



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

**QUESTIONS  
AND  
ANSWERS**

No. 156

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 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.

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 142 (Including Question Nos 1511 to 1537)	14 December 2023
Q & A No. 143 (Including Question Nos 1538 to 1538)	15 December 2023
Q & A No. 144 (Including Question Nos 1539 to 1539)	18 December 2023
Q & A No. 145 (Including Question Nos 1540 to 1542)	19 December 2023
Q & A No. 146 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 147 (Including Question Nos 1543 to 1556)	21 December 2023
Q & A No. 148 (Including Question Nos 1557 to 1564)	22 December 2023
Q & A No. 149 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 150 (Including Question Nos 1565 to 1573)	9 January 2024
Q & A No. 151 (Including Question Nos 1574 to 1575)	10 January 2024
Q & A No. 152 (Including Question Nos 1576 to 1591)	11 January 2024
Q & A No. 153 (Including Question Nos 1592 to 1601)	12 January 2024
Q & A No. 154 (Including Question Nos 1602 to 1603)	15 January 2024
Q & A No. 155 (Including Question Nos 1604 to 1608)	16 January 2024
Q & A No. 156 (Including Question Nos 1609 to 1612)	17 January 2024

**22 NOVEMBER 2023**

(Paper No. 141)

\* 1508 ENERGY—FIRMING CAPACITY NSW ELECTRICITY SYSTEM—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) To provide firming capacity for the New South Wales electricity system, when does the government expect the following gas plants to be operational:
  - (a) Kurri Kurri?
  - (b) Tallawarra B?
- (2) What advice has been received from the Federal Government about delays in the construction of Kurri Kurri?
- (3) For each plant referenced in (1), what will be the proportion of Hydrogen content as they commence operations?

Answer—

- (1)
    - (a) The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) expects the Hunter Power Project (HPP) at Kurri Kurri to reach commercial operation in December 2024.
    - (b) Energy Australia forecasts the Tallawarra B plant is to achieve commercial operation in January 2024.
  - (2) DCCEEW states that the delays have been mainly due to legacy issues associated with COVID-19 (e.g supply chain issues, skilled labour shortages), and inclement weather in Hunter Valley region.
  - (3)
    - (a) DCCEEW has advised that the HPP will not have hydrogen in the fuel mix at commencement of operation.
    - (b) The Tallawarra B power plant will not have hydrogen in the mix at commencement of operation.
- \* 1509 ENERGY—BATTERY ANNOUNCEMENT 22 NOVEMBER 2023—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) What is the duration of each of the batteries announced with the Hon Chris Bowen MP on 22 November 2023?
  - (a) How long can each of the batteries continuously provide electricity?
- (2) What discussions did the Minister have with the Hon Chris Bowen MP about the delays in building the following:
  - (a) Snowy 2.0?
  - (b) Kurri Kurri gas plant?
- (3) When will the projects referenced in (2) be completed?

Answer—

- (1) The Liddell Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and the Smithfield BESS will each provide two hours of continuous dispatchable electricity, and the Orana BESS will provide four hours of continuous dispatchable electricity.
- (2) The Minister does not disclose details of conversations with Ministerial colleagues.

- (3) According to the Australian Energy Market Operator's *NEM Generation Information October 2023* data file (viewed 1 December 2023), Snowy 2.0 and Kurri Kurri gas plant will be completed in December 2028 and December 2024, respectively.

### 13 DECEMBER 2023

(Paper No. 156)

1609 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—SCHOOL FACILITIES—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) In relation to community use of school facilities, how are the guidance rates calculated for not-for-profit hire charges?
- (a) When were the guidance rates for not-for-profit hire charges last reviewed?
  - (b) What are the rates / guidance rates for-profit / commercial hire charges?
    - (i) Will the rates / guidance rates be made public?
  - (c) Does all revenue go back directly to that school?

1610 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—SHARE OUR SPACE PROGRAM—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) How many schools participated in the 'Share Our Space' program in the following school holidays:
- (a) 2021 Summer Holidays?
  - (b) 2021 Autumn Holidays?
  - (c) 2021 Winter Holidays?
  - (d) 2021 Spring Holidays?
  - (e) 2022 Summer Holidays?
  - (f) 2022 Autumn Holidays?
  - (g) 2022 Winter Holidays?
  - (h) 2022 Spring Holidays?
  - (i) 2023 Summer Holidays?
  - (j) 2023 Autumn Holidays?
  - (k) 2023 Winter Holidays?
  - (l) 2023 Spring Holidays?

1611 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) How many students participated in the Premier's Reading Challenge in:
- (a) 2018?
  - (b) 2019?
  - (c) 2020?
  - (d) 2021?
  - (e) 2022?

(f) 2023?

1612 MULTICULTURALISM—HINDU COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA—Ms Abigail Boyd to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) Have you been made aware of evidence that the Hindu Council of Australia has engaged in acts of religious vilification, caste discrimination and social discord?
- (2) Are you aware that on 7 November 2023 Periyar Ambedkar Thoughts Circle of Australia (PATCA) wrote to Dr Malcolm Haddon, the Associate Director of Community Resilience, documenting alleged incidents of religious vilification, caste discrimination and social discord?
- (3) Are you aware that the activities that the Hindu Council of Australia is alleged to have participated in would contravene the essential criteria for nomination to the NSW Faith Council (listed on [NSW Government website](#)) and violate the Multicultural Principles of the Multicultural NSW Act 2000?
- (4) What were your reasons for nominating the Hindu Council of Australia for the NSW Faith Council over other Hindu organisations?
- (5) Do you consider that the Hindu Council of Australia has contravened the essential criteria for nomination to the NSW Faith Council (listed on [NSW Government website](#)) and violated the Multicultural Principles of the Multicultural NSW Act 2000?
  - (a) Will you reconsider the nomination of the Hindu Council of Australia to NSW Faith Affairs Council on this basis?
- (6) Are you aware that community leaders are concerned that if action is not taken to require the Hindu Council of Australia to curtail their alleged vilification and discriminatory activities, it might embolden them to persist in ongoing vilification of Sikh and Muslim communities, perpetuate caste discrimination and contribute to targeted hate crimes?
  - (a) Will you meet with community leaders to address widespread concerns caused by the Hindu Council of Australia's nomination to the NSW Faith Council and the nomination of Mr Surinder Jain as its Co-Chair?

David Blunt AM  
Clerk of the Parliaments