



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 39

MONDAY 3 JULY 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. 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
Q & A No. 35 (Including Question Nos 0671 to 0671)	18 July 2023
Q & A No. 36 (Including Question Nos 0672 to 0711)	19 July 2023
Q & A No. 37 (Including Question Nos 0712 to 0739)	20 July 2023
Q & A No. 38 (Including Question Nos 0740 to 0741)	21 July 2023
Q & A No. 39 (Including Question Nos 0742 to 0790)	24 July 2023

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(Paper No. 25)

* 0356 ENERGY—AUSGRID'S POLICIES—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 advise what involvement the Government has had with the development of Ausgrid's:
 - (a) Smart Cities policies?
 - (b) Smart Lighting policies?
- (2) What do these policies hope to achieve?
- (3) Are these policies consistent with the Government's policy direction for the management of the New South Wales electricity grid?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised the Office of Energy and Climate Change was not involved in the development of Ausgrid's Smart Lighting or Smart Cities policies.

The NSW Government's More Efficient Street Lighting (MESL) program, which ran from 2019 to 2022, supported the rollout of high-efficiency LED street lights. Under the program, Ausgrid was awarded a grant of \$200,000 in 2021 to design a trial project on smart lighting.

Further information about the MESL program, including an evaluation report, can be found at <https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/nsw-plans-and-progress/government-strategies-and-frameworks/taking-action-climate-change/evaluation>.

- (2)-(3) Questions about Ausgrid policies should be directed to Ausgrid.

3 JULY 2023

(Paper No. 39)

0742 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - BEES KILLED—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Can the Minister please provide an estimate of how bees have been killed as part of the Varroa mite emergency response?

0743 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - ERADICATION ZONE—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, what was the scientific or other basis used to establish the:
 - (a) 10km eradication zone?
 - (b) 25km surveillance zone?

0744 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - MODELLING—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, is the Department modelling its emergency response to Varroa mite off any other geographic locations or jurisdictions that have been able to successfully eradicate Varroa Mite?
 - (a) If so, please advise which locations/jurisdictions

0745 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - HUSBANDRY—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) The Minister stated in a letter to the Hon. Emma Hurst MLC dated 16 June 2023 that “*It is also appropriate to plan for a future in which beekeepers have to manage Varroa as part of their normal husbandry practices. DPI is undertaking this work in preparation for a future which we hope to avoid*” - can the Minister please advise what preparatory work has been undertaken?
- (a) What a protocol for "managing Varroa" might look like?
- 0746 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - RESPONSE—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, what is the Department’s assessment process for determining when it may be time to transition from an "emergency response" to Varroa mite to a "management response"?
- 0747 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - BAIT STATIONS—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
- (1) The Minister stated in a letter to the Hon. Emma Hurst MLC dated 16 June 2023 that “*Bait stations containing Fipronil are designed and managed to attract European honeybees and not other species. Regular monitoring of the station has shown that they pose very little threat to native bees or other insects*”, can the Minister please advise:
- (a) How are the bait stations "designed: to "attract European honeybees and not other species"?
- (b) How are the bait stations "managed" to "attract European honeybees and not other species"?
- (c) How regularly are the bait stations monitored?
- (d) How has the monitoring shown that the baiting stations "pose very little threat to native bees or other insects"?
- (i) Please provide details as to what assessment or observations have been made to determine this?
- (ii) Please provide any data obtained from the monitoring on the number of native bees and insects that have been accidentally killed by the baiting station?
- 0748 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - SAFETY FIPRONIL BAITING STATIONS—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, what specific research, studies or reports the Department is relying on in relation to the "safety" of using Fipronil baiting stations – both for humans and other animals including native bees, birds, insects and mammals?
- 0749 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - JUSTIFY USE OF FIPRONIL BAITING STATIONS—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, how does the Department justify the use of Fipronil baiting stations, given research, including a 2013 report published by the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, has highlighted the short and long term risks posed by Fipronil to "off-target species" including native pollinators and insects?
- 0750 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - COMMUNITY AND FIPRONIL BAITING STATIONS—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, what steps have been taken to warn local communities about the Fipronil baiting stations being placed near them?
- 0751 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - ABORIGINALS COMMUNITIES FIPRONIL BAITING—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, what steps have been taken to consult with local Aboriginal communities about the Varroa mite eradication program, including the use of Fipronil?
- 0752 AGRICULTURE—VARROA MITE - REINTRODUCTION—The Hon. Emma Hurst to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, what is the Department’s plan to re-introduce bees to the eradication zone, if eradication of Varroa mite is achieved?
- 0753 TREASURER—TOLL REVIEW—The Hon. Damien Tudehope to ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Regarding the Toll Review being led by Professor Allan Fels AO and Dr David Cousins AM, can the Minister please advise:
- (a) What is the expected total cost of the Toll Review?
 - (i) Of this, how much is expected to be paid in remuneration and expenses to the two people appointed to conduct the review, Professor Fels and Dr Cousins?
 - (c) How much is expected to be expended with consultants?
 - (d) Noting the Labor Party’s costing request to the Parliamentary Budget Office stated that the cost of the proposed commissioners for the Toll Review would be met from the existing core operating budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), how much is DPC expected to spend in total on the Toll Review?
 - (e) Noting the Parliamentary Budget Office’s warning that funding the commissioners from DPC’s core operating budget “may result in some other government priorities experiencing delay”, which government priorities are experiencing or are likely to experience delay?
- 0754 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—CIVIL CLAIMS MADE 2021 - 2022—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism—
- (1) Can the Minister advise how many civil claims were made against NSW Police in the 2021-2022 financial year?
- (a) Of these, how many were claims of police misconduct?
 - (b) Of these, how many were successful?
- 0755 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—CIVIL CLAIMS PAY OUTS - 2021 - 2022—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, how much did NSW Police spend in pay outs for civil claims against it in the 2021-2022 financial year?
- 0756 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—CIVIL CLAIMS - 2021 - 2022—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism—
- (1) Can the Minister advise, what is the total amount NSW Police spent on civil claims against it in the 2021-2022 financial year, including any legal fees?
- 0757 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—CIVIL CLAIMS MADE 2022 - 2023—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism—
- (1) How many civil claims have been made against NSW Police in the 2022-2023 financial year?
- (a) Of these, how many were claims of police misconduct?
 - (b) Of these, how many were successful?

