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QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS

No. 142

WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2005

(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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24 MAY 2005

(Paper No. 131)

*4107 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION—Ms Berejiklian to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

In relation to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC):

(1) Can the DEC approve of development or industrial activity in the absence of a Development Application (DA) or other approval instrument?

(2) In the absence of a DA is the DEC obligated to cancel or amend a licence to stop the relevant development or activity?

Answer—

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA), which is part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), undertakes licensing functions to regulate pollution in respect of development or industrial activities. The Director-General of DEC undertakes approval functions in relation to development that has an impact on threatened species, populations and ecological communities as well as aboriginal cultural heritage.

The EPA can grant an environment protection licence in the absence of a Development Application (DA) if no development consent is required for the activity. In such cases the activity is assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and those parts of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 that are relevant to the activity.

Where development consent is required for an activity, but a DA has not been lodged, DEC can issue approvals relating to threatened species, populations and ecological communities and aboriginal cultural heritage at any time upon application being made. This does not negate the requirement to obtain development consent before carrying out the activity. Where a DA is lodged, DEC’s role in issuing approvals (including concurrence) is integrated into the development assessment process conducted by the consent authority.

The EPA may suspend the operation of a licence where development consent or a required modification of existing consent has not been obtained.

*4108 CORONIAL INQUEST—MEMBERS CORRESPONDENCE—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Health—

(1) When will the Minister provide a comprehensive response to my letters of 25 November 2004 and 21 February 2005 on behalf of Dr Neil Willetts, of Lindfield, in relation to the suicide of his daughter Karen after she absconded from Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital’s Lindsay Madew Unit in late 2002?

(2) Given that the Coronial Inquest into Karen’s death was completed in August 2004, when will the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service contact the Willets family to advise what actions have been taken to implement the Coroner’s recommendations and ensure there will be no repetition of the failures identified as contributing to Karen’s death?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I refer the Honourable Member to my correspondence of 23 May 2005. As advised, by the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service is investigating the matter further.

I am advised that the Area Health Service will be providing a formal written response to the Willets family upon the completion of an independent review of the Coroner’s recommendations.
**4109 POLICE RESOURCES—NAMBUCCA SHIRE—Mr Stoner to Minister for Police—**

In relation to Police resources in the Nambucca Shire:

1. Are you aware that the Nambucca area has one of the highest growth rates in NSW, yet police numbers have increased by only 1.5 officers since 1996, despite a 2,500 population increase over the same period?
2. Are you aware that, due to the absence of a 24 hour station in the Nambucca Shire, many reports of crimes go to Kempsey and that officers are forced to spend long hours on the road due to their assigned jail being Grafton, two hours away, rather than Kempsey, 45 minutes away?
3. Are you aware that there is only one Highway patrol car assigned to the Nambucca area, which covers a notorious section of the Pacific Highway between Kempsey and Urunga?
4. What is your response to a submission highlighting these and other resourcing inequities, which was sent to Assistant Commissioner Madden in February?
5. When will there be an official response to the above submission?

**Answer—**

As at the end of April 2005, the authorised number of police for the Mid North Coast Local Area Command was 155. Since 1994, the authorised strength has increased from 129 (1994) to 155 (2005). This represents an increase in authorised strength of 26 police officers or 20.2% since the Carr Government came to office.

The latest crime trends for the Mid North Coast (December 2004) released by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) indicate that of the sixteen categories of crime 2 have decreased and the remaining are either stable or no significant trend was noted. The incidence of Assaults and Steal from Retail Stores decreased by 14% and 31.4%, respectively.

**4110 PACIFIC HIGHWAY BYPASS—KEMPSEY—Mr Stoner to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—**

In relation to the proposed Pacific Highway bypass of Kempsey:

1. Are you aware that the proposed route to the east of Kempsey will destroy a memorial avenue of trees at East Frederickton, off South West Rocks Road, which commemorates the 6 local soldiers who died during First World War and the 20 who returned?
2. Has the Roads and Traffic Authority received community representations including from the Kempsey RSL Sub Branch opposing the proposed destruction of a significant local cultural/historical feature?
3. If so, what is your response to those community concerns?

**Answer—**

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to honouring the contribution and sacrifices made by servicemen and women on behalf of Australia.

The Roads and Traffic Authority is working with representatives of the community and the Kempsey-Macleay Sub-Branch of the Returned Services League to identify options to mitigate the impacts on the affected trees.
In relation to the fitting of Interlock devices for drivers convicted of prescribed concentration of alcohol (PCA) offences and receiving a Suspended Disqualification Order (SDO):

(1) Where can such drivers arrange the fitting of these devices?

(2) Given that it is likely that a higher proportion of such drivers would receive a SDO in country areas due to a lack of public transport options, are the locations of Interlock device fitting centres in rural areas sufficient?

(3) How are such drivers expected to get their vehicles to Road and Traffic Authority offices located up to 6 hours away by road?

Answer—

I am advised:

Alcohol is a significant road safety issue. In country areas of NSW there are more than twice as many fatal drink drive crashes as metropolitan areas, with 73% of all fatal drink drive crashes occurring in country areas.

An alcohol interlock device is an electronic breath-testing device connected to the ignition of a vehicle. The vehicle will not start unless the driver passes a breath test.

The Alcohol Interlock Program is a court based penalty for convicted drink drivers that commenced in September 2003. The program enables drivers convicted of major alcohol-related offences to resume driving after a reduced disqualification period if they obtain an interlock driver licence and participate in the program.

Participation in the program for convicted drink drivers is voluntary, with offenders who do not obtain an interlock driver licence able to serve full their full disqualification period.

Alcohol interlock devices are fitted by approved Alcohol Interlock Installers. The locations of approved Alcohol Interlock Installers around NSW are publicly available on the Roads and Traffic Authority website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

In considering alternative sites for engines and rolling stock of the Steam Train Preservation Society 3801 Ltd, is it proposed to continue the lease of part of the Eveleigh Workshops to the Steam Train Preservation Society 3801 Ltd?

Answer—

I am advised:

All railway owned land at Eveleigh will ultimately be transferred to the Redfern Waterloo Authority. 3801 Limited has been informed that alternative locations for State Rail Authority rollingstock and other equipment in its custody at present are being sourced.

In view of Richmond High and Richmond Public Schools meeting the “hot spot” criterion for having airconditioning (reference Question on Notice number 3550), when will the installation of air-cooling occur?
Answer—

I am advised that a project to provide air cooling to six rooms at Richmond Public School was approved as a part of the 2004/05 Air Cooling Program at an estimated total cost of $106,643. The project is currently underway and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2005.

The need to provide air cooling to permanent classrooms at Richmond High School and Richmond Public School is noted by the Department and will be considered in the context of future regional capital works priorities.

*4114 PUBLIC SAFETY WINDSOR STATION—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport—

In light of the near tragedy at Windsor Station recently, what measures are proposed to ensure that people with prams or differently abled people are not caught in train doors?

Answer—

I am advised:

RailCorp is implementing a number of measures to ensure that people with disabilities and prams are not caught in train doors. These include the progressive rollout of Easy Access improvements, platform works (including gap reduction) and investigating CCTV requirements to improve sightlines of train doors at stations with curved platforms.

In addition, Digital Voice Announcements and signage at all CityRail stations encourage passengers with disabilities, limited mobility or prams to travel near the guard’s carriage to help ensure their safety when alighting or boarding a train.

*4117 TICKET PRICE—Mr Kerr to Minister for Transport—

What was the price of a return ticket fare from Cronulla to Martin Place, as at 1 September in each year 2000-2004 inclusive?

Answer—

Ticket prices will vary depending on the time of day purchased and whether the purchaser is entitled to a concession.

*4118 COMMUTER PARKING—Mr Kerr to Minister for Transport—

What plans does the Government have to improve commuter parking at the following railway stations:
(1) Caringbah?
(2) Woolooware?
(3) Cronulla?

Answer—

The Ministry of Transport advises:

Significant funding has been spent in establishing new and existing commuter car parks across the rail network.

The cost involved in constructing new or extending existing car parking facilities can be substantial, and with many other projects across the rail network also needing funding, priorities must be directed to those areas where the need is greatest.

The Honourable Member may be assured when funding priorities are next being considered, upgrading the commuter car parking at Caringbah, Woolooware and Cronulla Stations will be taken into consideration, along with the requests of other commuters.
*4119 COAL FIRED POWER—Mr Kerr to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

Do coal fired power stations contribute to global warming?

Answer—

Coal is basically pure carbon. When one tonne of coal is burnt to generate electricity it creates around 3.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas contributing to climate change.

*4120 MORGAN'S LOOKOUT SALT INTERCEPTION SITE—Mr Aplin to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

(1) Are you aware that in November 2003 the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources commenced a pumping trial from the Morgan’s Lookout salt interception site near Walla Walla?

(2) Are you further aware of the benefits the augmented flows in Billabong Creek brought to the Walbundrie – Rand area?

(3) Why did this successful program cease operation after the 2003-04 summer?

(4) Why was a second bore sunk in February 2005 if there is no funding for its operation?

(5) Why did the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources purchase the private property on which the pumps are located if there is no funding available to operate the pumps?

(6) What commitment do you have to this salt interception site?

Answer—

(1) I am aware that the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) undertook a 6-month pumping trial in 2003-04 to test the viability of the site as a salt interception scheme. The costs of the trial were funded by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC).

(2) I am aware that the trial included pumping relatively fresh groundwater into Billabong Creek and this provided water to downstream users, at a time when the Creek otherwise had very low or no flow.

(3) The pump test lasted 6 months which is the longest pump test undertaken for any salt interception scheme in NSW, and concluded because all of the information required to assess the site as a salt interception scheme had been obtained.

(4) A second bore was sunk in 2005 to improve the potential operations of the scheme for salt interception. This was also funded by the MDBC.

(5) DIPNR has purchased the property as the original owners were selling. The Department will take out easements over the property to enable the operation of the scheme for salt interception. After establishing the appropriate access, or should the MDBC decide not to continue the funding of the scheme, the property will be sold.

(6) The NSW Government is committed for this site to operate as a salt interception scheme. DIPNR officials are working with the MDBC to ensure the site is operated as a joint scheme under the MDBC Basin Salinity Strategy. The Department is also negotiating private sector involvement in the project.

*4121 DRUGS AND COMMUNITY ACTION STRATEGY OFFICE—ALBURY—Mr Aplin to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

(1) When was the Drugs and Community Action Strategy office established in Albury as part of the Premier’s Department?

(2) How many staff are currently employed in this office?
(3) What are the reasons for the planned closure of this office from 30 June 2005?
(4) Does this closure represent a reduction in services and funding to the Albury community’s drug and alcohol program?

