



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 62

THURSDAY 3 AUGUST 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. 46 (Including Question Nos 0863 to 0870)	2 August 2023
Q & A No. 47 (Including Question Nos 0871 to 0906)	3 August 2023
Q & A No. 48 (Including Question Nos 0907 to 0908)	4 August 2023
Q & A No. 49 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 50 (Including Question Nos 0909 to 0929)	8 August 2023
Q & A No. 51 (Including Question Nos 0930 to 0945)	9 August 2023
Q & A No. 52 (Including Question Nos 0946 to 0950)	10 August 2023
Q & A No. 53 (Including Question Nos 0952 to 0959)	11 August 2023
Q & A No. 54 (Including Question Nos 0960 to 0960)	14 August 2023
Q & A No. 55 (Including Question Nos 0961 to 0962)	15 August 2023
Q & A No. 56 (Including Question Nos 0963 to 0969)	16 August 2023
Q & A No. 57 (Including Question Nos 0970 to 0973)	17 August 2023
Q & A No. 58 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 59 (Including Question Nos 0974 to 0979)	21 August 2023
Q & A No. 60 (Including Question Nos 0980 to 0984)	22 August 2023
Q & A No. 61 (Including Question Nos 0985 to 0989)	23 August 2023
Q & A No. 62 (Including Question Nos 0990 to 0990)	24 August 2023

12 JULY 2023

(Paper No. 46)

* 0863 PREMIER—MINISTERIAL STAFF—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Premier—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, when will 30 June 2023 ministerial staff numbers be disclosed to the public?
 - (a) Will this information be available on the Premier's Department website or the Cabinet Office website?
- (2) How many ministerial staff vacancies were there as at 30 June 2023?
- (3) How many ministerial staff were on loan / seconded to ministerial offices from other ministerial offices as at 30 June 2023?
 - (a) Which Ministers loaned / seconded Ministerial staff to which Ministers?
- (4) How many ministerial staff left employment between 28 March 2023 and 30 June 2023?

Answer—

I am advised that Ministerial staff numbers will be published in August 2023 and published on the Cabinet Office's website: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

I am advised that while Ministerial Offices have set Budgets, they do not have fixed staff numbers, therefore vacancies are not recorded.

13 JULY 2023

(Paper No. 47)

* 0871 ENERGY—FREE UP GAS DEMAND THROUGH ELECTRIFICATION—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, what options have been explored to free up gas demand through electrification, fuel switching and energy efficiency under the New South Wales Energy and Emissions Bilateral Agreement between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments?
 - (a) How much gas demand has been freed-up as a result of the agreement to date?

Answer—

- (1) The bilateral agreement was an agreement between the previous Australian and NSW governments. Electrification, fuel switching and energy efficiency have, and will continue to be, considered in the NSW Government's actions to reduce the State's emissions. They are already a part of the following initiatives to date:
 - The NSW Energy Savings Scheme provides incentives for businesses and households to undertake energy efficiency upgrades. Eligible activities include replacing existing gas-using equipment with electric alternatives such as heat pump water heaters, and replacing gas use with renewable fuels.
 - Renewable alternatives to gas, including green hydrogen and biomethane, are emerging substitutes for the gas used today. The NSW Government is helping the private sector establish renewable gas industries, including through the NSW Hydrogen Strategy, the hydrogen target under the Renewable Fuel Scheme, and a new renewable gas certification under the National GreenPower Program.
 - The Government has also committed \$25 million for a Hydrogen Centre of Excellence to train workers needed to enable a green hydrogen sector.

The NSW Government is working closely with the Australian Government and other states and territories to coordinate this work nationally.

- (a) There is no data available on the overall gas demand reduction from actions under the bilateral agreement with the Australian Government.

* 0872 ENERGY—ENERGY AND EMISSIONS REDUCTION AGREEMENT MEMORANDUM—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, is the Energy and Emissions Reduction Agreement Memorandum of Understanding between the former Government and former Commonwealth Government still valid?
- (a) Has there been any change to the quantum of the Memorandum of Understanding as a result of the federal Government committing to a 43 per cent emissions reduction by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050?

