corrections that the Serious Offenders Review Council (the Council) does not make the final determination as to whether an inmate is suitable to be released to parole. The State Parole Authority (SPA) is an independent statutory authority empowered to determine matters with respect to parole orders. While the Council provides advice about serious offenders, the SPA has the discretion to determine matters relating to an offender's parole.

* 0148 PREMIER—VICE REGAL MISSIONS—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—

Further to the Leader of the Government's answer to question 13 (30 May 2023):

- (1) Can the Minister please advise when the Governor's trip to the United Arab Emirates was first scheduled?
- (2) Was the Governor's trip a "scheduled Vice Regal mission"?
 - (a) If so, why did it occur on the way home from the Coronation of King Charles III in London?
- (3) Which other "Vice Regal missions to strengthen New South Wales' diplomatic and state relationships" will the New South Wales Governor be undertaking?
- (4) Why is the Government abolishing New South Wales overseas trade posts yet allowing the Governor to incur substantial expenses for the same purpose in her international travel schedule?
- (5) Why on the morning of 8 May 2023 did the Governor fly out of London for Dubai instead of to Sydney to discharge her Vice Regal duties for the opening of the New South Wales Parliament?
- (6) When and by what means did the Governor inform the Premier Perrottet of her overseas travel plans?
- (7) Did the Minister advise the Governor of his preference that she attend and undertake her duties for the opening of Parliament?
 - (a) If so, how did she respond?

Answer—

I am advised the following;

- Flights for the May 2023 Vice Regal mission to the United Kingdom via the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were booked in November 2022.
- The trip was a scheduled Vice Regal Mission, the last NSW Vice Regal mission to the UAE was undertaken by Governor Hurley in 2017.
- There are presently no international visits planned for the NSW Governor.
- The former Government was informed prior to the Governor's proposed overseas travel.
- The ceremonial opening of Parliament was conducted by the Lieutenant-Governor as the Vice Regal representative in accordance with the Constitution Act 1902 as the Governor was discharging other Vice Regal duties.
- The Premier is not responsible for approving Vice Regal travel.

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(Paper No. 34)

0653 ATTORNEY GENERAL—SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR LEGAL SUPPORT FUNDING—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Treasurer representing the Attorney General—

- (1) Through the Attorney General, legal advice and representation is provided to people in their dealings with investigative bodies, including the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC), the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), or in relation to Royal and Special Commissions of Inquiry and also in select Coronial Inquests as directed by the Attorney General. Can the Minister provide information on the last three successful applications for this assistance?

0654 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—MURWILLUMBAH EDUCATION CAMPUS DEMERGER—The Hon. Sarah Mitchell to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) In relation to the Murwillumbah Education Campus project, can the Minister advise:
- (a) Will the classrooms and schools in Murwillumbah be modernised to inspire the learners of the future?
 - (i) If yes, then why aren't students in Murwillumbah being provided with new, innovative learning spaces and facilities?
 - (b) Has there been any consideration of the educational and emotional benefits of having two schools co-located on the one premise?
 - (c) What will happen to students if they lose the continuity of learning and educational programs, being known, valued and cared for by staff who follow their entire educational journey from Kindergarten to Year 12, the KIN well-being structure developed for Murwillumbah Learning Community and the learning characteristic wheel that is already being implemented across the 4 schools if the demerger goes ahead?

0655 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—TEACHER VACANCIES - PERMANENT—The Hon. Sarah Mitchell to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Can the Minister advise how many permanent teaching positions are currently vacant in New South Wales public schools?

0656 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—TEACHER VACANCIES - PERMANENT BY SCHOOL—The Hon. Sarah Mitchell to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Can the Minister advise how many permanent teaching positions are currently vacant in each New South Wales public school, broken down by school?
- 0657 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—SEALING POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Farroway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—
- (1) Can the Minister provide an update on the sealing of Pooncarie Road?
- (2) How much of the State and Commonwealth jointly funded project has been completed to date?
- 0658 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—TFNSW REVIEW ENGINEERING REPORTS—The Hon. Sam Farroway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—
- (1) Can the Minister advise if Transport for NSW has reviewed the engineering reports, design and construction works of Pooncarie Road?
- 0659 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—TRANSPORT FOR NEW SOUTH WALES SUPPORT—The Hon. Sam Farroway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—
- (1) Can the Minister advise if Transport for NSW has deployed or offered any additional resources to either Central Darling Shire Council or Wentworth Shire Council for the completion of sealing Pooncarie Road as of 26 June 2023?
- (2) Can the Minister advise if Transport for NSW has deployed a project manager or support member to assist Central Darling Shire Council in the delivery of the sealing of Pooncarie Road as of 26 June 2023?
- (a) If so, when did the Transport for NSW representative visit or meet with Central Darling Shire Council as of 26 June 2023?
- 0660 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—COMPACTION TEST RESULTS—The Hon. Sam Farroway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, what is the current standard Transport for NSW requires for compaction test results to comply with the sealing of regional roads?
- (2) Has Transport for NSW reviewed any compaction tests in relation to the sealing of Pooncarie Road within the Central Darling Shire Local Government Area?
- (a) If so, what are the results of the compaction test results?
- (i) With regard to (1), do they meet the standard required for the sealing of regional roads?
- 0661 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Farroway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, has Transport for NSW briefed the Environmental Protection Authority on any possible breaches with land clearing associated with the sealing of the Pooncarie Road within the Central Darling Shire Local Government Area?
- (2) Can the Minister advise whether they have met with the Administrator or General Manager of Central Darling Shire Council in relation to concerns raised in the community over the quality of the sealing of Pooncarie Road as of 26 June 2023?

0662 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Faraway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Can the Minister advise, has Transport for NSW engaged an independent assessment on the quality of works completed to date for the sealing of Pooncarie Road as of 26 June 2023?

0663 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—MENINDEE COMMUNITY POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Faraway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Can the Minister advise whether they met with members of the Menindee community in relation to concerns raised over the quality of the sealing of Pooncarie Road as of 26 June 2023?

0664 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—VISIT POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Faraway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Can the Minister advise whether they have visited Pooncarie Road as of 26 June 2023?

0665 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—SEALING AND COST POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Faraway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Can the Minister advise, have any Transport for NSW Senior staff inspected the sealing of Pooncarie Road since 26th March 2023?

(2) Can the Minister and Transport for NSW advise the cost per kilometre for the sealing of Pooncarie Road within the Wentworth shire Local government area with works undertaken by Wentworth Shire Council?

(3) Can the Minister and Transport for NSW advise the cost per kilometre for the sealing of Pooncarie Road within the Central Darling Shire Council local government area with works undertaken by Central Darling Shire council?

0666 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—CULVERTS POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Faraway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Can the Minister advise why the contractor deployed by Central Darling Shire Council and Transport for NSW did not remove or transport the concrete culverts on site prior to the January 2023 flooding in the region?

0667 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—ADDITIONAL FUNDING POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Faraway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Can the Minister advise whether they have approved any additional funding for betterment upgrades to the sealing of Pooncarie Road?

0668 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—DISASTER DECLARATION FUNDING POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Faraway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Can the Minister advise, how much disaster declaration funding has been granted for the Pooncarie Road following the January 2023 flooding? Please include any Category A, B, C or D Funding.

0669 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—COMPLETION DATE POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Faraway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Can the Minister advise what the completion date for the sealing of Pooncarie Road is?

0670 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—COMMUNITY EXPECTATION POONCARIE ROAD—The Hon. Sam Faraway 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 Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Can the Minister and Transport for NSW guarantee the work completed to date meets the communities expectation and safety standards?

David Blunt AM
Clerk of the Parliaments