Answer—

(1) The Drugs and Community Action Strategy (DCAS) commenced providing services from Albury in May 2002.
(2) Three.
(3) A decision on this matter has not yet been made.
(4) No. The Albury Community Drug Action Team is one of eight CDATs across the Riverina Murray region that will continue to receive support from the program’s Project Officer. Access to funding for projects will remain unchanged as will access to community drug education and resource material.

*4122 STAMP DUTY ON PROPERTY PURCHASE—Mr Aplin to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

(1) Are you aware that veterans on disability pensions are charged Stamp Duty on the purchase of a retirement home in New South Wales but qualify for exemption in Victoria?
(2) What consideration is being given to exempting pensioners from Stamp Duty when they purchase a home in a retirement complex?

Answer—

(1) Yes. No other jurisdiction provides a stamp concession to veterans on disability pensions.
(2) There are currently no plans to introduce further concessions on purchaser transfer duty. The New South Wales Government already provides a very generous range of concessions to seniors valued at over $700 million per annum.

*4123 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING SALES—Mr Amery to Minister for Housing—

(1) How many Department of Housing dwellings have been sold to tenants in each of the following years:
(a) 2000
(b) 2001
(c) 2002
(d) 2003
(e) 2004
(f) 2005?
(2) During the same period mentioned above, how many dwellings have been sold to buyers who are not tenants of the Department of Housing?
(3) What was the average price paid to the Department for these dwellings?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The Department of Housing regularly buys and sells property to ensure stock best suits its needs, including public housing dwellings, Community Housing dwellings, property not used for public housing, vacant land and commercial property.
I am happy to arrange for the Honourable member to receive a detailed briefing on the types of property bought and sold by the Department and the processes in place for selling these properties.
*4124 BIDWILL SALES—Mr Amery to Minister for Housing—

(1) What progress has been made to sub-divide the building lots in Bidwill into individual title?
(2) How many dwellings have been sold in Bidwill to tenants of the Department of Housing?
(3) What was the average price paid for properties sold in Bidwill to tenants?

Answer—

(1) More than half the lots at Bidwill are now on individual title.
(2) 4.
(3) $162,000 (2003/04).

*4125 TRAIN DRIVERS—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to train drivers:

(1) As at 24 May 2005 how many train drivers are under instruction for CityRail and CountryLink?
(2) Of the people under instruction as at 24 May 20 how many drivers have previously been employed as train drivers and how many are new to the profession?
(3) Which organisations within the public and private sectors conduct new train driver training?
(4) How many courses will be run this year, what are the start and finish dates and class sizes for each?
(5) What is the duration of the train driver course?
(6) How many new train drivers have qualified by month since January 2002?
(7) Is there a backlog of applicants?

Answer—

(1) to (7) On 20 June 2005, I issued a media statement. It read:

Minister for Transport John Watkins today welcomed another nine train drivers to the CityRail network as part of the Government’s plans to restore reliability to services.

Mr Watkins said the Government had spent $3.7 million on driver training this financial year, and was fast approaching its target of 1350 train drivers by the end of 2005.

“Since Waterfall, we’ve been working hard to encourage people back to train driving as a career – the health of our rail system depends on it,” Mr Watkins said.

“Today’s graduation means there’s now 1,293 train drivers with CityRail – just 57 short of our target of 1350,” he said.

“I welcome our nine newest drivers to the rail family and thank them for choosing such an important and responsible career.

“They’ve all been recruited externally, and come from a range of backgrounds including retail, manufacturing, teaching, information technology and the Commonwealth public service.”

“I’m particularly pleased to see another female driver join the network. Women make up only 4 per cent – or around 50 – of all our train drivers, so it’s great to see their ranks increasing.”

The new drivers are:
- Alison Lukehurst   Seven Hills
- Adam Anderson     Woonona
- Brian Judd        Surry Hills
- Neelanjian Chakraborty  Mortdale
- Naveen Parmar     Wentworthville
- Rakesh Mehta      Merrylands
- Allan Poole       Lalor Park
- Scott Davies      Ashfield
- Milkha Singh Dhaliwal  Quakers Hill

The nine new drivers completed the 19-month driver course, learning on state-of-the-art simulators at the Australian Rail Training College and with qualified drivers.
“They’ll now enter the Driver Support Program and receive ongoing mentoring from experienced train drivers,” Mr Watkins said.
“They’ll also return to the College every 16 weeks for safety refresher training.”
Another 11 drivers-in-training graduated from the Guards’ phase of the course today. They will join the rail network for six-months as guards as part of their driver training.
Mr Watkins said RailCorp began a driver recruitment campaign in early 2004. This followed a projected shortfall in driver numbers after tougher safety standards were introduced after the Waterfall accident, including more stringent medical testing.
“Providing more train drivers is just one way we’re working to a safer and more reliable network,” Mr Watkins said.
“The Government’s commitment to $2.5 billion in new rolling stock, and the $1 billion Clearways plan to untangle the existing network, and the 2005 timetable will also play major roles,” he said.
“These massive rail investments are just one plank of the Government’s four-year $35 billion infrastructure commitment.”

*4126 RAIL PASSENGER JOURNEYS—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to rail passenger journeys per line:
(1) What was the number of passenger journeys on CountryLink trains for each line, by month in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 to date?
(2) What was the number of passenger journeys on CityRail trains for each line, by month in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 to date?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised information on CityRail and CountryLink passenger journey is available from the respective RailCorp and StateRail annual reports.

*4127 SYDNEY BUSES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to Sydney Buses:
What are the additional costs that have been incurred by Sydney Buses due to congestion and re-routing resulting from the construction of the Cross City Tunnel?
If these costs are not available, what is the estimated cost?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised that due to pre-existing traffic congestion in the CBD it is not possible to identify specific costs that can be attributed to the Cross City Tunnel activities.

*4128 SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS LINE RAIL CUTS—Ms Seaton to Minister for Transport—

(1) What are the details of bus services intended to operate between Moss Vale and Bundanoon to replace axed rail services?
(2) When will they commence?
(3) How often will the buses run and what is the timetable?
(4) Will you commit to replacing those rail services between Moss Vale and Goulburn earmarked for permanent cancellation under the new timetable changes, with bus services?
(5) How long will these services remain in place?
(6) What will the timetable be?
Answer—

(1) to (6) I am advised:
Information regarding timetables and services between Moss Vale and Goulburn is available from the CityRail website at www.cityrail.info.

*4129 TAREE BREASTSCREEN MOBILE UNIT—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Health—

(1) What is the total number of patients waiting for assessment at the Taree BreastScreen Mobile Unit?
(2) How many new patients from the Manning and Great Lakes area are waiting for appointments at the Taree BreastScreen Mobile Unit?
(3) Of the patients on the waiting list, how many of these people are registered on the program and overdue for their two yearly follow up visit?
(4) What strategies have been implemented to address the waiting list for both new and existing patients?
(5) How many days per year, in each year 2000-2005, has the unit been operational in Taree?
(6) How many patients can the unit, when in Taree, schedule each day for assessment?
(7) Are there any alternative testing centres readily accessible to women in the Manning and Great Lakes area, which do not require patients to pay up front for the assessment?

Answer—

Questions relating to BreastScreen should be directed to the Minister for Cancer.

*4130 WATER RATE CHARGES INCREASE—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) Is the Minister aware of any proposal by MidCoast Water to increase water rate charges between 40% and 60%?
(2) If so, what information does the Minister have in that regard?
(3) Is the Minister aware of any proposal by MidCoast Water to increase water charges between 40% and 60% for the purpose of generating a dividend to be paid to the constituent Council?
(4) If so, how much is the proposed dividend?
(5) If so, what would such a dividend be used for?
(6) If so, if this appropriate procedure on behalf of water users?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised that MidCoast Water’s draft Management Plan 2005 – 2008 indicates there is to be a 17% increase in the water supply bill for customers in the Great Lakes area using 220kL/a. This is the average annual residential water consumption for MidCoast Water. Whilst customers using up to 70kL/a would receive a reduction in their bills, customers using 500kL/a, 1000kL/a and 10,000kL/a would receive increases of 29%, 37% and 47% respectively.
(3) to (6) I am further advised that MidCoast Water would not be in a position to consider paying a dividend to Council until it has completed its annual financial statements and has:
- demonstrated compliance against each of the 6 criteria in the Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines, 2004 through an independent compliance audit report;
- obtained an unqualified financial audit report for its water supply and/or sewerage business; and
- resolved in a council meeting open to public that it has achieved “substantial compliance” with each criterion of the guidelines.

Any dividend may be used for any purpose allowed for the expenditure of money by councils by the Local Government Act 1993.
*4131 CORRESPONDENCE—MR JOHN WILKSHIRE—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

(1) Did the Minister receive correspondence from John Wilkshire on or about 13 December 2004?
(2) If so, when will the Minister reply to the correspondence?
(3) Has the Minister received a request for an independent inquiry into the Delegate Sewer Operations?
(4) If so, what is the Minister’s advice regarding that request?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:
(1) I received a letter from Mr John Wilkshire on 15 December 2004 regarding Bombala Council’s funding of the construction of the Delegate sewerage scheme by way of levying a special charge.
(2) My Office responded by letter in April 2005, explaining that the Department of Local Government had become aware of council utilising funds raised from the levying of a special sewerage charge on the Bombala township to fund this scheme.
I am advised that the Department has since contacted Bombala Council to obtain data on the costs incurred in the construction of the Delegate sewerage scheme, and the income raised from the levying of special sewerage charges on the Bombala and Delegate townships.
Once this data has been analysed, the Department will advise Bombala Council as to what, if any, action is required.
(3) In his correspondence, Mr Wilkshire has urged me to ‘sack’ Bombala Council.
(4) While I have the power to call a public inquiry, this option is a power of last resort. Such an inquiry may result in the dismissal of all existing councillors from civic office. At this stage, I do not believe that an inquiry into Bombala Council’s operation of the Delegate sewerage scheme is warranted.

MEDIAN STRIPS—Mrs Hopwood to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What is the reason for construction of a median strip along New Line Road, Dural from Bunnings to the next major roundabout (travelling east), approximately 500 metres?
(2) Will the Minister take into account constituents’ concerns about perceived dangers relating to this median strip?

Answer—

I am advised:
The median strip commencing at the roundabout near Bunnings on New Line Road and extending 150 metres past Australian Post was installed as a condition of consent to prevent right turn movements into and out of Australia Post.
The median was constructed in accordance with current design practices.

*4133 POLICE LEAVE—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police—

How many police in the Kuring-gai Local Area Command are on:
(a) sick leave,
(b) long term sick leave (longer than 12 months),
(c) restricted duties,
(d) maternity leave,
(e) other leave?
Answer—

Staffing allocations within a Local Area Command are matters for Local Area Commander.

