



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023-24-25

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 449

WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH 2025

(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. 433 (Including Question Nos 3337 to 3340)	4 March 2025
Q & A No. 434 (Including Question Nos 3341 to 3358)	5 March 2025
Q & A No. 435 (Including Question Nos 3359 to 3367)	6 March 2025
Q & A No. 436 (Including Question Nos 3368 to 3369)	7 March 2025
Q & A No. 437 (Including Question Nos 3370 to 3374)	10 March 2025
Q & A No. 438 (Including Question Nos 3375 to 3377)	11 March 2025
Q & A No. 439 (Including Question Nos 3378 to 3379)	12 March 2025
Q & A No. 440 (Including Question Nos 3380 to 3381)	13 March 2025
Q & A No. 441 (Including Question Nos 3382 to 3383)	14 March 2025
Q & A No. 442 (Including Question Nos 3384 to 3385)	17 March 2025
Q & A No. 443 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 444 (Including Question Nos 3386 to 3386)	19 March 2025
Q & A No. 445 (Including Question Nos 3387 to 3387)	20 March 2025
Q & A No. 446 (Including Question Nos 3388 to 3392)	21 March 2025
Q & A No. 447 (Including Question Nos 3393 to 3393)	24 March 2025
Q & A No. 448 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 449 (Questions—Nil)	-

11 FEBRUARY 2025

(Paper No. 433)

- * 3339 LANDS AND PROPERTY—CROWN LAND MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—
- (1) Does the Crown Land Ministerial Taskforce still exist?
 - (a) If so, who is on it, how often does it meet and what advice has it given you?
 - (2) What role did Taskforce member Russell Balding play in advancing the nomination of Racing NSW as a Crown lands manager when it first applied for this role in 2022?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Crown Land Taskforce ended in March 2022.

The Department had no discussions with, nor correspondence from, Mr Balding about Racing NSW's application to become a Crown land manager.

12 FEBRUARY 2025

(Paper No. 434)

- * 3341 HEALTH—ABORTION LAW REFORM STATUTORY REVIEW—The Hon. Susan Carter to ask the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—
- (1) In relation to the Report on the Statutory Review of the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 tabled on 11 February 2025, what is the anecdotal evidence referred to in 5.3a which indicates that the termination of pregnancies is being under-reported?
 - (a) What examples have been given and from which Local Health Districts (LHDs) are these examples drawn?
 - (b) What barriers to reporting have been identified?
 - (i) What actions have been undertaken by relevant LHDs to address these barriers?
 - (c) What actions have been undertaken by NSW Health to address under-reporting?
 - (d) Given the acknowledged problem of under-reporting, what level of confidence should be placed in the reported data on abortion in New South Wales?
 - (i) Were particular issues identified with particular aspects of data collection?
 - (2) Is NSW Health confident that the reporting of sex selection abortions is accurate?
 - (3) What is the anecdotal evidence referred to in 5.2c that some providers do not adhere to referral requirements?
 - (a) What examples have been given?
 - (b) From which LHDs are these examples drawn?
 - (c) How was this anecdotal evidence tested?
 - (4) If potential providers in the same regional area all have conscientious objections to performing abortions, is this an example of failure to adhere to statutory referral requirements?
 - (a) If so, why?
 - (5) What is the anecdotal evidence referred to in 5.2c that whole health services or facilities have claimed a conscientious objection?

- (a) What examples have been given?
- (b) From which LHDs are these examples drawn?
- (c) Was this anecdotal evidence tested with the named health services/facilities?
- (6) Is it usual practice for NSW Health to make or accept recommendations for policy or legislative change based on anecdotal evidence?
- (7) Who are the members of the NSW Health Safe Access to Abortion Care Working Group?
 - (a) What are their terms of reference?
 - (b) What funding do they receive to complete their work?
 - (c) When was the Working Group established?
 - (d) Is the Working Group ongoing, or does or did it exist for a finite period?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Report on the Statutory Review of the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 highlights several issues with existing requirements in the Act.

The Ministry of Health will:

- consider the data requirements to ensure that data is consistently reported and of sufficient quality to support service planning and, if necessary, will make changes to the reporting form, and
- explore ways to increase understanding and awareness of the conscientious objection provisions in the Act to balance the rights of practitioners with a conscientious objection, with the rights of women to receive timely care and treatment.