Answer—

- (1) The Memorandum of Understanding - NSW Energy Package was signed by the previous Commonwealth and NSW governments on 31 January 2020. It was superseded by the 21 December 2022 Rewiring the Nation agreement between the Commonwealth and NSW governments. The Memorandum of Understanding webpage on the energy.nsw.gov.au website has been removed accordingly.
- (a) See answer above.

* 0873 ENERGY—NSW EMISSIONS INTENSITY REDUCTION PROGRAM—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, how many large New South Wales-based sources of emission have transitioned their plants, equipment and other assets to low emissions alternatives under the NSW Emissions Intensity Reduction Program?
- (2) How much of the \$450 million program has been disbursed to date?
- (a) How many sources of emissions have received disbursement under the program?
- (b) How many entities have received disbursement under the program?
- (i) For each entity, list their name and amount of disbursement under the program.
- (3) What reduction in emissions has been reported as a result of the program to date?

Answer—

- (1) One facility, Orica, based on Kooragang Island (Newcastle), is in the process of transitioning its plant to low emissions alternatives with funding from the NSW Emissions Intensity Reduction Program.
- (2) \$9,198,490 has been disbursed to date.
- (a) Three of the entities that received disbursements are sources of emissions.
- (b) Four entities have received disbursements.
- (i)

Entity (company)	Funds disbursed to-date (\$)
Orica Australia	\$8,080,000
Tomago Aluminium Centre	\$141,000
Manildra Group (Shoalhaven Starches)	\$121,000
Environmental Resources Management Australia	\$856,490

TOTAL	\$9,198,490
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- (3) Around 150,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) has been reduced to 30 June 2023. This abatement is from the Orica site. The total annual abatement from Orica's fully commissioned plant is estimated to be more than 500,000 tCO₂-e.

* 0874 ENERGY—NET ZERO INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION PROGRAM—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, how much of the \$750 million Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program has been spent, allocated or otherwise used to date?
- (a) How many entities have received disbursement under the program?
- (i) For each entity, list their name and amount of disbursement under the program?
- (2) How many projects under this program have focussed on reduction of gas demand?
- (a) What has been the recorded reduction in demand of these gas demand reduction projects?
- (b) How many petajoules of gas demand have been avoided as a result of implementation of projects under this program?
- (c) How much emissions reductions have been achieved under this program?
- (d) How much emissions reductions are predicted to be achieved under this program by 2030?

Answer—

- (1) \$24.1 million has been spent to date (up to 14 July 2023).
- (a) 11 entities have received disbursement under the Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program.
- (i)

Entity	Disbursed as of 30 June 2023
Gridcognition	\$47,406
Manildra Group (Shoalhaven Starches)	\$121,000
TomaQo Aluminium Centre	\$141,000
Climate Salad	\$143,000
Cicada Innovations	\$191,490
Investible	\$192,000
The Energy Laboratory	\$255,000
Sparklabs Cultiv8	\$317,000
Melt Hunter Valley Operations	\$525,000
Environmental Resources Management Australia	\$856,491
Orica Australia	\$8,080,000

- (2) No projects are focused on gas demand reduction at this time.
- (a) This is not applicable as the Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program has not supported any gas demand reduction projects at this time.
- (b) See response to question 2a above.
- (c) 150,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) of emissions reductions have been achieved to 30 June 2023. This figure is expected to grow at an increasing rate as projects mature and additional projects are commissioned.
- (d) Over 30 million tCO₂-e of emissions reductions is predicted to be achieved by 2030.

* 0875 ENERGY—GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, how many tonnes of Greenhouse Gas emission (CO₂e) does the Government predict the Narrabri Gas Project is expected to contribute to the New South Wales carbon ledger?
 - (a) What proportion of New South Wales total emissions will that represent in 2035?
 - (b) Has the Government modelled the emissions profile of the Narrabri Gas Project using a range of estimates of fugitive emissions?
 - (i) If not, what proportion of fugitive emissions as a ratio of production was utilised for the prediction?