*4134 MENTAL HEALTH BEDS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Health—

(1) How many mental health beds have been allocated to Hornsby electorate, as indicated in the 2005-06 NSW State Budget?
(2) What type of beds are these, i.e. Psychiatric Emergency Care (PEC), ICU, Adult, Child and Adolescent?
(3) In what exact locations will these beds be placed?
(4) When will they be opened?

Answer—

(1) to (4) On 24 May 2005 I announced the $10.9 billion recurrent budget for NSW Health. As part of this, Hornsby Hospital will open 12 – 15 beds in a new Mental Health Intensive Care Unit and four new beds will be opened as part of a Psychiatric Emergency Care Unit. These units are due to open in late 2006.

*4135 ROADS AND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY SURVEYS—Mr Roberts to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

How many Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) authorised traffic and roads surveys were conducted by RTA passenger vehicles (i.e. sedans) with number plates with RTA prefixes, that included the bus/taxi only lanes on the Harbour Bridge for the period June 2004 to May 2005?

Answer—

I am advised:
As part of the Roads and Traffic Authority’s (RTA) maintenance program, inspections of the bus lanes on the Harbour Bridge are carried out at least twice a week. These inspections may be carried out by the RTA officers driving passenger vehicles.

*4136 RTA PLATES—Mr Roberts to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

What internal policies exist within the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) with respect to employee use of bus/taxi only lanes whilst driving RTA-plated vehicles?

Answer—

I am advised:
Roads and Traffic Authority plated vehicles are allowed to use bus lanes in accordance with the exemptions contained in the Australian Road Rules.

*4137 MISUSE OF BUS/TAXI LANES—Mr Roberts to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) Is the Minister aware of any inappropriate usage of bus/taxi only lanes by Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) employees?
(2) Has the Minister or his office had any communication/conversation with RTA employees with respect to the misuse of bus/taxi only lanes by RTA employees?

Answer—

I am advised:
My office has no record of any communication regarding use of bus lanes by Roads and Traffic Authority employees.

*4138 POLICE NUMBERS —Mr Cansdell to Minister for Police—

Considering the high level of police officers on sick leave (stress) at Yamba Police Station, will the Minister agree to a review of police numbers in the Lower Clarence?

Answer—

Police positions are allocated to Local Area Commands, not individual police stations. Staffing allocations within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

*4139 YAMBA POLICE STATION—Mr Cansdell to Minister for Police—

(1) Is the Yamba Police Station on the priority list for redevelopment?
(2) If so, when will the redevelopment of the Yamba Police Station begin?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Any upgrade of facilities at Yamba Police Station will need to be considered in the context of competing priorities across the State.

*4140 INCREASED INMATE PLACES—Mr Cansdell to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

With reference to the Minister’s recognition of the need to provide 500 more inmate places:
(1) Has the Minister considered upgrading and extending current corrective services facilities, such as Grafton, to provide these 500 places?
(2) If not, why not?

Answer—

The Minister for Justice advises me:
(1) to (2) I am advised that, all correctional centres in NSW were considered for expansion. Grafton Correctional Centre, however, is not suitable for expansion. The north coast is well served by the recently competed 500 bed multi-classification Mid North Coast Correctional Centre at Kempsey, Grafton Correctional Centre and the new 70 bed Second Chance program facility at Tabulam, currently in design phase, which I announced in the Legislative Council on 18 November 2004.
SECOND CROSSING—CLARENCE RIVER—Mr Cansdell to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) Was $200,000 allocated from the 2005-06 Budget for continuing studies into construction of a second crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton?
(2) Will these funds be adequate to ensure the project is not delayed?

Answer—

I am advised:
The NSW Government has invested $200,000 in 2005-06 to continued development of an additional crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton. These funds will provide for the Roads and Traffic Authority to finalise a Statement of Heritage Impacts and display a preferred option.

CATERING SERVICES—Mr Stoner to Minister for Health—

What are the Government’s plans for catering services at Kempsey District Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised by the NSW Department of Health that food services throughout NSW Hospitals are being addressed under the NSW Health Food Strategy. This has been subject to consultation with the Unions and Area Health Services under the Shared Corporate Services Reform Program. The Government plans to ensure that safe, nutritious, quality meals continue to be provided to patients at Kempsey District Hospital. These meals will be provided efficiently, within the resources of the hospital, and in accordance with the Safe Food Act 2003 and all other relevant legislative requirements.

INMATES CONDITION/TREATMENT—Mr Stoner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

Can you give details of the number of cases and the category of condition/treatment of inmates of the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre treated at Kempsey District Hospital, for each month since the gaol opened?

Answer—

The Minister for Justice advises me:
I am advised that since the first inmates were received in the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre in August 2004 till 31 May 2005, 92 inmates have been treated at Kempsey Base Hospital. Of this number, 18 were admitted and 74 were treated as outpatients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total treated</th>
<th>Admitted</th>
<th>Outpatients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2004</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2004</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2004</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2004</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2004</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*4144 BRISBANE-SYDNEY XPT SERVICE—Mr Stoner to Minister for Transport—

In relation to the Brisbane-Sydney XPT service:
(1) Are you aware of complaints from passengers regarding strong unpleasant smells and general uncleanness of the toilets on southbound trains?
(2) What action have you taken/will you take to ensure clean toilets on XPT trains?

Answer—

I am advised:

RailCorp will spend $9 million this year as part of a $32 million refurbishment program, which will enhance both the safety and comfort of the XPT fleet.
Ongoing works will include replacing the passenger toilets, improving passenger seating, upgrade of interior furnishings, upgrade of the vigilance control systems and improved luggage handling facilities.

*4145 RAIL CLEARWAYS PROJECT—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport—

How much is currently expected to be expended on the Rail Clearways Project in the 2004-05 financial year?

Answer—

On 24 May 2005, I issued a media release. It reads:

Minister for Transport John Watkins said today $97.5 million would be dedicated to the rail ‘Clearways’ plan from the record $3.01 billion 2005-06 transport budget.
Clearways will untangle 14 existing CityRail lines and establish five independent lines, which will cut delays on the network and deliver more reliable services.
Clearways - which involves 15 key projects scheduled for completion in 2010 - represents a total investment of more than $1 billion.
“Work is well underway on the Clearways plan and this year’s funding of $97.5 million will continue this major upgrade,” Mr Watkins said.
“Clearways will greatly improve capacity and reliability on the CityRail Network.
“The Carr Government is committed to providing a safer and more reliable network and Clearways is a major building block for those improvements.
“The upgrades will be supported by the introduction of the new timetable in September, the training of hundreds of new train drivers and the introduction of $2.5 billion worth of rolling stock before 2010.
“All these elements will provide a rail network capable of meeting the growing transport needs of Sydney and greater NSW.”

The Clearways projects are:
- BONDI JUNCTION TURNBACK;
- MACDONALDTOWN TURNBACK;
- BEROWRA PLATFORM;
- REVESBY TURNBACK;
- HORNBY PLATFORM 5 AND STABLING;
- HOMEBOURNE TURNBACK;
- LIDCOMBE TURNBACK;
- CRONULLA LINE DUPLICATION;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complaints</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2005-06, work will occur at Bondi Junction, Berowra, Homebush, Lidcombe, Revesby, Hornsby, on the Cronulla line, and also includes an expansion of the Macdonaldtown stabling facility,” Mr Watkins said.

“The $17 million Macdonaldtown Turnback is already complete and the $35 million stabling project will expand these facilities to accommodate eight trains.

“The $55 million Bondi Junction Turnback includes the construction of a new underground rail crossover tunnel between the existing Eastern Suburbs lines, increasing capacity from 14 to 20 trains per hour.

“Tunnelling, excavation and civil works are already complete at Bondi Junction – the remaining works are scheduled for completion this year. Funding of $25.73 million in 2005-06 will provide new track, signalling and rail systems.”

Mr Watkins said construction was scheduled to commence this year on Clearways upgrades to Berowra Station, which would provide a new platform, pedestrian overbridge, and new lifts and stairs.

Construction on the Hornsby platform and stabling project, which includes 1.7 kilometres of new track is scheduled to begin in 2006.

Work will also continue on the concept design and environmental assessment of the Cronulla Duplication.

This $174 million project includes the construction of 6.6 kilometres of new track along the Cronulla line and the extension of platforms at Cronulla and Sutherland. It will allow two additional services to run every hour in the peak direction.

The Minister said construction would begin next year on Clearways projects at Homebush, Revesby and Lidcombe.

“Once these Clearways are established, CityRail passenger journeys will be safer, more comfortable and more reliable across the network,” Mr Watkins said.

CLEARWAYS
2004-05 SPENDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BONDI JUNCTION TURNBACK</td>
<td>$29.27 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of excavation, tunnelling and civil works for new underground crossover and installation of new track, signalling and rail systems.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACDONALDTOWN STABLING PROJECT</td>
<td>$1.68 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design development, environmental assessment and geotechnical investigations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACDONALDTOWN TURNBACK</td>
<td>$14 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of the turnback has been completed, allowing three trains to be ‘parked’ at Macdonaldtown during the peak, and freeing up connecting lines.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEROWRA PLATFORM AND EASY ACCESS UPGRADE</td>
<td>$1.98 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental assessment and design; preliminary works; geotechnical investigations; surveys and services.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HORNESBY PLATFORM AND STABLING</td>
<td>$2.98 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental assessment and design development.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRONULLA DUPLICATION</td>
<td>$0.83 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental assessment and design development.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOMEBUSH TURNBACK</td>
<td>$0.39 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental assessment and design; geotechnical investigations; survey and services.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIDCOMBE TURNBACK</td>
<td>$0.29 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental assessment and design; geotechnical investigations, survey and services.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVESBY TURNBACK PROJECT</td>
<td>$0.39 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental assessment and design.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### CLEARWAYS

#### 2005-06 PROJECTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BONDI JUNCTION TURNBACK</td>
<td>$25.73 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACDONALDTOWN TURNBACK</td>
<td>$3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACDONALDTOWN STABLING</td>
<td>$21.38 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of new track, signalling and rail systems for new underground crossover.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalisation of work.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental assessment and design; civil works; embankment construction, retaining walls, access road and drainage; new trackwork; installation of overhead wiring, power, water and CCTV.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEROWRA PLATFORM AND EASY ACCESS UPGRADE</td>
<td>$6.08 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worksite establishment; platform and pedestrian overbridge construction; installation of new lifts and stairs; resurfacing of existing platform and landscaping.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HORNSBY PLATFORM AND STABLING</td>
<td>$19.98 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental assessment and detailed design; worksite establishment; relocation of services; modifications to bus interchange; commencement of civil works including retaining walls and earthworks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRONULLA LINE DUPLICATION</td>
<td>$10.57 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of design and environmental assessment; preliminary works; geotechnical investigations, site surveys and worksite establishment from Sutherland to Cronulla.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOMEBUSHT TURNBACK</td>
<td>$2.29 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of the environmental assessment and detailed design.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIDCOMBE TURNBACK</td>
<td>$2.08 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of the environmental assessment and detailed design and worksite establishment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVESBY TURNBACK</td>
<td>$6.76 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of environmental assessment and detailed design; preliminary works; geotechnical investigations, survey and services searches, worksite establishment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2006-07 PROJECTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MACDONALDTOWN STABLING</td>
<td>$12.49 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signalling, fencing, noise walls and landscaping; completion of trackwork, overhead wiring and signalling commissioning work for new track, signals and rail systems.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HORNSBY PLATFORM AND STABLING</td>
<td>$33.93 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of new platform and extension of aerial concourse; construction of new bus interchange; modification of road bridges; completion of earthworks and installation of new track and overhead wiring.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRONULLA DUPLICATION</td>
<td>$73.01 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil works; excavation of cuttings and embankment widening; construction of retaining walls and noise walls from Sutherland to Gymea and Caringbah to Woolooware; road and rail bridge construction; platform works at Kirrawee and Woolooware.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOMEBUSHT TURNBACK</td>
<td>$12.44 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worksite establishment; relocation of services, demolition and earthworks; construction of a new platform; extension of the existing platform; installation of new track; completion of road and public domain works.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIDCOMBE TURNBACK</td>
<td>$21.25 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation of services, demolition and earthworks; construction of new platform; extension of the concourse; installation of a new lift; commencement of civil works; construction of retaining walls; construction of new track and completion of road and public works.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVESBY TURNBACK</td>
<td>$43.36 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of new platform; completion of civil works and road underbridge; earthworks; drainage; installation of new overhead wiring.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2007-08 PROJECTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HORNSBY PLATFORM AND STABLING</td>
<td>$23.75 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Completion of trackwork, overhead wiring and signalling; commissioning of new track, signals and systems.

**CRONULLA DUPLICATION**  $89.87 million
Track, signal and overhead wiring works from Sutherland to Cronulla; completion of road and rail bridge construction; completion of Easy Access upgrades and new platforms at Kirrawee and Woolooware; construction of platform extensions at Sutherland and Cronulla; commissioning of works for new track, signals and rail systems.

**HOMEBUSH TURNBACK**  $16.07 million
Connection of new track to the existing system; completion of overhead wiring and signalling; commissioning of new track, signals and systems.

**LIDCOMBE TURNBACK**  $17.59 million
Connection of new track to the existing system; installation of new rail crossover, overhead wiring and signalling; commissioning of new track, signals and systems.

**REVESBY TURNBACK**  $27.55 million
Modification of existing concourse; completion of earthworks; installation of new track, signalling and wiring; installation of noise walls; commissioning of new track, signals and systems.

*4146 RECOGNITION—MR ALFRED THOMAS PHILPOTT—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport—*

1. Have relatives of Mr Alfred Thomas Philpott, a New South Wales railway train guard who was killed whilst on duty on 8 December 1941, sought appropriate recognition over years including permission to place a wreath/plaque at the site near Yanderra?
2. What is the current status of this request?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised: RailCorp is in the process of establishing the Australian Railway Monument at Werris Creek. The Monument is being built to recognise railway employees and contractors who have been tragically killed during their work to build and maintain the NSW rail network. The Monument will include an amphitheatre setting with six sculptures of railway workers and an Honour Roll of names. I understand that Mr Alfred Thomas Phillpott’s name will appear on the monument.

*4147 NEW SUBURBAN CARRIAGES—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport—*

1. Does the Minister intend to show the same leadership as shown by your Western Australia counterpart in insisting on a high proportion of NSW manufacturing content in the tender process for the new suburban carriages as was the case with the tenders released for the Perth EMU’s?
2. Have any undertakings been given to the unions of NSW?
3. If so, has such a requirement been included in the tendering process?
4. If it is to be part of the process why has it not been made public?

Answer—

On 1 March 2005 I announced the short-listed tenderers for the Public Private Partnership contract. Following consultation with the short-listed tenderers, RailCorp released the Request for Detailed Proposals on 20 May 2005. The parties have four months to prepare their proposals, which are due on 21 September 2005. The proposals will then be evaluated to determine which represents the best value for money for the people of NSW. The Government expects that RailCorp will be in a position to award contracts to the successful tenderers in 2006. As you are aware the call for Expressions of Interest for the contract specified that a minimum of twenty percent of the value of the manufacturing consists of local content.
The local content requirement was developed to provide the best possible value for money for taxpayers while delivering significant local economic benefits. This means investment in local industry and jobs for Australian workers.

I am advised that the twenty percent figure applies specifically to the manufacture of the new air-conditioned carriages and does not include costs of project management, design, commissioning, transportation or financing.

I also recently announced mandatory training requirements under this major infrastructure upgrade, which will ensure that the successful tenderer will be required to employ one apprentice for every nine tradespersons employed locally. The bidders will have to demonstrate how this apprenticeship requirement will be reached and maintained in order to proceed with their tender application.

This approach will provide solid employment opportunities for young people wanting apprenticeships in Australian manufacturing, especially in the rail industry.

Both the local content and the apprenticeship requirements are mandatory criteria and RailCorp will not proceed with any bid which does not meet these requirements.

4148 DEMENTIA DIAGNOSIS—Mr Maguire to Minister for Health—

(1) How many patients with dementia diagnosis have been accommodated at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital in the past six weeks?

(2) How many of these patients were high dependence – needed restraint or secure environments?

(3) How many patients were accommodated on Floor 1, 2, 3, at any one time?

(4) How many beds are available at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital for surgical, acute, general care, etc?

(5) Are all nurses trained in providing nursing care for dementia patients?

(6) What extra training do nurses receive to enable them to care for dementia patients appropriately?

(7) Are existing nurses University trained in dementia care and to what level?

(8) Now that dementia patients are becoming increasingly numerous in public hospitals while waiting for appropriate care, what is being done to enhance nursing skills in dementia care for patients?

Answer—

(1) I am advised by the Greater Southern Area Health Service that the coding data is unavailable for the time period requested.

(2) Patients accommodated in the dementia specific unit at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital (Yathong Lodge) are assessed by a specialist team regarding appropriate levels of supervision and/or secure environment but are, by definition of admission criteria, patients requiring higher levels of care.

(3) and (4) Bed occupancy varies but bed numbers for Wards 1, 2 and 3 at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital are 27, 30 (designated surgical) and 28 (designated medical) respectively.

(5) and (6) The standard nursing curriculum covers aspects of dementia and nursing patients with dementia. Area Health Services conduct both in-service education and continuing education seminars and courses on dementia care. The Department of Health funds the College of Nursing to conduct Dementia courses for both enrolled and registered nurses. Courses on aged care at postgraduate level are offered through the tertiary sector. In Wagga Wagga, further formal training in Dementia and Nursing practice are available through a number of agencies eg. Wagga Wagga TAFE. Training sessions in dementia specific planning and strategies are also offered through the Area Health Service on a regular basis as are in-services through the Dementia and Behavioural Assessment Management Service (DBAMS) project being run in partnership with Yathong Lodge and Wagga Wagga Base Hospital Aged Care team.

(7) Registered nurses who completed undergraduate degrees since the transfer of nursing to the tertiary sector in 1992 study subjects such as “Primary Healthcare and the Aged”, “Gerontology and Gerontic Nursing Practice” and “Care of the Older Person”.

(8) The NSW Government has allocated $11.043 million over 4 years to the NSW dementia strategy - Future Directions for Dementia Care and Support in NSW 2001 – 2006. This strategy includes 10 full-time equivalent, Dementia Care Clinical Consultant Nurse positions to drive and support the
initiative. A full education and training package for staff in acute care hospitals is currently being developed.

*4149 HOME BUILDING TRADE—Mr Maguire to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) What is the budget cost to run the home building arm of the Department of Fair Trading per annum?
(2) What is the income generated from licensing of all trades and contractors per annum?
(3) What is the income generated from home owner builders licensing?
(4) What is the percentage of claims with regard to home owner builders versus licensed builders?
(5) What is the number of claims for faulty work in the Riverina area as a percentage against licences issued in the building trade?
(6) What is the number of claims for faulty work in the metropolitan area as a percentage against licences issued in the building trade?
(7) What is the number of inspectors in regional areas?

Answer—

(1) The total cost of administering home building related activities in 2003-04 including compliance, legal, policy and the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal in 2003-04 was $20.2M.
(2) A total of $29,561,147 was generated from licensing of trades and contractors for 2003/04 of which Fair Trading retained $7,923,468.
(3) The OFT does not “license” home owner builders.
(4) to (6) Fair Trading does not hold the information requested.
(7) Fair Trading has 84 inspectors and 95 investigators that are available as needed or as part of targeted compliance programs.

*4150 LIFE EDUCATION NSW FUNDING—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Health—

(1) What is the total amount of funding that the Department of Health has provided to Life Education NSW for the financial years: 2004-05; 2003-04; 2002-03; 2001-02; 2000-01; 1999-00; 1998-99; 1997-98; 1996-97; 1995-96?
(2) What is to be allocated for the 2005-06 financial year?

Answer—

(1) I refer the Hon. Member for Ku-ring-gai to the NSW Department of Health’s Annual Report for details regarding grant funding provided to Life Education NSW. Annual Reports for the years specified can be accessed via the Department’s Internet site at www.health.nsw.gov.au
(2) The NSW Department of Health has advised that as at 1 June 2005, the 2005/06 allocation for this organisation had not been determined.

*4151 LIFE EDUCATION FUNDING—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

(1) What is the total amount of funding Department of Education has provided to Life Education NSW for the financial years: 2004-05; 2003-04; 2002-03; 2001-02; 2000-01; 1999-00; 1998-99; 1997-98; 1996-97; 1995-96?
(2) What is to be allocated for the 2005-06 financial year?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Life Education is funded by the NSW Health Department. The NSW Department of Education and Training provides no direct funding to Life Education.
Drug education is provided in schools by classroom teachers for students from kindergarten to Year 10 as part of Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. Since 1985/86, significant State and Commonwealth funding has been provided for ongoing professional development of teachers to assist them to implement drug education as part of the school curriculum. Where schools choose to use Life Education to assist them deliver drug education, individual students are charged between four and six dollars by Life Education to attend its program.