In February 2025, NSW Health wrote to known termination of pregnancy providers to remind them of the notification requirements.

The time-limited NSW Health Safe Access to Abortion Care Working Group (comprised members from the Ministry of Health and local health districts), was established in September 2023 and ended in December 2024.

* 3342 PREMIER—USE OF MINISTERIAL CARS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Premier—

- (1) How will the new rules about the incidental private use of ministerial cars be policed in circumstances where the Minister drives and uses the car him or herself?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government has amended the Ministers' Office Handbook to provide that Ministerial drivers can only be used for official business purposes. Any private use of a driver must be incidental to the discharge of the Minister's official duties. Drivers may not be used for exclusively private purposes unless the services of a driver are required for security reasons.

Ministers will continue to be able to drive their vehicles for private purposes. The private use of vehicles will continue to be treated as a fringe benefit for taxation purposes.

Further information is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook, published on the Premier's Department website.

- * 3343 ROADS—SPEND ON KOALA PROTECTION MEASURES—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism—

- (1) How much is Transport for NSW spending on protection of koalas with roadside fencing, tunnels, property acquisition and other roadside safety measures in:
- (a) 2024-2025 so far?
 - (b) 2023-2024?
 - (c) 2022-2023?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW does not aggregate financial information on the basis of koala protection treatments for the whole State. Roadside koala protection treatments are funded within each project's overall budget on a project -by-project basis. Some of the work undertaken on critical Koala corridors includes the following:

Heathcote Road - Deadmans Creek

Treatment	FY2023 (\$)	FY2024 (\$)	FY2025 (\$)*
Koala Fencing Stage 1 #	198,580	334	-
Koala Fencing Stage 2 \$	-	20,550	272,141

* FY2025 is to 30 January 2025

Koala Fencing Stage 1 delivered improved koala access under Deadmans Creek Bridge via a fibre-reinforced polymer platform under bridge on the western side of the creek and a concrete walkway on the eastern side to encourage koala passage under the bridge.

\$ Koala Fencing Stage 2 will deliver on 1,100 metres of koala fencing either side of Heathcote Road to the north and south of the bridge to prevent animals from entering the road corridor. Works are not expected to conclude until late 2025.

Appin Road - Ousedale Creek Underpass

Treatment	FY2023 (\$)	FY2024 (\$)	FY2025 (\$) *
Detailed Design - inclusion of Koala Underpass for Brian Rd roundabout works #	591,008.59	26,771.78	-
Review of Environmental Factor (REF) - Update, review and display #	55,985.00	13,567	-

* FY2025 is to 30 January 2025

Updating the detailed design and REF will allow the installation of A new 2.4 metre diameter and 36 metre long fauna underpass under Appin Road, with refuge poles at the fauna underpass entrances and an elevated timber log through the underpass to aid movement

- * 3344 ROADS—TRAFFIC OFFENCE REVENUE—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism—

- (1) For each of the past five financial years, how much revenue has the Government collected from:
- (a) speeding fines?
 - (b) other traffic offences?

Answer—

I am advised

This is a matter for the Minister for Finance.

- * 3345 TRANSPORT—OSCAR H SET TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 OSCAR H set trains, how many were originally built?
 - (a) How many are still in service?
- (2) When will the H sets be retired?
- (3) What lines do the H sets currently service?

Answer—

I am advised

A total of 221 carriages were built between 2006 and 2011. 55 x 4-Car sets are currently in service on the South Coast, and Central Coast and Newcastle Intercity lines. These may operate as 4- or 8- car trains. A plan is yet to be made for when the H set OSCAR Fleet will be retired.

- * 3346 TRANSPORT—R SET TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 R set trains, how many were originally built?
 - (a) How many are in service?

Answer—

I am advised

The production of the new 29 train R set fleet is underway and will include 117 new carriages, forming 10 regional intercity, nine short regional and 10 long regional trains. Currently, the trains are in various stages of production, with assurance and testing work also underway.

