



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2002

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**No. 2**

THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2002

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(The Questions and Answers Paper is published for each sitting day and will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous sitting day and any new questions. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.)

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Q. & A. No. 1 (Including Question Nos 1 to 10)	2 April 2002
Q. & A. No. 2 (Including Question Nos 11 to 44)	3 April 2002

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Notice of Question given on the date shown

26 FEBRUARY 2002

(Paper No. 1)

- 1 APPLICATIONS BY PRIMARY PRODUCERS—Mr Stoner to Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Corrective Services—
- 2 FUNDING NSW ADULT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION—Mr Stoner to Minister for Education and Training—
- 3 COASTAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY—Mr Stoner to Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Corrective Services—
- 4 HAZARD REDUCTION —Mr Armstrong to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 5 DANGEROUS REFUSE—Mr Collins to Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 6 ROAD SAFETY ADVERTISING —Mr J. H. Turner to Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 7 COMPENSATION FOR AMBULANCE OFFICERS—Mr Torbay to Minister for Health—
- 8 COUNTRYLINK CHANGES TO ARMIDALE—Mr Torbay to Minister for Transport and Minister for Roads—
- 9 FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL—Mr Webb to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 10 TRITON FOUNDATION—Mr Webb to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

27 FEBRUARY 2002

(Paper No. 2)

- 11 UPGRADE PRINCES HIGHWAY/ACACIA ROAD—Mr J. H. Turner to Minister for Transport and Minister for Roads—
  - (1) Has the Roads and Traffic Authority acknowledged the receipt of community comments regarding the Princes Highway/Acacia Road intersection Kirrawee upgrade?

- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Have any changes been made to the original upgrade proposal as a result of community concerns?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) If such changes have been made, what do these changes entail?
- (6) What information has been made available to the public since 1 January 2002 regarding the progress of the upgrade proposal?
- (7) If information has been made available, by what means has this information been made available?
- (8) If information concerning the upgrade proposal has not been made available, why not?
- (9) Have the plans for the upgrade been finalised?
- (10) If there are proposed changes to the upgrade, when will the final plans be made available?
- (11) If plans for the upgrade have been finalised, what do they entail?
- (12) If plans for the upgrade have been finalised, when were they finalised?
- (13) If plans for the upgrade have been finalised, have they been released on public display?
- (14) If so, where have the plans been displayed?
- (15) If the final plans have not been placed on public display, why not?
- (16) How many vehicles currently travel on Acacia Road, Kirrawee on a daily basis?
- (17) Are the number of vehicles that use Acacia Road expected to increase after the completion of the Princes Highway/Acacia Road Intersection upgrade?  
If so, what are the expected increases in vehicle movements for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005?

12 RURAL FIRE SERVICE FUND—Mr J. H. Turner to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

- (1) What was the allocation under the Rural Fire Service (RFS) Fire Fighting Fund imposed in the financial year 2002/01 and 2001/02 for Gloucester Shire Council?
- (2) Did that allocation increase after it was initially advised to the Council?
- (3) If so, what were those increases?
- (4) If so, why did they increase?
- (5) If so, if the amounts had to increase due to additional funds needed because of the increase in administration charges of the Rural Fire Service, what were those increased administrative charges?
- (6) If the charges were increased because of increases in administrative charges by the Rural Fire Service, why should local councils such as Gloucester Shire Council have to bear the costs?
- (7) What accountability is there by the Rural Fire Service to local government who have to fund the Rural Fire Fighting Fund for their administrative costs?
- (8) If there is such accountability, how is it disclosed?
- (9) If there is no such accountability, why is there no accountability?

13 PROPOSED NATURE RESERVE—NAMBUCCA SHIRE—Mr Stoner to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

What is the status of the proposal for a nature reserve or similar classification of land between Way Way and Middle Head, in the Nambucca Shire?

14 TITLE OF MINISTER FOR WOMEN—Mr Stoner to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

In relation to the title of Minister for Women:

- (1) Under whose authority can this title be lawfully used?
- (2) When was this authority given?