Answer—

- (1) Based on NSW Current Policy projections, the Narrabri Gas Project is expected to contribute 0.45 Mt CO₂-e in 2030 and 2035 and 0.38 Mt CO₂-e in 2050, from all sources excluding downstream combustion of the gas.
 - (a) In 2035, emissions from the Narrabri Gas Project are projected to represent 0.9% of New South Wales total emissions.
 - (b) The emissions profile of the Narrabri Gas Project was not modelled using a range of estimates for fugitive emissions. The forecasted upper limit of emissions for the life of the project was obtained from the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and adjusted according to the Department of Regional NSW Mining, Exploration and Geoscience annual forward production estimates for the project.
 - (i) The proportion of fugitive emissions as a ratio of production was 6.2 tonnes CO₂-e per terajoule of gas produced.

* 0876 ENERGY—CARBON CAPTURE UTILISATION AND STORAGE—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, what is the status of the Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage Hubs that are referred to in the Future of Gas Statement?
 - (a) Has the Government received any of the \$313.7 million that the Commonwealth Government allocated to Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage?

Answer—

This question should be referred to the Minister for Natural Resources, the Hon Courtney Houssos MLC.

* 0877 ENERGY—COAL SEAM GAS REGULATION—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, what has coal seam gas regulation cost the Government over the past 10 years?
 - (a) How much money has the coal seam gas industry contributed to the costs of regulation?
 - (b) How much of the money spent on regulation has gone to the Environment Protection Authority?

Answer—

- (1) No data is held which can provide the whole of Government's costs of regulating the coal seam gas (CSG) industry over the last 10 years.
 - (a) With respect to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) costs of regulation, the EPA implemented a cost recovery model on 1 July 2022. In 2021–22 the EPA received \$273,820 from licence fees for Santos and AGL. In 2022–23, and the first year of the cost recovery

mechanism, the EPA received \$439,956. Fees are discounted by 60% for the first three years of the mechanism.

- (b) As other NSW agencies with responsibility for aspects of CSG regulation or support have their own cost recovery arrangements in place or relatively minor unrecovered costs, there is no data on the total cost of regulating the industry. The EPA is now recovering its own costs of regulating the CSG industry, albeit at a discounted rate, until full cost recovery commences in 2025–26.

* 0878 ENERGY—DRAFT GAS ROADMAP—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, when will the draft Gas Roadmap be published by the Government?

Answer—

- (1) The Government has a range of initiatives in place to support homes and businesses to decarbonise and to capitalise on the economic opportunities of new low carbon industries. This includes initiatives related to gas, such as incentives for fuel switching under the Energy Savings Scheme, and developing a green hydrogen industry through the NSW Hydrogen Strategy. The Government will also establish a Net Zero Commission, which will advise on economy-wide decarbonisation efforts.

* 0879 ENERGY—GAS IMPORTS PORT KEMBLA—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, when does the Government anticipate that gas imports through the Port Kembla terminal that is under construction, will become available to the New South Wales gas market?

Answer—

- (1) The proponent anticipates the first gas deliveries from the Port Kembla Energy Terminal will be in 2026.

* 0880 ENERGY—REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, does the Government agree with this statement from the Australian Energy Regulator that the overarching mandate to reduce carbon emissions “requires that natural gas, as a fossil fuel, must be replaced by low-emissions technologies.”?

Answer—

- (1) As outlined in the Net Zero Plan, NSW has strong and ambitious emissions reduction targets of 50% by 2030 based on 2005 levels and net zero by 2050. To achieve this, action will be required across all sectors of the NSW economy, including reducing emissions from gas use.

The NSW Government has a number of initiatives to support emissions reductions that also cover gas use. For example, the NSW Energy Savings Scheme provides incentives for businesses and households to undertake energy efficiency upgrades. Eligible activities include replacing existing gas- using equipment with electric alternatives such as heat pump water heaters.

Renewable alternatives to natural gas, including green hydrogen and biomethane, will over time replace some of the natural gas used today. The Government is helping the private sector establish renewable gas industries, including through the NSW Hydrogen Strategy, the Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program, the hydrogen target under the Renewable Fuel Scheme, and a new renewable gas certification under the National GreenPower Program.

However, natural gas will remain a key part of NSW's energy portfolio in the medium term in providing firm capacity while consumers gradually switch to electric appliances and renewable alternatives to natural gas are scaled up.

* 0881 ENERGY—SQUADRON ENERGY—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, does the Government agree with Squadron Energy that “early 2026” is the likely date “for services to commence based on prospective buyers’ and Squadron Energy’s own demand”?
 - (a) What does the Government project gas demand will be in New South Wales in 2026 in petajoules?
 - (b) How much of this demand does the Government predict could be supplied by this terminal?

Answer—

- (1) Questions about the commencement date for the Port Kembla Energy Terminal are best directed to Squadron Energy. The Australia Energy Market Operator projects in its Gas Statement of Opportunities that:
 - (a) In 2026, annual total gas consumption in NSW is forecast to be approximately 118 petajoules (PJ).
 - (b) The Port Kembla Energy Terminal could have an annual production capacity of approximately 130 PJ per annum.

* 0882 TRANSPORT—BUS INDUSTRY TASKFORCE MEDIA RELEASE—The Hon. Natalie Ward 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 Transport—

- (1) In regard to the immediate actions from the Bus Industry Taskforce media release issued in June 2023, can the Minister advise:
 - (a) Have all actions been implemented completely?
 - (9) If not, which actions are yet to be implemented?

Answer—

I am advised all actions are being implemented.

* 0883 TRANSPORT—NETWORK INCIDENTS—The Hon. Natalie Ward 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 Transport—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, how many all network incidents occurred during peak hour, on the Sydney Trains in:
 - (a) April 2023?
 - (b) May 2023?
 - (c) June 2023?

Answer—

I am advised

If the Shadow Minister is referring to incidents in the peak that affected the whole network, none occurred between April and June 2023.

* 0884 TRANSPORT—RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEM REVIEW PANEL—The Hon. Natalie Ward 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 Transport—

- (1) In regards to the answer to QoN #441 (1) regarding the Rail Infrastructure and System Review Panel, can the Minister please provide a timeline of Mr Arthur Smith’s positions and responsibilities regarding his employment history ?

Answer—

I am advised:

Mr Arthur Smith has over 40 years' experience in the rail industry in NSW. During his career, Mr Smith has held various senior executive positions in operations, capital works and maintenance fields, including App Fitter/Machinist, Engineering Asst CL4, Engineering Asst CL3, Engineering Asst CL2, Engineering Asst CL1, Engineering Asst Spcl CL B, Engineering Asst Spcl CL A, Engineering Maintenance Manager, Manager Operations & Maintenance, GM Passenger Fleet Maintenance, Exec Director Capital Works and Rail Development, Deputy Chief Executive (Operations and Infrastructure), Chief Operations Manager, and Deputy Chief Executive Train Services.

* 0886 TRANSPORT—RAIL REPAIR PLAN—The Hon. Natalie Ward 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 Transport—

- (1) In regard to the Rail Repair Plan, can the Minister please provide the number of defects fixed each week since the program started?

Answer—

I am advised

Information on the number of defects fixed as part of the Rail Repair Plan is released publicly on a weekly basis.

* 0887 TRANSPORT—CANCELLED METROPOLITAN TRAIN SERVICES—The Hon. Natalie Ward 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 Transport—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, how many metropolitan train services were cancelled in:
- (a) April 2023?
- (b) May 2023?
- (c) June 2023?

