



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023-24

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 390

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2024

(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. 375 (Including Question Nos 2901 to 2901)	27 November 2024
Q & A No. 376 (Including Question Nos 2902 to 2924)	28 November 2024
Q & A No. 377 (Including Question Nos 2925 to 2926)	29 November 2024
Q & A No. 378 (Including Question Nos 2927 to 2938)	2 December 2024
Q & A No. 379 (Including Question Nos 2939 to 2947)	3 December 2024
Q & A No. 380 (Including Question Nos 2948 to 2950)	4 December 2024
Q & A No. 381 (Including Question Nos 2951 to 2955)	5 December 2024
Q & A No. 382 (Including Question Nos 2956 to 2957)	6 December 2024
Q & A No. 383 (Including Question Nos 2958 to 2958)	9 December 2024
Q & A No. 384 (Including Question Nos 2959 to 2970)	10 December 2024
Q & A No. 385 (Including Question Nos 2971 to 2973)	11 December 2024
Q & A No. 386 (Including Question Nos 2974 to 3008)	12 December 2024
Q & A No. 387 (Including Question Nos 3009 to 3011)	13 December 2024
Q & A No. 388 (Including Question Nos 3012 to 3016)	16 December 2024
Q & A No. 389 (Including Question Nos 3017 to 3019)	17 December 2024
Q & A No. 390 (Including Question Nos 3020 to 3025)	18 December 2024

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(Paper No. 375)

* 2901 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—PROJECT AVENTUS AND RANDOM BREATH TESTING—The Hon. Rod Roberts 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) I refer you to “Project Aventus” within the Transformation Office of the NSW Police Force. What is the scope of Project Aventus?
 - (a) When was Project Aventus initiated?
 - (b) What tangible work has been delivered to date under Project Aventus?
 - (c) When is the expected completion date of Project Aventus?
 - (d) What is the current budget of Project Aventus?
 - (e) What has been the expenditure to date?
 - (f) How many full-time equivalent staff are employed within this Project?
- (2) On 22 October, it was reported by the Daily Telegraph that staff shortages are preventing police from conducting random breath testing. Commissioner Karen Webb is quoted, stating that "...significant work is also being done internally to reduce the demand on frontline police ... This includes Project Aventus, an ongoing piece of work by the Transformation Office, which is looking to identify tangible changes to make police taskings more manageable in the short term.". What processes arising from Project Aventus will assist in lifting the number of random breath tests conducted by the NSW Police Force?
 - (a) When are these processes expected to be implemented across the NSW Police Force?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Project Aventus commenced in January 2024 with the aim of identifying opportunities to reduce demand on frontline police officers in the short-, medium-, and long-term. The project is currently in the consultative stage, with extensive engagement and data analysis conducted across the organisation to date. A report will be provided to the Commissioner's Executive Team upon completion.

Project Aventus does not have an allocated budget. The project is being conducted within existing command and organisation resources.
- (2) The activities of Project Aventus will not specifically consider random breath testing but demand reduction opportunities more broadly. Implementation dates will be contingent on a final report being considered by the Commissioner's Executive.

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(Paper No. 390)

3020 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—FUTURE USE OF THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY LINE—The Hon. Aileen MacDonald to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism representing the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Can you clarify the Government's position on the future of the Great Northern Railway line beyond Armidale?
- (2) Does the Government have any current plans, funding allocations, or strategic priorities to restore train services on the Great Northern Railway Line north of Armidale?

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- (3) If no plans exist to return rail services, will the Government issue a public statement to confirm this, providing clear and definitive guidance to regional communities about the future use of the rail corridor?
- (4) Are you aware that this issue has caused significant division within local communities due to conflicting messages and unsubstantiated claims from some advocacy groups suggesting a return of rail services?
- (5) Will you make a public and unequivocal statement to help provide clarity to the community?
- (6) Will you make a public and unequivocal statement to help alleviate unnecessary division and misinformation?
- (7) Will you make a public and unequivocal statement to help support alternative uses of the rail corridor, such as the proposed New England Rail Trail, which has the potential to bring economic, social and heritage benefits to the region?
- (8) Do you understand the importance of making the Government's position clear given concerns about local misinformation and its impact on community unity?
- 3021 SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE—LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION PROGRAM PAPERS—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism—
- (1) In relation to the papers that you tabled on 20 November 2024, "Premier's Department: Local Small Commitments Allocation Program: Proactive release of documents" dated 11 November 2024, on what website were these papers or pieces of information published?
- (a) What was the reason or reasons for proactive release?
- 3022 CUSTOMER SERVICE AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT—COVID-19 MICRO BUSINESS GRANTS—The Hon. Damien Tudehope to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism representing the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—
- (1) How many audits of COVID-19 micro business grants have been conducted between March 2023 and November 2024?
- (a) Of these audits, how many have resulted in the requirement for the grant, or some portion of it, to be repaid?
- 3023 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL DONATIONS—The Hon. Chris Rath 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) Is it appropriate that local councils, such as the City of Sydney, donate ratepayer funds to Rising Tide?
- 3024 PREMIER—CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL DONATIONS—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Premier—
- (1) Is it appropriate that local councils, such as the City of Sydney, donate ratepayer funds to Rising Tide?
- 3025 PREMIER—SOLAR PRODUCTION IN THE ENERGY MARKET—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Premier—
- (1) Speaking on the risk of blackouts to Sydneysiders on Wednesday 27 November 2024, you were quoted by the Sydney Morning Herald as stating: "Wherever possible, wherever it's safe, consider not using energy-intensive appliances between the hours of 3pm and 8pm this afternoon," and "The reason for that is that solar production in the energy market starts to come off from 3pm at exactly the same time as people return home from work. So, if you can not run your pool filter, not run your

dishwasher, not run your washing machine this afternoon between 3pm and 8pm, you'll help the grid." Did you say these words or similar?

- (a) What did you mean by "solar production in the energy market starts to come off from 3pm"?
- (b) Noting that you stated that solar production "starts to come off from 3pm", between what hours does solar production provide its peak output of energy to the New South Wales electrical grid?

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Clerk of the Parliaments