*4152 RAILCORP APPRENTICESHIPS—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to RailCorp apprenticeships:
(1) How many apprentices are employed by RailCorp and in what trades as at 24 May 2004?
(2) How many apprentices were employed by the NSW Government in any rail entity and in what trades in each of the last ten years?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) As at 24 May 2005 RailCorp employed 264 apprentices in a variety of fields including Electrical Mechanics, Mechanical Fitter Machinists, Telecommunications and Auto Electricians.
(2) N/A.

*4153 CLEARWAYS PROJECT—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

Given the 2005-06 Budget papers identify $1,018,000 in funding for the clearways project (Budget paper No 4, page 133), what is the breakdown of funding for the following projects by financial year:
- Quakers Hill to Schofields duplication;
- Carlingford Line upgrade;
- Epping to Chatswood rail line;
- Extra platform at Hornsby;
- Extra platform at Berowra;
- Bondi Junction turnback;
- Cronulla branch line duplication;
- Extra tracks at Kingsgrove and Revesby;
- Extra platform at Macarthur;
- Macdonaldtown turnback;
- Macdonaldtown stabling;
- Homebush turnback and platform;
- Revesby turnback and platform;
- Lidcombe turnback and platform;
- Liverpool turnback and platform; and
- Extra tracks at Sydenham and Erskineville?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to Question on Notice No. 4145 in the Legislative Assembly Question and Answer Paper.

*4154 CITYRAIL TICKET SALES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to CityRail ticket sales:
What are the ticket sales for each of the financial years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 for the following stations:
- Rooty Hill;
- Mt Druitt;
RailCorp advises me that ticket sales were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ticket Issues by Station</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
<th>2002-03</th>
<th>2003-04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacktown</td>
<td>1,492,197</td>
<td>1,444,638</td>
<td>1,456,615</td>
<td>1,481,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbelltown</td>
<td>860,458</td>
<td>815,445</td>
<td>797,798</td>
<td>653,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Druitt</td>
<td>983,589</td>
<td>954,071</td>
<td>932,990</td>
<td>925,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parramatta</td>
<td>2,155,932</td>
<td>2,043,894</td>
<td>2,017,525</td>
<td>2,103,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penrith</td>
<td>757,372</td>
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*4155 HOME SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER POSITIONS—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

(1) How many Home School Liaison Officer positions are there in NSW?
(2) How many of them are filled?
(3) Where are they located?
(4) How many schools, on average, does each Home School Liaison Officer cover?
(5) How many students, on average, does each Home School Liaison Officer cover?

Answer—

(1) 84.
(2) 84.
(3) Hunter/Central Coast Region – 12
  Illawarra and South Coast Region – 8
  New England Region – 6
  North Coast Region – 10
  Northern Sydney Region – 2
  Riverina Region – 5
  South Western Sydney Region – 14
  Sydney Region – 7
  Western Sydney Region – 11
  Western NSW Region – 9.
(4) Approximately 26 schools.
(5) Home School Liaison Officers may support approximately 25 to 30 students at any one time.
**4156 GOVERNMENT SCHOOL RECORDS—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—**

Given that the Department of Education Properties Directorate keeps records about Government schools which show how many permanent buildings there are, how many portable buildings there are and how many temporary buildings there are, why do you consider that the Department of Education and Training cannot provide an answer about how many old-style portable classrooms there are in NSW?

Answer—

As previously advised, the Department of Education and Training considers the portable timber buildings as permanent structures, as they are permanently installed on school sites and are not relocated.

I am advised that the Asset Management Directorate’s Asset Management System records buildings as either permanent or demountable. It does not categorise which of the permanent structures are portable timber buildings.

Therefore, to accurately state how many timber portable buildings there are in NSW would involve considerable time and the diversion of resources away from core responsibilities of the Department of Education and Training that cannot be justified.

**4157 HAIRDRESSING APPRENTICES—Mr Page to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—**

(1) How many hairdressing apprentices commenced an apprenticeship in NSW in 2004?
(2) How many of these hairdressing apprentices left their apprenticeship by the end of 2004?
(3) How many hairdressing apprentices commenced an apprenticeship in NSW in 2005?
(4) Of those who started a four-year apprenticeship in 2001, how many actually finished their apprenticeships by the end of 2004?

Answer—

(1) 1559 people commenced hairdressing apprenticeships in NSW in 2004.
(2) Of the 1559 hairdressing apprentices that commenced in 2004, 263 (16.87%) are no longer in training.
(3) At the end of May 2005, 514 hairdressing apprentices had commenced training.
(4) In 2001, 1250 apprentices commenced training. Of these 465, (37.2%) are still in training and 285 (22.8%) have completed their apprenticeship.

**4158 HOMECARE SERVICE FEEDBACK—Mr Amery to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—**

(1) Does the Homecare Service seek feedback from its clients as to their views on the level and quality of service provided by this organisation?
(2) Does Homecare provide to its clients a questionnaire (similar to that provided by hospitals to discharged patients) asking for their opinion of the Service?
(3) If not, will the Minister consider adopting such a practice as a policy for the Homecare Service?

Answer—

(1) Yes. The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care uses a range of mechanisms at a local, branch and statewide level to seek feedback from Home Care clients and ensure service quality. These mechanisms include regular focus groups with clients to discuss how services can be improved as well as regular yarn-ups with clients of Aboriginal Home Care branches.
The Department also records and analyses client complaint data in relation to Home Care to identify systemic issues and inform quality improvement initiatives as well as reviews of existing client policies.
The Department is currently implementing a policy of regular Client Reviews for Home Care, which will ensure that home care service provision will be reviewed with clients annually.
(2) Yes. The Home Care Service utilises an exit survey form when clients have left the Service. The survey seeks feedback on the services that have been received. The Department is currently reviewing the content and use of this survey.
(3) N/A.

*4159 FUTURE ROAD UPGRADES—Mrs Hopwood to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What is planned for future upgrades of Old Northern Road, Dural and New Line Road, Dural?
(2) How much money is allocated for these two roads?
(3) When will these roadworks be (a) commenced and (b) completed?

Answer—

I refer the Hon Member to my answer to question 3903 which was asked by her on 11 May 2005.

*4160 ANTI-TERRORIST PLANS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

Are there anti-terrorist plans (similar to that announced for the Sydney Harbour Bridge) for the rail and vehicular bridges crossing the Hawkesbury River from Hornsby to the Peats electorates?

Answer—

Although the issue does not fall directly within my portfolio responsibilities, I am advised that NSW Police will continue to collect and monitor intelligence received in order to identify changes in the security environment and identify possible at-risk areas. Responses to the terrorist threat are based on identified risk and in proportion to that risk.
The Sydney Harbour Bridge is a nationally unique NSW asset. Its public profile and iconic nature have warranted the development of specific plans which are unique to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Other assets have also had security plans developed, and in the interest of security it is not appropriate to provide further detailed information regarding individual assets or plans.

*4161 TRAIN TIMETABLE CHANGES—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport—

What are the timetable changes planned for city-bound Hornsby suburban trains when the Chatswood-Epping line is completed and operational?

Answer—

I am advised that a new CityRail timetable will be developed when the Epping to Chatswood Rail Line completion is imminent.
Further information on the project is available on the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation website at www.tidc.nsw.gov.au.
*4162 CRONULLA POLICE STATION—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police—

(1) Is the Cronulla Police Station on the priority list for redevelopment?
(2) If so, when will the redevelopment of the Cronulla Police Station commence?

Answer—

(1) and (2) In line with current asset planning guidelines, agencies are required to continue to identify the most appropriate properties to support government services. All NSW Police properties, including Cronulla police station, will be included in this future planning process.

*4163 MENTAL HEALTH BED NUMBERS—Mr Kerr to Minister for Health—

(1) How many mental health beds have been allocated to Cronulla electorate, as indicated in the 2005-06 NSW State Budget?
(2) What type of beds are these, i.e. Psychiatric Emergency Care (PEC), ICU, Adult, Child and Adolescent?
(3) In what exact locations will these beds be placed?
(4) When will they be opened?

Answer—

(1) to (4) inclusive:
I am advised by the Chief Executive that the Cronulla electorate is served by the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service. On 24 May 2005 I announced the 2005/06 operating budget for the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service of $1.421 billion and this includes $2.5 million for an additional two new Psychiatric Emergency Care (PEC) Units equating to 10 new beds. These PEC Units will be located in St George Hospital (6 beds) and St Vincent’s Hospital (4 beds) and will be opened later this year.
In addition to the 10 new PEC beds for the Area, capital works in planning for 2005/06 will result in a further 55 new acute and non-acute mental health beds in various facilities across the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service.

*4164 MOTOR NEURON SYNDROME—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Health—

(1) What is the average incidence per 10,000 head of population of Motor Neuron Syndrome?
(2) How many incidences of Motor Neuron Syndrome have occurred in the Yass District per head of population in the past 10 years?
(3) Is the number of cases in Yass above the State average?
(4) Has the Department conducted any research into what factors contribute to Motor Neuron Disease; if so
   (a) Is any research being conducted on whether drinking water fluoridation is a contributing factor to Motor Neuron Syndrome?
   (b) Is any consideration being given to any other environmental factors being contributing factors towards Motor Neuron Syndrome, and if so what are these?
(5) Can he provide any additional information in relation to research findings about Motor Neuron Syndrome?

Answer—

(1) to (3) inclusive:The NSW Department of Health has advised that there is no specific data collection on motor neuron disease (MND) incidence at either a national or state level. However, a recent analysis undertaken by the Department of Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Research of MND as
a cause of death of NSW residents between 1999 and 2003 indicates that no local government area had a significantly elevated risk of death from MND.

(4) to (5) inclusive: The NSW Department of Health provides grants to support the infrastructure of recognised research institutions. The directions of research are determined by peak research bodies, such as the National Health and Medical Research Council. I am advised that the NSW Department of Health is not aware of any grants provided by the Department to support research specifically into the causes of MND.

I am advised that the NSW Department of Health is not aware of any proven association between the fluoridation of drinking water and MND. The NSW Department of Health, Centre for Epidemiology and Research advise that there seems to be a uniform agreement amongst researchers that the origin of MND is multifactorial, involving both genetic, environmental and behavioural factors and that it is unlikely that one specific environmental factor is responsible.

*4165 BINALONG RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Transport—

(1) Has your Department or any corporate entity under your Department’s supervision been informed by the Australian Rail Track Corporation that it intends to close and demolish the rail foot bridge between Grogan’s Road and Wellington Street Binalong and also to demolish the heritage listed Binalong Railway Station?