The new Regional Rail fleet is continuing to arrive, with three trains now in Australia. Throughout 2025, we will see more trains arriving in Australia, including both the six-car long regional, and three-car short regional trains. Each train will undergo fit-out, preparation, static testing, and soon to commence, dynamic testing, utilising both the Mindyarra Maintenance Centre and Auburn Heavy Maintenance Centre. A timeline for the delivery of the balance of the trains will be confirmed once the manufacturing testing and assurance phase has been completed.

- * 3347 TRANSPORT—TANGARA TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 Tangara trains, how many T sets were originally built?
- (2) How many T sets are still in service?
- (3) How many G sets were originally built?
- (4) How many G sets are still in service?
- (5) When did the G sets merge with the T sets?
- (6) When will the T sets be retired?
- (7) What lines do the T sets currently service?

Answer—

I am advised

The number of T sets originally built were 112 x 4 car sets (92 T sets and 20 G sets) with 7 spare cars (6 trailer cars and 1 motor car), a total of 455 cars. 111 x 4 car sets (444 cars) are still in service.

20 G sets were originally built. No G sets are in service, they have been converted into T sets (the toilets were removed). The G sets were converted into T sets from 2011 onwards.

The Tangara T set fleet will be retired progressively as the new replacement fleet is introduced into service. In line with the current election commitment to establish local manufacturing and ensure a minimum 50 per cent local content for the replacement fleet, it is anticipated that the Tangaras will begin being replaced in the early 2030s.

The Tangara currently service sectors 1, 2 and 3, predominantly T4 line Eastern Suburbs & Illawarra Lines, T1 North Shore, T2 Leppington & Inner West lines.

- * 3348 TRANSPORT—V SET TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 V set trains, how many were originally built?

(a) How many are still in service?

(2) When will the V sets be retired?

(3) What lines do the V sets currently service?

Answer—

I am advised

230 V set intercity carriages were built with 51 x 4-Car sets currently in service on the Central Coast and Newcastle line, and the Blue Mountains Line. These operate as either 4- or 8-car services. A retirement plan for the V set intercity fleet is yet to be approved.

- * 3349 TRANSPORT—WARATAH A SET TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 Waratah A set trains, how many were originally built?

(a) How many are still in service?

(2) When will the A sets be retired?

(3) What lines do the A sets currently service?

Answer—

I am advised

78 x 8-Car Trains were built, plus 1 spare power car and a spare passenger car. There are 78 x 8-Car A set trains in service on the T1 (North Shore - Western), T2 (Inner West - Leppington), T3 (Liverpool), T5 (Richmond) and T9 (Northern) lines. The A set trains will be scheduled for retirement from 2050.

- * 3350 TRANSPORT—WARATAH B SET TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 Waratah B set trains, how many were originally built?

(a) How many are still in service?

(2) When will the B sets be retired?

(3) What lines do the B sets currently service?

Answer—

I am advised

41 x B set Waratah trains were originally built and are still currently in service. The B sets will be scheduled for retirement from 2058. The B sets predominately run on the T1 (North Shore - Western), T2 (Inner West - Leppington), T3 (Liverpool), T5 (Richmond) and T9 (Northern) lines.

- * 3351 TRANSPORT—XPLOERER TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 Xplorer trains, how many were originally built?

(a) How many are still in service?

(2) When will the Xplorer be retired?

Answer—

I am advised

21 Xplorer cars were originally built. In the late 1990s, two Endeavour cars were also converted to become Xplorers. All 23 Xplorer cars are still in service.

The Regional Rail fleet is planned to progressively replace the current XPT, Xplorer and Endeavour trains. The current fleet remains fit for purpose until the new trains are ready for passenger service. A timeline for the entry into service of the Regional Fleet will be confirmed once they have progressed through testing and the relevant verifications on the NSW and Australian rail networks.

- * 3352 TRANSPORT—XPT TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 XPT trains, how many were originally built?

(a) How many are still in service?

(2) When will the XPT be retired?

Answer—

I am advised

30 trains marketed under the name InterCity XPT (Xpress Passenger Train) were originally built (four 2x5 sets with two spare power cars). A total of 77 XPT cars are still in service.