0758 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—CIVIL CLAIMS PAY OUTS - 2022 - 2023—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism—

- (1) How much did NSW Police spend in pay out for civil claims against it in the 2022-2023 financial year?

0759 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—CIVIL CLAIMS - 2022 - 2023—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, what is the total amount NSW Police spent on civil claims against it in the 2022-2023 financial year, including any legal fees?

0790 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—REGIONAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT RECOVERY PACKAGE—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 please provide an update on the following projects under the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package?

- Betterment of Ross Lane, Lennox Head Flood Immunity
- Betterment of Mullumbimby Road
- Betterment of Wilsons Creek Road
- Betterment of flood immunity and pavement resilience along Yamba Road between Harwood Bridge and Palmers Channel, Palmers Island
- Betterment of Naughtons Gap Road
- Betterment of MR145 Woodburn Coraki Road
- Betterment of O'keefe Drive
- Betterment of Wisemans Ferry Road Embankment Stabilisation and Pavement Restoration
- Betterment of Deaves Road, Mandalong
- Betterment of Grieve Crossing Bridge across the Richmond River_Gradys Creek Road
- Betterment of Clarence Way Sandilands to Bonalbo
- Betterment of Strategic Causeways in Lismore LGA
- Betterment of Molesworth Street Bridge & Sewer Line, Tenterfield
- Betterment of Melville Ford timber bridge at Melville Ford Road (Maitland)
- Betterment of Lansdowne Road Pavement Upgrade
- Betterment of Old Maitland Road Hexham - Road Renewal
- Betterment of ARC Unsealed Rd Drainage
- Betterment of Glen Innes Severn Local Roads
- Betterment of Glen Innes Severn Regional Roads
- Betterment of Kalang Road
- Betterment of Darkwood, Timboon, Valery and Martells Roads
- Betterment of Dungay Creek Causeway
- Betterment of Nambucca Valley river crossings - raising for future flood immunity
- Betterment of Maria River Road
- Betterment of Stoney Creek/Pembrooke Road & Bridges

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- Betterment of Tweed Shire causeways
 - Betterment of River and floodway Crossings
 - Betterment of Wybong Road, Muswellbrook Shire
 - Betterment of Bell Street Bridge, Muswellbrook
 - Betterment of Kilfoyles Bridge
 - Betterment of Stanhope Road
 - Betterment of Causeways across the Upper Hunter
 - Betterment of stormwater drainage for 43 nominated road crossings
 - Betterment of MR83 Summerland Way Seg2080 - 3300 - Armouring of Waterways
 - Betterment of MR83 Summerland Way Seg3300 - 3750 - Armouring of Waterways
 - Betterment of MR83 Summerland Way Seg3750 - 9110 - Armouring of Waterways
 - Betterment of HW16 Bruxner Highway Seg 2710 - 2330 - Armouring of Waterways
 - Betterment of MR83 Summerland Way Seg 3640 - 3670 - Harden Pavement
 - Betterment of HW16 Bruxner Highway Seg 2940 - 2960 - Scour protection & Downslope stabilisation
 - Betterment of HW12 Gwydir Highway Seg 1110 - 1520 Improve slope stability
 - Betterment of HW10 Pacific Highway - Yamba Off-Ramp
 - Betterment of SH10 Old Pacific Highway Seg 3020 - 3400 Mooney Mooney to Calga
 - Betterment of HW16 Bruxner Highway Seg 5330 - 5400 - Improve batter drain & transverse culverts
 - Betterment of MR83 Summerland Way Seg 8855 - 9110 - Improve slope stability
 - Betterment of MR83 Summerland Way Seg 8350 - Scour protection & Downslope stabilisation
 - Betterment of MR83 Summerland Way Seg 8776 - Rock fall fence
 - "Betterment of HW16 Bruxner Highway Seg6005 - Scour Protection & Downslope Stabilisation"
 - Betterment of MR692 Failford Rd Seg 550 - 560 - Raise road level and improve drainage
 - Betterment of HW10 Pacific Highway Seg 80 to Seg 8010 and Seg 8110 New England Highway Hexham - Repair and upgrade transverse drainage
 - Betterment of HW12 Gwydir Highway Seg4000 - 4050 - Improve Slope Stability
 - Betterment of MR108 Nelson Bay Road Seg 510 - 540 from Frost Road to Gan Gan Road - Raise road level and improve drainage
 - Betterment of MR76 Waterfall Way Seg1200 - 1420 - Improve Slope Stability
 - Betterment of MR76 Waterfall Way Seg1400 - Improve Slope Stability
 - Betterment of MR76 Waterfall Way Seg1180 Culvert 39 - Improve
 - Betterment of HW27 Golden Highway Seg 38
 - Betterment of MR503 Putty Road Seg 6780 - 6070
 - Betterment of MR209 Denman Road Seg 209090 – 209140
- (2) With reference to (1), can the Minister advise the start date on each of these projects?
- (3) With reference to (1), can the Minister advise the expected completion date on each of these projects?

David Blunt AM
Clerk of the Parliaments

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales