



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 63

FRIDAY 4 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.

<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 23 (Including Question Nos 0300 to 0355)	30 June 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
Q & A No. 63 (Including Question Nos 0991 to 0998)	25 August 2023

**14 JULY 2023**

(Paper No. 47)

- \* 0885 TRANSPORT—SYDNEY METRO CONTRACT PLAN ENGLISH FOUNDATION—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 Sydney Metro contract to the Plain English Foundation for business writing classes, can the Minister advise:
- (a) Will the contract proceed?
- (b) Whether they think this is a good use of tax-payers money?

Answer—

I note that the contract with the Plain English Foundation was signed under the former government whom deemed it to be an appropriate use of taxpayer money.

Staff training is important to ensure we have a well-trained and resilient public service. But that training must meet community expectations of what is the responsible use of taxpayer money.

**14 JULY 2023**

(Paper No. 48)

- \* 0907 PREMIER—ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTION ON NOTICE—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Premier—
- (1) Do you believe Ministers are accountable for the answers they provide to Questions on Notice to Parliament?

Answer—

Questions on Notice are an important mechanism for ensuring the Executive government is accountable to Parliament.

If any answers to questions on notice require clarification, it is open to Members to seek that clarification.

Ministers are able to update the House with further clarifications if required.

- \* 0908 PREMIER—PROVIDING FALSE ANSWERS TO QUESTION ON NOTICE—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Premier—
- (1) Should a Minister resign if they are found to have provided false information to a Question on Notice?

Answer—

I am advised that the Standing Orders of the Legislative Council prescribe the rules for asking, and responding to, Questions on Notice in the Legislative Council.

If any answers to questions on notice require clarification, it is open to Members to seek that clarification.

Ministers are able to update the House with further clarifications if required.

**21 JULY 2023**

(Paper No. 53)

\* 0958 HOMELESSNESS—SPECIALIST SERVICE PROVIDERS - SERVICES—The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones 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 provide a list of specialist service providers and the corresponding services they offer to support the following:
- (a) Young people aged 18-25?
  - (b) Young people aged 12-18?
  - (c) Young people under 16?
  - (d) Women?
  - (e) Older women?
  - (f) Men?
  - (g) Older men?
  - (h) Aboriginal people?
  - (i) Families?

Answer—

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) funds Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) to support people facing or experiencing homelessness in NSW.

SHS can help women, men, young people, families, Aboriginal people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. They help women experiencing domestic and family violence, people who are sleeping rough, young people leaving care, people with mental health issues, people living in unsafe conditions, older people, and people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex or Queer.

Specific SHS are funded to provide services to individual cohorts, while others are funded to support a cross-section of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Information about services delivered by SHS is publicly available at: <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/help/ways/services>

Users can search by location or by the type of support needed. I'd be more than happy to discuss this with the Member.

**4 AUGUST 2023**

(Paper No. 63)

0991 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—UNSOLVED HOMICIDES AND MISSING PERSONS CASES—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham 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, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) In addition to the homicides and disappearances of the following persons that remain unsolved:
- Narelle Cox disappeared from Grafton 1977,
  - Robyn Hickie disappeared from Belmont 1979,
  - Amanda Robinson disappeared from Swansea 1979,
  - Anneke Adriansen and Alan Fox disappeared from Kempsey 1979,
  - Lewis 'Buddy' Kelly murdered in Kempsey 1983,
  - Hilda Clarke disappeared from Coffs Harbour 1986,
  - Susan Isenhood murdered in Taree 1986,

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- Lesley Waterhouse murdered in Port Macquarie 1986,
  - Helen Madden disappeared from Nambucca Heads 1988,
  - Susan Kiely disappeared from Bellingen 1989,
  - Evelyn Greenup murdered in Bowraville 1990,
  - Colleen Walker-Craig murdered in Bowraville 1990,
  - Clinton Speedy-Deroux murdered in Bowraville 1991,
  - Bronwyn Winfield disappeared from Lennox Head 1993,
  - Gordana Kotevski disappeared from Charlestown 1994,
  - Melissa Hunt murdered in Stockrington 1994,
  - Ineka Hinkley murdered in Bellingen 1996,
  - Margaret Cox murdered in Taree 1996,
  - Lee Ellen Stace murdered in Yamba 1997,
  - Lois Roberts murdered in Nimbin 1998,
  - Lucy MacDonald disappeared from Lismore in 2002,
  - Margaret Gall murdered in Raymond Terrace 2002,
  - Rose Howell disappeared from Bellingen 2003,
  - Harmony Bryant murdered in Bonny Hills 2003,
  - Kylee-Ann Schaffer disappeared from Willawarren 2004,
  - Roslyn Reay murdered in Newcastle 2005,
  - Simone Strobel murdered in Lismore 2005,
  - Amanda O'Dell murdered in Kempsey 2006,
  - Jasmine Morris disappeared from Grafton 2009, and
  - Ellen Wilson disappeared from Ballina 2015
- (a) Can the Minister advise are there any other North Coast women who are unsolved missing or unsolved murdered in the period 1977 to 2022?
- (b) If yes, please advise for each woman:
- (i) The year they went missing or were found murdered
  - (ii) What are their names?
  - (iii) The location where they went missing or were found murdered?
- (2) In regard to the list in (1) are there any current rewards offered for information regarding their murder or disappearance?
- (a) If yes, please list the person's name and the amount of reward on offer.
- (3) Are any strike forces in current operation investigating any of the murdered or missing in the list in (1)?
- (a) If yes, please list the strike force name and the person's or people's name being investigated by the strike force.
- (4) What year was Taskforce Metz established?
- (a) Which murdered or missing people were included in the investigation conducted by Taskforce Metz?
- (b) When did Taskforce Metz disband?
- (5) What are the names of any other taskforces established to investigate any of the people in the list in (1), that have been disbanded?
- (a) For each taskforce:
- (i) Please list the name of the taskforce
  - (ii) The date formed
  - (iii) The date disbanded
  - (iv) Whose murder or disappearance was being investigated?

- (6) For which of the murdered women in the list in (1), are DNA samples being held?

0992 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—

- (1) Can the Minister give a reason why she is unable to give timelines of projects from the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package?
- (2) Has the Minister or Transport for NSW briefed the Commonwealth Government on the delays to the roll out of the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package?
- (3) Will the Minister maintain that projects must have all physical works and expenditure completed within two years from signing of the funding deed?
- (4) When will the New South Wales Reconstruction Authority provide the advice and/or confirmation that the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package projects meet Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements requirements?
- (5) Has the New South Wales Reconstruction Authority taken over the running and administration of the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package?
- (6) Which councils are Transport for NSW representatives and technical assessors supporting to source evidence required to demonstrate compliance with Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements?
- (7) Has the Minister written to the Commonwealth Government requesting round 2 of funding using the outcomes so far of the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package?
- (8) Can the Minister outline how the Government will strengthen the regional transport network's capacity to withstand natural disasters?
- (9) Can the Minister outline how the Government will be improving the reliability of the regional transport network for regional communities during and after natural disaster events?
- (10) Can the Minister outline how the Government will be enhancing the adaptability of the regional transport network during and after natural disaster events?
- (11) Can the Minister outline how Transport for NSW will be improving the regional transport network's ability to respond and recover when natural disasters do occur?
- (12) Can the Minister explain what deeds are being reviewed under the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package program?
- (13) Is the review of the deeds for the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package program a Government review?
- (14) Will the Minister be reviewing all successful projects?
- (15) Can the Minister give assurances that any successful projects already announced and currently under review will still go ahead?

0993 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—FIXING COUNTRY RAIL—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 commit to the continuation of the Fixing Country Rail Program?
- (2) On a previous occasion the Minister provided the answer: "The State and Federal governments are currently reviewing programs in light of the former Liberal-National government's financial mismanagement and history of cost overruns". Can the Minister please explain:
  - (a) the answer given?
  - (b) how the Fixing Country Rail program comes under the Federal Governments' review?
- (3) Are the deeds for the Gilgandra to Coonamble project under review?

- (4) Where have the funds for Fixing Country Rail gone given Restart NSW money has been repurposed?
- (5) Why has the Main West Bi-Directional Signalling upgrade been delayed until mid 2026?
- 0994 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—FIXING COUNTRY ROADS—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, are the deeds for Fixing Country Roads under review?
- (2) Can the Minister advise why she is unable to provide start dates on projects?
- (3) Can the Minister advise whether she will rule out taking back funding of any successful project?
- (4) Can the Minister advise when Transport for NSW will be updating her on start dates?
- 0995 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—FIXING LOCAL ROADS—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, are the deeds for Fixing Local Roads Round 6 under review by the Government?
- (2) Can the Minister advise why she is unable to answer when the projects from Round 6 Fixing Local Roads will commence?
- (3) Can the Minister advise why she is unable to answer when the deeds for projects from Round 6 of Fixing Local Roads will be executed?
- 0996 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—ONE ROAD APP—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, does the Fire Near Me app feed into the One Road App?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (2) Why won't the Government commit to financial support for councils to ensure this program works?
- (3) Can the Minister advise how much of the \$4,452,239 has been spent in the Financial Year 2022 - 2023?
- (a) Was any underspend reinvested into the app?
- 0997 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD—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 many Regional Seniors Travel Cards were issued per Local Government Area as of the 7 July 2023, over the entire 4 year trial?
- (2) How many Regional Seniors Travel Cards were issued between 1 January 2023 and 7 July 2023?
- (3) How many Regional Seniors Travel Cards per local government area were issued between 1 January 2023 and 7 July 2023?
- (4) How much over the 4 year trial has been spent on:
- (a) Taxis?
- (b) NSW Trainlink Services?
- (c) Fuel?

## (d) Community transport operators?

0998 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—WALLERAWANG STATION—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, does Transport for NSW still maintain the \$10 million cost to reopen the Wallerawang Station?
- (2) Can the Minister outline what is the scope of work Transport for NSW has done as of 3 August 2023?
- (3) Can the Minister outline what is the scope of work Transport for NSW will be looking at after 3 August 2023?
- (4) Can the Minister detail the timeline Transport for NSW needs before they come back with the scope and costing of works?

David Blunt AM  
Clerk of the Parliaments