Answer—

I am advised

When train services are disrupted, all efforts are made to provide a frequency of rail service and/or rail replacement buses to keep customers moving and provide the latest service information so customers can make informed travel decisions.

The following data relates to Sydney Trains metropolitan services:

Month	Peak Trips Cancelled	Peak - Planned Trips	Cancellation %
April-2023	217	11777	1.8%
May-2023	206	15940	1.3%
June-2023	289	14554	2.0%

The Shadow Minister may also be interested to view the data for cancellations of metropolitan services for the three months prior. The following information relates to Sydney Trains and does not include the Intercity network:

Month	Peak Trips Cancelled	Peak - Planned Trips	Cancellation %
January 2023	224	13860	1.6%
February 2023	289	13796	2.1%
March 2023	493	15940	3.1%

* 0888 PREMIER—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton 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 has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (3) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for staff referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (4) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for the community referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (5) Can the Minister confirm if past communications regarding the upcoming Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have referred to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?
- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0889 DEPUTY PREMIER—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton 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) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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- (4) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for the community referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?

- (5) Can the Minister confirm if past communications regarding the upcoming Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have referred to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?
- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

I am advised by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney that -

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0890 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (3) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for staff referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (4) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for the community referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (5) Can the Minister confirm if past communications regarding the upcoming Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have referred to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?
- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0891 HEALTH—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton 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) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (3) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for staff referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (4) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for the community referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (5) Can the Minister confirm if past communications regarding the upcoming Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have referred to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?
- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

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

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0892 TRANSPORT—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton 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 Transport—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (3) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for staff referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?

- (4) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for the community referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (5) Can the Minister confirm if past communications regarding the upcoming Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have referred to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?
- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0893 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0894 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (3) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for staff referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (4) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for the community referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (5) Can the Minister confirm if past communications regarding the upcoming Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have referred to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?
- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0895 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton 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) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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- (4) Can the Minister provide details regarding communication strategies for the community referring to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum in each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (5) Can the Minister confirm if past communications regarding the upcoming Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have referred to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?
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Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0896 CUSTOMER SERVICE AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton 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 Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous

Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0897 FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton 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) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process.

I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0898 ATTORNEY GENERAL—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton to ask the Treasurer representing the Attorney General—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?

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- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0899 SMALL BUSINESS—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous

Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0900 BETTER REGULATION AND FAIR TRADING—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton 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) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

I am advised by 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 -

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0901 CLIMATE CHANGE—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?

- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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- (6) Can the Minister confirm if planned communications regarding the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum within each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for will refer to a policy position on the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0902 SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton 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—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0903 TREASURER—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton to ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0904 AGRICULTURE—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?

- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process.

I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0905 FINANCE—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
- (2) Can the Minister detail what resources from each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for are intended for activities related to the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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Answer—

I am advised -

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

* 0906 WATER—INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT—The Hon. Rachel Merton to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) Given the Premier has said there would no “specific funding” for the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, can the Minister advise if any resources from a department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for have been involved in the upcoming Federal Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum?
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Answer—

The NSW Government has publicly stated its support for the Voice to Parliament.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is responsible for conducting the referendum, including communications regarding the referendum process. I am advised that information regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament model is developed by the Australian Government through the National Indigenous Affairs Agency.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth's commitment to conducting a referendum where all members of the community are empowered to make an informed decision.

Further engagement in the Voice to Parliament Referendum by the NSW Government will be announced in due course.

3 AUGUST 2023

(Paper No. 62)

0990 WATER—ADVERTISED WATER OPERATIONS TREATMENT TRAINEESHIP POSITIONS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, why has Sydney Water advertised Water Operations Treatment traineeship positions that accept female applicants only?
- (2) How do female-only positions comply with the provisions of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act?
 - (a) How do female-only position comply with the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act?
- (3) What exemptions have been received from the Acts in reference to (2) & (2)(a)?

David Blunt AM
Clerk of the Parliaments