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- 15 PUBLIC SCHOOLS—OXLEY ELECTORATE—Mr Stoner to Minister for Education and Training—
- What capital improvements are planned for public schools in the Oxley electorate for the 2001/02 and 2002/03 financial years?
- 16 LEGAL AID VISITATION —Mr Piccoli to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- Would the Minister advise when Legal Aid visitation services will be reinstated to Griffith?
- 17 NUMBER OF NSW POLICE—Mr Souris to Minister for Public Works and Services, Minister for Sport and Recreation, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship, representing the Minister for Police—
- (1) What was the total number of police in the NSW Police Force as at the date of the 1999 NSW General Election for:
    - (a) The greater metropolitan area of Sydney and the local government areas of Sydney Wollongong?
    - (b) The remainder of NSW?
  - (2) What was the total number of police in the NSW Police Force as at 26 February 2002 for:
    - (a) The greater metropolitan area of Sydney and the local government areas?
    - (b) The remainder of NSW?
- 18 DECENTRALISATION PROGRAM—Mr Armstrong to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—
- (1) What is the number and location of new public sector positions created as a result of the Government's decentralisation program? Of those positions created, will he please identify whether they are permanent or casual, and the number which are currently filled?
  - (2) What is the number and location of existing public sector positions relocated as a result of the Government's decentralisation program? Of those positions relocated, will he please identify whether they are permanent or casual, and the number which are currently filled?
  - (3) From which towns in rural and regional NSW have the positions been transferred; also to where they have been relocated and when did this occur?
  - (4) How many positions have been transferred from towns with populations of less than 15,000 persons to larger regional centres?
  - (5) By name, which Director-Generals of government departments are based at locations other than Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong?
  - (6) How does the Government classify areas of the State as either metropolitan or rural regional? What criteria does it use to assist it in arriving at a determination?
- 19 REGIONAL BUSINESS—Mr Armstrong to Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for Rural Affairs—
- (1) Will the Minister provide a complete list of any new businesses established in regional NSW as a result of participating in one of the Government's Regional Business Investment Tours?
  - (2) How many permanent jobs were created as a result and what is the estimated amount of additional investment this has brought to the State? How much and what sort of financial assistance has been offered to these businesses through the Government's regional assistance programs?

- (3) Will the Minister provide a complete list of any new businesses established in rural and regional NSW as a direct result of business trips to Asia funded by the Department of State and Regional Development?

20 DECENTRALISATION POLICIES—Mr Armstrong to Deputy Premier, Minister for Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—

- (1) What was the outcome of the study undertaken by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning's Demographic Unit into the potential of decentralisation policies to support regional development and divert part of Sydney's population growth?
- (2) What steps has the Government taken as the result of this research towards the implementation of planning initiatives designed to encourage further decentralisation of this State's population?
- (3) What, if any, rural and regional centres have experienced population increases as direct result of the government's decentralisation policies and what criteria is used to arrive at these figures?

21 HAZARD REDUCTION—Mr Fraser to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

In detail, what were the hazard reduction activities undertaken by the NPWS as noted in the National Parks annual reports for the years 1995 to 2001 including :

- (1) Which national parks and reserves had areas hazard reduced?
- (2) What was the size of the area hazard reduced in each national park or reserve?
- (3) Which method of hazard reduction was used in each national park?

22 HAZARD REDUCTION ACTIVITIES—Mr Fraser to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

In detail, what were the hazard reduction activities noted in the Rural Fire Service annual report including:

- location and size of the areas hazard reduced
- methods of hazard reduction in each area?

23 JERRABOMBERRA PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Webb to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Can you confirm that the Federal Government allocated \$2.1 million to your Department for the construction of a new public school at Jerrabomberra in the 2001/2002 financial year?
- (2) Precisely what was the \$2.1 million to be used for?
- (3) Can you confirm that 6 classrooms will in fact be built during this financial year and not just the 4 which are currently under construction?
- (4) When will construction of stage 2 of the new School commence?
- (5) Has your department contacted the Queanbeyan City Council this year regarding its contribution of \$100,000 for a larger school hall to finalise a time frame for expenditure of that contribution?
- (6) If not, when will your Department be making contact with the Queanbeyan City Council regarding their commitment to the Jerrabomberra School hall?

24 QUEANBEYAN WEST SCHOOL—Mr Webb to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) When do you propose to allocate substantial funding to address the growing problems at schools such as Queanbeyan West Public School?

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- (2) Is the current building provided as a school hall at Queanbeyan West actually a food service area and shelter?
- (3) Can you advise why the school cannot accommodate the current enrolled pupils for a whole of school assembly let alone a function involving both pupils and their parents?
- (4) Do end of year assemblies have to held at the local high School involving massive disruption to school routine and major logistical problems?
- (5) When can the school community expect a permanent library that provides sufficient space to accommodate the resources and equipment necessary to fulfil its purpose as a research and learning centre and which doesn't leak and damage the resources?
- (6) Can you advise if the current administration building passes Occupational Health and Safety standards, provides sufficient personal space for the 20 staff members required to occupy the building?
- (7) On what date can Queanbeyan West Public School expect to see commencement of major upgrading works?

25 DINGO BREEDING —Mr Webb to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

- (1) Are you aware of any circumstances where the NPWS are involved in the breeding of dingoes in the State?
- (2) If so, when and where has this or does this occur?
- (3) Is the NPWS obliged to comply with Part 3 sec 4, and Part 5 sec 26 of the Wild Dog Destruction Act?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) How much did the NSW Government contribute to the Wild Dog Destruction fund in the previous three financial years?
- (6) How many individuals, organisations or bodies are involved in the breeding of dingoes in the State?
- (7) Where are they located?
- (8) What are the respective lengths of existing electric wild dog fences in the Kosciuszko National Park south of Jindabyne and the South East Forest National Park areas east of Nimmitabel?
- (9) When were these fences erected?
- (10) What is the NPWS estimated cost per kilometre for the erection of electric wild dog fences in parks and reserves?
- (11) What are the approximate estimated annual maintenance costs associated with NPWS electric wild dog fences?
- (12) How much money is spent annually by government agencies in the maintenance of wild dog/dingo fences in the state?
- (13) What is the estimated annual private landholder contribution to wild dog/dingo fence maintenance in NSW?

26 MANNING RIVER CLOSURE—Mr J. H. Turner to Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for Rural Affairs, representing the Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for Fisheries—

- (1) Has the Minister received letters addressed to him, his office or his department protesting at the closure of part of the Manning River?
- (2) If so, has the Minister replied to such letters?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If not, when will the Minister reply?
- (5) If the Minister does not intend to reply, why won't he reply?

- 27 ARTERIAL ROAD INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- (1) What has been the total number of infringement notices issued by the Arterial Road fixed speed camera between Killara and St Ives?
  - (2) For which period of time has the camera been inoperative?
  - (3) Why has it not been functioning?
- 28 ESCAPES FROM COURTS—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Corrective Services—
- (1) How many escapes have there been from courts since your Department took over responsibility for this role?
  - (2) How many escapees have been recaptured?
  - (3) How many persons have been injured during escapes?
  - (4) What has been the cost of damages caused during escapes?
  - (5) How many staff working days have been lost due to injury?
  - (6) How many officers are attached to courts in the role of court security?
  - (7) What security changes have been implemented in the past 12 months?
- 29 FOREST WAY LANDSCAPING—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- (1) What is the program for landscape maintenance of Forest Way?
  - (2) How often should grass be mown and weeds removed?
  - (3) Will the Minister request the RTA to undertake plantings in those sections where landscaping is inadequate or failed to originally establish?
- 30 UNDERGROUND THEATRES—Mr Rozzoli to Minister for Health—
- (1) Have any hospitals been built in New South Wales with operating theatres underground?
  - (2) If so, where and for what reason?
- 31 MAROOTA FOREST—Mr Rozzoli to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- (1) Is he aware that a recently commissioned study by Lesryk, Environmental Consultants for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, revealed the former Maroota State Forest has twice as many animal species as Marra Marra National Park and more animal species than the Royal, Ku-ring-gai Chase, Morton and Brisbane Waters National Parks?
  - (2) Did the government make a 1995 election pledge to declare the area a National Park?
  - (3) Has a full study been undertaken of the location and nature of Aboriginal sites within the area pursuant to the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1967?
  - (4) If no study has been taken, will he ensure that such a study is commenced as soon as possible?
  - (5) What process is the government putting in place to ensure that this land, which is both of great cultural significance to the local indigenous people and a valuable conservation area, is managed for the future benefit of the community?



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32 NSW FARMERS DELEGATES—Mr D. L. Page to Minister for Land and Water Conservation, and Minister for Fair Trading—

- (1) Why has it taken so long for the change of NSW Farmers' delegates on the Mid-North Coast Water Management Committee to take place given that the change in nominations by the NSW Farmers occurred in early 2001?
- (2) Will this change of delegates be concluded within two weeks?
- (3) If not, why not?

33 WARRAGAMBA HAZARD REDUCTION—Dr Kernohan to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

On what date and where exactly in the Warragamba area and the adjoining national parks water catchment area did a 500 ha hazard reduction burn take place prior to last Christmas Day?

34 NATTAI TOWNSHIP—Dr Kernohan to Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney—

With respect to the land on which the township of Nattai is built:

- who owns it?
- is it under Torrens title?