(2) Under the terms of the ARTC lease agreement, does the ARTC have to obtain the permission of the NSW Department of Transport or any corporate entity under the Department’s supervision to demolish any existing railway infrastructure?

(3) Will you give an undertaking that this infrastructure, which is of significant importance to the residents of Binalong, will not be closed or demolished without public consultation with the local community?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I am advised:

The NSW Government has signed an agreement with the Commonwealth Government for the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to lease the NSW interstate track and Hunter Valley rail freight corridors. Under this agreement the ARTC is responsible for issues relating to infrastructure on these lines.

*4166 COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTRES—Ms Hodgkinson to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

(1) Have you given any direction to NSW Government agencies to use, wherever possible, services available at the 55 rural and regional Community Technology Centres (CTCs) across NSW?

(2) Which NSW Government agencies have online or phone access services located at a CTC, that provide an income stream for the CTC?

(3) If so at what CTCs are these services located?

Answer—

(1) to (3) Community Technology Centres are owned and operated by not-for-profit community organisations, which received seed funding from the Australian and New South Wales Governments. Unlike Government Access Centres, which are intended to allow people to conduct business with Government agencies, Community Technology Centres deliver a range of community based services.

A dedicated project business manager has been working with Community Technology Centres and NSW Government to encourage the use of Community Technology Centre facilities where
practicable. All Government services delivered by Community Technology Centres are based on providing income to the Centre on a fee-for-service basis.

NSW Government services and projects have been delivered by Community Technology Centres for the following agencies: Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care; Tourism NSW; TAFE NSW; Attorney General’s Department; NSW Police; State Emergency Service; Office of Industrial Relations; Department of Corrective Services; Work Cover; Department of Community Services.

In addition, all Community Technology Centres are funded to provide free community use of a dedicated computer providing access to online services through the NSW Government website.

The NSW Government does not have telephone access services located in Community Technology Centres.

*4167 MARULAN HEAVY VEHICLE CHECKING STATION—Ms Hodgkinson to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) On how many days in the past 12 months has the RTA checking station at Marulan been opened (1) northbound and (2) southbound, and for those days, what have been the hours of operation?

(2) How many vehicles were weighed each day, and what is the estimated number of trucks which have been deviated away from the station back to the highway (in each direction)?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on the operation of and the number of vehicles weighed at Heavy Vehicle Checking Stations across the state, is publicly available on the Roads and Traffic Authority website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

*4168 PETROLEUM EXPLORATION LICENCE—Ms Moore to Minister for Mineral Resources—

(1) Is it true that the contract schedule for Petroleum Exploration Licence Number 2 (PEL2) will remove the ability of the Sydney Catchment Authority to veto a decision for mining exploration work in their catchment to ensure quality of water supply?

(2) Does the new schedule give the right and responsibility for ensuring water quality to the Director General of the Department of Primary Industries?

(3) On what basis is the Director General of the Department of Primary Industries considered to be the appropriate authority to ensure the safety of the Sydney water supply?

(4) Can the Minister ensure that whatever powers are eventually extended to the Sydney Catchment Authority in the renewal of PEL2 are also given to the appropriate authorities in respect to the equally sensitive Gosford and Wyong Catchments that are also caught in the PEL2 lease area?

Answer—

(1) No.

(2) The Sydney Catchment Authority has primary responsibility for the quality of the Sydney water supply.

The Department of Environment and Conservation and the Director-General of the Department of Primary Industries have complementary powers to ensure the quality of the Sydney water supply.

(3) See answer to Question 2.


Extending these powers is not a function of my portfolio.
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Wednesday 14 September 2005

*4169 BULL BARS BAN—Ms Moore to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What progress has been made towards introducing legislation to ban bull bars in New South Wales?

(2) When is the ban expected to be introduced?

Answer—

I am advised:
The NSW Government does not intend to ban bull bars.
The Government introduced legislation requiring bull bars fitted to new model vehicles manufactured after 1 January 2003 to comply with Australian Standard AS 4876 1-2002 Motor Vehicle Frontal Protection system. It is an offence for a vehicle owner not to comply with this standard design.
In addition in late 2004, the NSW Government announced penalties for drivers using vehicles with a protrusion on a bull bar. From 1 July 2005 the penalty for this offence will be $225 and 3 demerit points.

*4170 PORT JACKSON HOUSING COMPANY—Ms Moore to Minister for Housing—

(1) What progress has been made in establishing the Port Jackson Housing Company (formerly Bennelong Housing Company)?

(2) How many accommodation places for people with complex support needs are currently provided through the Port Jackson Housing Company?

(3) Are Community Housing providers such as St George Community Housing still providing places under this program?

(4) How many places are provided in the inner city?

(5) When will new places through this program be available, and how many will be available in the inner city?

(6) What evaluation of this program has been carried out to date?

(7) What evaluation of this program is planned, and when will this be available for public access?

Answer—

(1) to (4) St George Community Housing is contracted as the interim tenant manager for the Port Jackson Housing project, managing 60 places, of which 17 are in the inner city.

(2) The details of the program are still being finalised.

(3) to (7) An evaluation will be undertaken at the relevant time.

*4171 GLENMORE ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Moore to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

(1) When will the Government repair the bulging three metre high stone wall at the Glenmore Road Public School that has been assessed as at risk?

(2) When will the Government repair the drain overflow at Glenmore Road Public School which floods a longsuffering neighbour’s yard every time there is heavy rainfall?

(3) When will the Government replace the fence along Glenmore Road and Gurner Lane at this school, which was damaged by tree roots that have pushed lumps of concrete to hang over the footpath, and which provide easy entry to intruders?

(4) When will proper access for prams, strollers, and wheelchairs be provided to this school?
Answer—

(1) I am advised by the Department that the retaining wall located within the school grounds was assessed by a Structural Engineer in 2003. The Department is continuing to monitor the wall and will undertake a further detailed assessment during term three, this year.

(2) I am advised that the Department is aware of the need to improve drainage and kerbing to divert water away from neighbouring properties. Funding for this project has been given high priority and will be considered in the context of future capital works priorities.

(3) I am advised by the Department that the fencing is generally in good repair with some minor damage to the retaining wall by tree roots. The school has removed the trees causing damage to the wall. A project to repair the damaged section of the fence at the school will be considered in the context of future capital works priorities.

(4) The Department is committed to providing accessible facilities so that students, staff and community members can participate in education, training and employment opportunities. While there are currently no requirements for wheelchair access to the school, the Department notes the need to provide improved access to the school for wheelchairs, prams and strollers at the school. Funding for a project to upgrade access to Glenmore Road Public School will be considered in the context of future capital works priorities.

*4172 KEY WORKER AFFORDABLE HOUSING—Ms Moore to Minister for Housing—

(1) How many houses are currently occupied in the Thornleigh Affordable Housing project?

(2) What evaluation of this project has been carried out, and what is the outcome of any assessments of the benefit of this project?

(3) What plans does the Government have to provide similar programs for key workers in other areas?

(4) Is it true that Inner and Eastern Sydney are more expensive than other parts of Sydney for both renters and home buyers?

(5) When will the Government consider similar projects in the inner city where rising housing costs, gentrification and urban consolidation have resulted in the loss of affordable housing?

Answer—

(1) Six.

(2) An evaluation framework for the project is being developed.

(3) The Thornleigh project is a pilot. Any decision to expand the project will not be made until the project is evaluated.

(4) Generally yes.

(5) The Government already has a number of projects in Inner Sydney to provide affordable housing for example, the City West Housing Company provides affordable housing for low to moderate-income households.

*4173 AFFORDABLE HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS—Ms Moore to Minister for Housing—

(1) Is the Minister aware of the Victorian Government’s $70 million Strategy for Growth in Housing for Low Income Victorians?

(2) How does the Victorian Housing Association sector compare to that of NSW in terms of the number of Associations, accommodation units, number of people housed, and rate of expansion?

(3) Do NSW Housing Associations receive the same sort of regulatory and financial assistance from Government in NSW?

(4) Will the Government use this model as a strategy to leverage additional private and charitable funds to expand affordable housing?

(5) What plans does the Government have to help Housing Associations provide additional affordable housing?
Answer—

(1) to (5) The NSW Government has a strong partnership with the not-for-profit sector in the provision of social housing, including a commitment of $95.4 million for 311 community housing properties and $18.3 million for 43 new crisis accommodation properties in 2005-06. The Victorian Government passed legislation to establish housing associations in Victoria in November 2004, however, I understand no housing associations are, as yet, in operation. Should the Honourable Member wish to receive a briefing from my office on this subject I would be happy to arrange it.

26 MAY 2005
(Paper No. 133)

*4174 RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOUTH CREEK WINDSOR—Mr Pringle to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

Which Minister has responsibility for the management and water quality of South Creek, Windsor?

Answer—

South Creek flows through five Local Government Areas namely Camden, Liverpool, Penrith, Blacktown and Hawkesbury. Water quality in South Creek is influenced by a number of factors including treated sewage discharges and stormwater runoff from urban, rural and agricultural lands. The management of creeks, river systems and estuaries is regulated by a number of statutes including the Water Management Act 2000, Local Government Act 1993, Sydney Water Act 1994 and the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Responsibility for the management and water quality of South Creek is shared by Local Government, the Minister for Energies and Utilities, the Minister for Environment, the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources and the Minister for Lands and Local Government. Testing of water quality in South Creek may be carried out by the local councils, Department of Environment and Conservation and Sydney Water as part of environmental monitoring and reporting requirements.

*4175 SYDNEY WATER SUPPLY—Mr Pringle to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) What contingency exists should Sydney’s water supply be exhausted and mooted replacements are not yet on line?
(2) What studies have been undertaken into the potential problems with the sewerage system should the domestic water supply be dramatically reduced?