The Regional Rail fleet is planned to progressively replace the current XPT, XPLOERER and Endeavour trains, which remain fit for service until the rollout is complete. The current fleet remains fit for purpose until the new trains are ready for passenger service. A timeline for their entry into service, and replacement for the XPT fleet will be confirmed once they have progressed through testing and the relevant verifications on the NSW and Australian rail networks.

- * 3353 TRANSPORT—J SET TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 J set trains, how many were originally built?

(a) How many are still in service?

(2) When will the J set be retired?

(3) What lines do the J set currently service?

Answer—

I am advised

7 x 2-car J set Hunter trains were built and are in service. There are no plans in the foreseeable future to retire the J set Hunter trains. The J set Hunter trains are used to operate intercity Hunter line services which run between the Newcastle interchange to Dungog section of the North Coast Line, and the Newcastle Exchange to Scone section of the Main North Line.

- * 3354 TRANSPORT—K SET TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 K set trains, how many were originally built?

(a) How many are still in service?

(2) When will the K sets be retired?

(3) What lines do the K sets currently service?

Answer—

I am advised

160 K set train cars were built between 1981 and 1985. 156 cars are still in service on the T8 Airport and South Line and T2 inner West and Leppington Line. There is no current approved retirement plan.

- * 3355 TRANSPORT—ENDEAVOUR RAILCARS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 Endeavour Railcar trains, how many were originally built?

(a) How many are still in service?

(2) When will the Endeavour Railcars be retired?

(3) What lines do the Endeavour Railcars currently service?

Answer—

I am advised

The Regional Rail fleet is planned to progressively replace the current XPT, XPLODER and Endeavour trains. The current fleet remains fit for purpose until the new trains are ready for passenger service.

A timeline for the entry into service of the Regional Fleet will be confirmed once they have progressed through testing and the relevant verifications on the NSW and Australian rail networks.

There were 14 Endeavour trains originally built in 1994 to 1996. A total of 28 Endeavour cars are still in service. Endeavour Railcars currently operate throughout Southern Highlands as far as Goulburn, West - as far as Bathurst, South Coast - Bomaderry to Kiama, Hunter - Newcastle to Muswellbrook, Scone & Dungog.

- * 3356 TRANSPORT—MILLENNIUM M SET TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 Millennium M set trains, how many were originally built?

(a) How many are still in service?

(2) When will the M sets be retired?

(3) What lines do the M sets currently service?

Answer—

I am advised

There are 35 x 4 Millenium M set trains built which are all still in service, predominately servicing the T2 (Inner West Leppington), T5 (Cumberland), T6 (Bankstown) and T7 (Olympic Park) lines. Millenium M set trains are scheduled to retire between 2037 to 2040.

* 3357 TRANSPORT—MARIYUNG TRAINS—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 Mariyung D set trains, how many were originally built?
 - (a) How many are in service?
- (2) When will the D sets be retired?
- (3) What lines do the D sets currently service?

Answer—

I am advised

A total of 610 carriages, comprising 55 ten-carriage trains and seven 8-carriage D set (Mariyung) trains, were procured. There are currently three 8-car Mariyung trains in service. Two additional 8-car Mariyung trains are due to enter service in late February 2025, for a total of five 8-car trains in service. The new fleet has a life expectancy of 35 years. The Mariyung Fleet is currently in operation on the Central Coast and Newcastle Line, and will also be in operation on the Blue Mountains, South Coast and North Shore lines in future.

* 3358 TRANSPORT—CENTRAL STATION—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, 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 Central Station, is there a platform 15?
 - (a) If not, why is there no platform 15?
 - (b) If not, are there plans for a platform 15?
- (2) What happened to the once abandoned platforms 26 and 27?

Answer—

I am advised

Platform 15 at Central Station was previously used for maintenance. It was removed during the construction of Sydney Metro and will not be reinstated.

The previous non-operational platforms 26 and 27 were re purposed as part of Sydney Metro construction and now contain communications and power equipment for the upgraded sections of Central Station. The Sydney Metro operating platforms at Central are now numbered 26 and 27.

5 MARCH 2025

(Paper No. 449)

Nil Questions submitted.

David Blunt AM
Clerk of the Parliaments