35 DESTROYED NATTAI RESIDENCES—Dr Kernohan to Deputy Premier, Minister for Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—

Is it true that under planning laws or regulations pertaining to Sydney Water Catchment areas and/or national parks that any residence at Nattai destroyed by fire cannot be rebuilt/replaced?

36 LAND TAX—OWNER OCCUPIED HOMES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Land and Water Conservation, and Minister for Fair Trading, representing the Treasurer, Minister for State Development and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

In relation to the land tax on owner occupied homes:

- (1) For each of the tax years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, how many assessments were issued ?
- (2) For each of the tax years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, how many assessments were appealed and how many of these appeals resulted in an alteration to the amount of tax paid ?
- (3) For each of the tax years 2002, 2003 and 2004, how much revenue is forecast to be raised?
- (4) For each of the tax years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 how many assessments were waived or deferred on hardship grounds?
- (5) How many properties were taxed for the first time in each of the tax years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002?

37 OLYMPIC COORDINATION AUTHORITY—Mr Debnam to Minister for Land and Water Conservation, and Minister for Fair Trading, representing the Treasurer, Minister for State Development and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

In relation to the Olympic Coordination Authority (OCA), on what date will the "Cost of Games Report", as referred to on the OCA website, be published?

- 38 GUIDELINES FOR PRIVATELY FINANCED PROJECTS—Mr Debnam to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to the “Working with Government – Guidelines for Privately Financed Projects” statement released in November 2001:

- (1) On what date will the first State Infrastructure Strategic Plan (SISP) be published ?
- (2) Will the Capital Investment Strategic Plans (CISPs) of individual agencies be separately identified within the SISP ?
- (3) Will Asset Maintenance Strategic Plans and Asset Disposal Strategic Plans also be incorporated into the SISP and if not, how will information relating to asset maintenance and disposal be made available to the public ?
- (4) Since the Guidelines were released, how many unsolicited proposals have been received from the private sector and what service delivery areas do they relate to ?

- 39 LEGAL EXPENSES—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

- (1) What were the major expenses incurred by the Co-ordinator General of Rail that cost \$464, 000 in legal fees for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001?
- (2) Who were the main recipients, eg legal firms or Crown Solicitor, of the \$464, 000 spent on legal fees by the Office of the Co-ordinator General of Rail for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001?

- 40 LEVEL CROSSINGS—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

- (1) Was the level crossing at Kyogle Rd, Namoona near Casino identified by the Level Crossings Improvement Program as requiring improvements to make it safer?
- (2) Was the level crossing at Fallon St, Albury identified by the Level Crossings Improvement Program as requiring improvements to make it safer?

- 41 NORTH COAST RAIL LINE—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

- (1) How much money has been spent annually, since 1995, on rail maintenance for the North Coast rail line?
- (2) How much money has been spent annually, since 1995, on upgrading the North Coast rail line?
- (3) Are there any plans for a major upgrade of the North Coast rail line?
- (4) If so, when will such an upgrade commence and finish and what is the estimated cost?

- 42 TRAINING NSW POLICE COLLEGE—GOULBURN—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Public Works and Services, Minister for Sport and Recreation, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship, representing the Minister for Police—

- (1) How many Police Officers are, as at 27 February 2002, attached to the Staff of the Police College in Goulburn?
- (2) How many Police Officers were attached to the Staff of the Police College in Goulburn as at:
  - (a) 1 February 2002?
  - (b) 1 February 2000?
  - (c) 1 February 1999?
- (3) What was the total number of Staff, Police and Civilian, working at the Police College at:
  - (a) 1 February 2002?
  - (b) 1 February 2000?

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(c) 1 February 1999?

(4) Since 1999 has any Police training or courses been moved from the Police College in Goulburn?

43 OVINE JOHNES DISEASE LEVY—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Corrective Services—

(1) What percentage of NSW sheep flocks outside the current residual zone have been tested using Abattoir Surveillance?

(2) What is the incidence of the disease detected by the testing at question (1)?

(3) What percentage of total sheep flocks in NSW have been tested by Abattoir Surveillance?

(4) What is the incidence of the disease detected by the testing at question (3)?

44 PUBLIC HOUSING IN GOULBURN—Ms Hodgkinson to Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—

(1) When were the flats at Argyle St Goulburn purchased by/built for the NSW Department of Housing?

(2) What is the average annual maintenance cost to keep the Argyle St Flats habitable?

(3) Is the Minister aware that visually the Argyle Street Flats appear to be in poor condition?

(4) Does the Department of Housing have any plans to replace or recondition the Argyle Street Flats?