Answer—

(1) In October 2004, the NSW Government announced its $1.4 billion Metropolitan Water Plan, a 25 year strategy aimed at securing Sydney’s water future. The plan contains short, medium and long term infrastructure, water conservation and environmental measures to balance the supply and demand for water in Sydney, and address the impacts of drought, population growth and river health for the coming years. Progress is well underway with some of the key measures in the plan. The Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) is modifying Warragamba and Nepean/Avon Dams so that deep water, which lies at the bottom of the dams, can be accessed. This project is running ahead of schedule and it will
provide an additional six months of water during extreme and prolonged drought. It will also
increase the capacity of the dams over the long term. Modifications are expected to be complete by
mid 2006.
The SCA is undertaking planning and consultation about the changes to water transfers from the
Shoalhaven River when there are high flows in the river. This project is running twelve months
ahead of schedule. Stage 1 of the new system could supply up to 80 billion litres of extra water a
year. The method and implementation of the water transfers are expected to be confirmed by the end
of 2006.
The SCA, in conjunction with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, is
currently undertaking detailed planning and investigations at a number of potential groundwater sites
in the drinking water catchments which could provide extra water during emergency drought
periods. The trials will also determine how much water is available and whether it can be used as a
source of drinking water. The investigations and report are due for completion in late 2005.
Furthermore, the Government recently announced plans to recycle up to twelve percent of Sydney’s
water supply within six years, including major recycling plans for new release areas in the south-
west and north-west of Sydney. This is in addition to the important groundwork that has already
been laid by Sydney Water with its Demand Management Program, recycling and leakage reduction
initiatives.
In addition, the Government has created a Water Savings Fund. The Fund will provide $120 million
over four years to be allocated to the most efficient water saving schemes. The Fund will be
administered by the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS). Competitive
funding rounds will commence later in 2005.
Sydney Water is preparing a contingency plan for a desalination plant for Sydney. The plant could
produce up to 500 million litres of drinking water per day, which would meet one-third of Sydney’s
daily water needs. Planning for the plant is expedited and amendments have been made to the
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act that will allow sufficient time to implement a large
scale desalination facility should circumstances warrant. If the drought continues and water levels in
the dams continue to drop, the Government will be ready to approve construction to commence by
mid next year, with a plant in operation in 2008.
By these measures, the Government has ensured Sydney’s water supply.

(2) I am advised by Sydney Water that it has extensive experience in managing low flow conditions in
sewerage systems. Such conditions are not uncommon in new development areas when the
population that is first connected to the sewerage system is low in comparison to the population the
sewerage system has been designed to serve. The sewerage system will continue to operate
effectively in drought conditions.

*4176 TRAFFIC LIGHT INSTALLATION—Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State
Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for
Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

What progress is being made towards installing lights at the following intersections:
(1) Old Northern and Hastings Roads, South Dural?
(2) Old Northern and Glenhaven Roads, Glenhaven?

Answer—

I am advised:
The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is currently investigating options for the intersection of Old
Northern and Hastings Roads, South Dural. Baulkham Hills Shire Council has advised the RTA it has initiated concept design and estimate work for
the provision of traffic signals at the intersection of Old Northern and Glenhaven Roads in its Section 94
contributions plan associated with new development in the area.
In relation to drug and alcohol counsellors in the Greater Southern Area Health Service region:

1. How many are currently employed full-time?
2. How many are currently employed part-time?
3. At what locations does each of these counsellors accept appointments and what is the telephone number available for the general public to make appointments?
4. What hours of operation and on which days of the week is each counsellor available for appointments with clients?
5. How many drug and alcohol counsellor positions are currently vacant and at which locations?
6. When does he expect these positions to be filled?
7. What publicity is provided to the general public about the availability and contact details of Greater Southern Area Health Service’s drug and alcohol counsellors?

Answer—

1. I am advised that the term “counsellors” is not used widely as a title for employees who work with clients who are requiring Drug and Alcohol services. However, the Greater Southern Area Health Service advise that within the Area Health Service there are 19 full-time employees that have a predominant component of drug and alcohol “counselling” within the responsibilities of their role. In addition to these positions, there are specialist Drug & Alcohol positions for withdrawal management (detoxification), for pharmacotherapy (methadone & buprenorphine) case management and Emergency Department.

2. I am advised that there are 14 part-time employees that have a predominant component of drug and alcohol “counselling” within the responsibilities of their role.

3. The Greater Southern Area Health Service advise that in its Eastern region, drug and alcohol counselling services are located at Queanbeyan, Cooma, Goulburn, Young, Yass, Moruya, Pambula, Bega and Batemans Bay. The Area advise that in its Western region, counselling services are located at Griffith, Corowa, Cootamundra, Leeton, Wagga, Tumut, Culcairn, Albury, Deniliquin and Finley. Counselling services are also provided on an outreach basis to other communities on a regular or as needed basis. A Central Intake Service access line operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week in each region. For the Eastern Region, the number is 1800 809 423. For the Western Region, the number is 1800 800 944.

4. All locations operate services Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm with the exception of Yass which operates Wednesday to Friday.

5. I am advised that recruitment is underway for full time positions at Griffith, Finley and for the Eurobodalla Region. In addition a full time Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug worker is being recruited in Queanbeyan. Recruitment is also underway for a part time position at Cooma.

6. The Greater Southern Area Health Service has advised that the recruitment process is underway and that the filling of these positions will depend on the availability of suitably qualified candidates.

7. I am advised that the Greater Southern Area Health Service central intake numbers are advertised in telephone directories, leaflets, posters, community health centres, hospitals, through local GP’s and through mental health and other services. Access details are also advertised through local Community Drug Action Teams. Individual services have also developed their own service pamphlets which they distribute throughout the communities they service.
**4178 SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION**—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) Is planning underway for the construction of a sewerage treatment plant for the township of Murrumbateman?
(2) If so, what is the time-line for the construction of a sewerage treatment plant for Murrumbateman?
(3) What funds have been spent to date on this project?
(4) What future funds have been earmarked for this project?
(5) If planning is not currently underway, why not?

Answer—

(1) Yes. The project is the responsibility of Yass Valley Shire Council.
(2) This is a matter for Yass Valley Shire Council, but the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability has been advised construction is currently forecast to be completed in 2008.
(3) $140,700 in preconstruction costs has been provided from the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program for this project.
(4) The construction cost for the project is currently estimated to be $2.2 million, and in accordance with the current Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program funding rules up to $1.1 million in further assistance is available.
(5) Not applicable.

**4179 PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES**—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Health—

What is the current position in regard to the provision of public health facilities at Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital?

Answer—

The Hunter New England Area Health Service advises that Manning Base Hospital has an agreement with the Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital specifying the terms and conditions under which the Cape Hawke Private Hospital will admit and treat “public” patients referred from Manning Base Hospital. The agreement forms part of the Manning Base Hospital Bed Management Strategy and is only used when Manning Base Hospital is experiencing acute bed access problems and the transfer of appropriate patients becomes necessary. Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital provides for some of the demand for medical and surgical services in the Great Lakes area, however Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital is not licensed to provide emergency services. The Hunter New England Area Health Service has engaged a consultant to update a Procurement Feasibility Plan that was prepared in relation to the provision of health services in the Great Lakes area prior to the merger of the Area Health Services. This Plan will assess options for the provision of public ambulatory and inpatient services, including the possibility of some services being provided by the Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital under contract. The Hunter New England Area Health Service expects the completion of the revised Plan in July 2005. The Hunter New England Area Health Service is committed to providing appropriate services to meet the needs of the communities of Forster-Tuncurry.
**4180 QUALIFIED BUILDER NUMBERS**—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

How many builders are there in New South Wales that are qualified to undertake work over a contracted sum of $12,000?

Answer—

The question is nonsensical as there is no such qualification threshold. A licensed builder who wishes to undertake work in excess of $12,000 must have eligibility for home warranty insurance from an approved insurer.

**4181 FIELD INSPECTOR NUMBERS**—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) How many field inspectors has the Department assigned to monitor builders and swimming pool builders compliance under the continuing professional development scheme?
(2) When will the monitoring commence?
(3) How will the monitoring be undertaken?

Answer—

(1) Office of Fair Trading building inspectors are not required to ensure compliance with the continuing professional development program.
(2) It already has.
(3) By analysis as well as random and targeted compliance programs.

**4182 POLICE ATTENDANCE STATISTICS**—Mr Stoner to Minister for Police—

How many traffic accidents were attended by police in the area between Crescent Head and Point Plomer, for each of the last 5 years?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:
2000 : 2.
2001 : 3.
2002 : 2.
2004 : 3.

**4183 AMBULANCE OFFICERS ATTENDANCE STATISTICS**—Mr Stoner to Minister for Health—

How many traffic accidents were attended by ambulance officers in the area between Crescent Head and Point Plomer, for each of the last 5 years?

Answer—

I am advised the Ambulance Service of NSW does not collect and record data based on the parameters contained in your question.
In relation to the planned upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Tintenbar and Ewingsdale:
(1) Are you considering altering the previously announced route?
(2) If so, for what reasons?
(3) If so, what is the estimated additional cost in compensation to property owners, given that
individuals and businesses have made investment and lifestyle decisions based on the route
announced some 10 years ago?
(4) When will you provide certainty regarding the route of the upgrade?

Answer—

I am advised:
The NSW Government is contributing $1.6 billion over ten years to the $2.2 billion Pacific Highway
Upgrade Program.
The Government’s priority to improve safety on the Pacific Highway is delivering dual carriage way
from Hexham to the Queensland border.
The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is currently working to identify a route for the upgrade of the
Pacific Highway between Tintenbar and Ewingsdale.
In April 2005 the RTA extended the proposed study area to the east following feedback from the
extensive community representations as well as investigations undertaken by the RTA.
As part of this work, the local Community Liaison Group has been reformed to ensure representation is
given to community interests in the new portion of the study area.
The RTA will continue to investigate route options in the initial study area as well as the expanded study
in order to identify a route which achieves the best possible balance between a wide range of important
and competing factors, including environmental, social, cost and agricultural issues.
The RTA will purchase properties required for road purposes in line with the provisions of the Land

(1) Did Detective Inspector Peter Bailey, the Monaro Police Crime Manager at the relevant time, or any
one acting for or on behalf of DI Bailey communicate in any form with any Sydney Morning Herald
journalists, including:
  ▪ Les Kennedy
  ▪ Kate McClymont; or
  ▪ any other SMH person
prior to 16 July 2004 that being the date on which an article appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald
headed “Vicious Assault as Students Take Rivalry to Snow Fields”? Was a record or file note/report
kept of any such communication?

(2) Was Detective Inspector Bailey present at Thredbo to make a “first hand” assessment of the
incident?

(3) Were there any other police present at Thredbo to make a “first hand” assessment of the incident?

(4) Did Detective Inspector Bailey or anyone acting for or on behalf of DI Bailey say words to the effect
that: his team of Detectives from Cooma and Queanbeyan had identified students and former
students of five private independent schools as having been involved?

(5) Was Detective Inspector Bailey correctly quoted as saying “it is clearly a dispute between schools”?

(6) Was the quote referred to in the article, at paragraph 3 namely: “although Police said the boy was
from St Aloysius’ College at Milson’s Point” made by Detective Inspector Peter Bailey or anyone
acting for or on behalf of DI Bailey?
(7) Bearing in mind that the article purports to quote DI Bailey and on the assumption that they are either misquotes or statements not made by DI Bailey, is there any knowledge or belief as to why the quotes were in fact directly attributed to DI Bailey?

(8) Following the police investigation:
   (a) Was it concluded that the St Aloysius’ College student, referred to in the article, was in fact the victim of a crime?
   (b) Was the crime an assault?
   (c) Were there witnesses to the crime?
   (d) Was someone identified as having committed the crime?
   (e) If so, was the person charged with the crime?
   (f) What was the charge?
   (g) Is it known whether the person who committed the crime was a school student?
   (h) If so, was the student from one of the “5 schools” referred to in the article as having been mentioned by DI Bailey?
   (i) If not, was the St Aloysius’ College student assaulted by a third party, an adult and not a schoolboy?

(9) Assuming that there were factual errors recorded in the original Police report on the incident, have those errors been corrected?

(10) Assuming that the SMH article contained factual errors and misquoting have there been any efforts made to communicate either to the editor of the SMH or anyone else in authority to have the factual errors and misquotes corrected?

(11) Is there any record of any written, electronic or other communications between Monaro Command and North Sydney Command between 14 July 2004 and 22 July 2004 in relation to the incident? If so, what communication occurred and between whom?

(12) Did Constable Camille Lalor, a North Sydney Police Youth Liaison Officer, initiate or receive any communication from any police source concerning St Aloysius’ College and the alleged incident reported in the SMH on 16 July 2004? If so, what communication occurred? Were any file notes or reports created about any such communication?

Answer—

(1) to (12) NSW Police has advised me that this matter is still before the courts. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment further.

*4186 TOUKLEY AMBULANCE STATION—Mr Crittenden to Minister for Health—

(1) Why did senior ambulance officers in late November 2004 and/or December 2004 instruct ambulance officers based at Toukley to return to work at that station following storm damage on 19th September 2004 when there were positive samples of asbestos, including airborne samples when the officers were to resume duties at Toukley?

(2) On what basis did the senior officers of the New South Wales ambulance service instruct the officers at Toukley ambulance station to return to work?

(3) What action has been or will be taken by officers of your administration against the relevant senior officers of the New South Wales ambulance service and/or any private contractor who undertook repair work at Toukley ambulance station, given that asbestos samples were found after ambulance officers had been instructed to return to work and the only reason they were not exposed to these asbestos fibres was their decision to take industrial action?

(4) What is the duty of care of the senior officers of the New South Wales ambulance service to ensure a safe working environment for officers of the ambulance service and what action will be taken in respect of the former?

(5) Following the recent return to Toukley ambulance station in April 2005 or May 2005 by ambulance officers previously based at Toukley until storm damage on 19th September 2004, was unsealed asbestos found around the perimeter of the building?

(6) Was this unsealed asbestos removed from the site by an employee of the ambulance service?
(7) Were proper protocols followed in the disposal of this unsealed asbestos? If not, why not?
(8) Where were the asbestos samples disposed of?

Answer—

(1) to (8) The Ambulance Service of NSW has advised that it had been intended to reoccupy the station in December 2004 following rectification work and that the proposed return to the station was on the basis that appropriate testing for the existence of asbestos was complete. I am advised that throughout the rectification works, the Ambulance Service took appropriate steps to ensure staff had the opportunity to raise and discuss legitimate concerns. I understand that a stakeholder meeting, scheduled prior to the proposed reoccupation of the station to specifically discuss any concerns, identified that not all tests have been completed. As a result, reoccupation of the station was immediately deferred until a clearance from WorkCover was obtained. Upon completion of further rectification works, the building was given independent occupational clearance certification by the National Association of Testing Authorities, which confirm the absence of loose asbestos fibres. A consultant structural engineer’s report also certified the structural integrity of the building. The Ambulance Service has advised that both the Health Services Union and WorkCover were provided with copies of reports and certificates in relation to the rectification works.

I am advised that the station was reopened on 21 May 2005 and that there has been no unsealed asbestos found around the perimeter of the building since the reoccupation.

*4187 TOUKLEY AMBULANCE SERVICE—Mr Crittenden to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

(1) What action would the Minister take against an employer who instructed their staff to return to work in a work environment that was contaminated with asbestos fibres? Under the current legislation what are the maximum penalties that could be imposed on such an employer?
(2) Why did senior ambulance officers in late November 2004 and/or December 2004 instruct ambulance officers based at Toukley to return to work at that station following storm damage on 19th September 2004 when there were positive samples of asbestos, including airborne samples when the officers were to resume duties at Toukley?
(3) On what basis did the senior officers of the New South Wales ambulance service instruct the officers at Toukley ambulance station to return to work?
(4) Did Workcover officers investigate the situation at Toukley ambulance station following an instruction by senior officers of the ambulance service of New South Wales to ambulance officers based at Toukley to return to work?
(5) When was Workcover first advised of concerns about possible asbestos contamination of this NSW Government workplace? What action did they take? When were you first informed of this? What action did you take?
(6) What action has been or will be taken by officers of your administration against the relevant senior officers of the New South Wales ambulance service and/or any private contractor who undertook repair work at Toukley ambulance station, given that asbestos samples were found after ambulance officers had been instructed to return to work and the only reason they were not exposed to these asbestos fibres was their decision to take industrial action?
(7) Does Workcover apply the same standards in respect of handling and removal of asbestos for private contractors carrying out private work as it does to private contractors performing New South Wales government work?
(8) What is the duty of care of the senior officers of the New South Wales ambulance service to ensure a safe working environment for officers of the ambulance service and what action will be taken in respect of the former?
(9) Following the recent return to Toukley ambulance station in April 2005 or May 2005 by ambulance officers previously based at Toukley until storm damage on 19th September 2004, was unsealed asbestos found around the perimeter of the building?
(10) Was this unsealed asbestos removed from the site by an employee of the ambulance service?
(11) Were proper protocols followed in the disposal of this unsealed asbestos? If not, why not?
(12) Where were the asbestos samples disposed of?

Answer—

(1) to (12) All employers in New South Wales have a duty of care under section 8 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all employees while at work. Employers knowingly and deliberately compelling or directing staff to work within premises where there is a proven risk of inhaling asbestos fibres may be guilty of an offence under the Act or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001. Maximum penalties that could be imposed under the Act for such a breach are $550,000 for a first time offender and $850,000 for previous offender.

WorkCover would be responsible for taking any action against such an employer. WorkCover’s role is to enforce the Act and Regulation, which contain provisions for the safe containment and removal of asbestos materials in the workplace. WorkCover applies the same standards irrespective of the work site.

WorkCover was first notified of concerns about possible asbestos contamination by a NSW Ambulance Service employee on 27 September 2004. WorkCover promptly contacted senior NSW Ambulance Service managers to advise the Service to engage a hygienist to test the workplace. The Service commenced containment and remediation action, relocated staff to alternative premises and engaged a WorkCover licensed asbestos removalist to undertake the work.

WorkCover has advised that monitoring detected no airborne fibres following the storm damage to Toukley Ambulance Station. A physical inspection found bonded asbestos particles in mud inside the Station.

WorkCover has taken all appropriate action to address concerns in relation to the work undertaken at Toukley Ambulance Station to repair the storm damage. WorkCover’s involvement has included site visits in relation to fall prevention and asbestos, and a series of meetings and telephone conversations with NSW Ambulance Service managers, Station staff and the principal contractor responsible for the work.

During the remediation works, WorkCover issued an Improvement Notice for possible asbestos contamination of water damaged carpet, and ensured that the NSW Ambulance Service engage independent experts to provide reports on the level of asbestos contamination and the structural adequacy of the building.

WorkCover maintained regular contract with the NSW Ambulance Service and the Health Services Union whilst the work was carried out, until a meeting in April 2005 where the experts’ reports indicating the Station was fit for occupancy were tabled.

WorkCover considers that the NSW Ambulance Service acted appropriately on WorkCover’s advice about managing the asbestos removal and containment, and on concerns expressed by employees with respect to possible asbestos contamination. WorkCover is not aware of any asbestos material around or on the perimeter of the Toukley Ambulance Station that would pose any risk.

WorkCover acknowledge the cooperative approach by trade unions and employee representatives in helping to recognise and prevent possible risks to health, safety and welfare at the Station.

*4188 GLOBAL FUNDING—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

With reference to information you have provided giving a total figure for global funding provided to primary, central and secondary schools (Question on Notice number 3463):

What criteria was used in 2004 and 2005 to allocate funding within each of the following classifications ie for primary, central and secondary schools:
(1) For schedule A payments:
(a) Under the General Operations Grant:

- how much was allocated per teacher?
- how much was allocated per student?

(b) What special factor loadings are provided?

(c) Under Utilities and Related Items:

- how much was allocated per teacher?
- how much was allocated per student?

(2) For Schedule B payments:

- What specific Purpose Grants are included, what are they and how are they calculated (by enrolment/staffing)?

Answer—

(1) (a) to (c) Grants per student ranged between $52.50 and $157.70. Grants per teacher ranged between $1400 and $2044. Special Factor Loadings include: Immediate SASS Relief; Hygiene Grant; Technology School; Isolated Schools Grant; Global Funding Enhancement; and School Security Banking. Utilities allocations (for example, to meet gas and electricity costs) are not calculated on individual staff or student numbers. Grants for Related Items (such as post and telephones) were $11.35 per student and $200 per teacher.

(2) I am advised that a range of Specific Purpose Grants are included. The formula used for each grant varies, however the main factors used are enrolment statistics, staffing entitlements and schools’ geographical locations. The grants include:

- Student Assistance Scheme
- Priority Schools Funding Program
- Commonwealth Primary Schools Libraries Program (terminated by the Commonwealth in 2004)
- Computer Co-ordinator Funding
- Aboriginal Targeted Funding Program
- Multicultural Education Programs
- Country Area Program.

*4190 TUMUT RIVER—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Women—

(1) What was the advice that you provided to the Minister or the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources about the effect on the local tourism industry of the work to increase irrigation flows in the Tumut River?

(2) Will you provide the Member for Burrinjuck with a copy of this advice?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Advice was provided as part of the cabinet consultation process.

*4191 BATLOW MPS FUNDING—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Health—

(1) Was any funding allocated in the 2005-06 Budget to continue (a) planning for and (b) construction of the Batlow Multi Purpose Service?

(2) Will the scheduled completion date for the Batlow MPS of 2006-07 be met?
(1) and (2) I am advised that $6.965 million has been budgeted for planning and construction of the Batlow Multi Purpose Service which is scheduled for completion in 2007-2008. The 2005-2006 allocation is $500,000 for continuation of planning.

*4192 BARTON HIGHWAY ACCIDENTS—Ms Hodgkinson to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) How many (a) accidents, (b) accidents causing injury and (c) accidents resulting in a fatality occurred on the Barton Highway between the ACT Border and the beginning of the dual carriageway near the intersection of the Highway and Yass Valley Way during:
  • 2003
  • 2004
  • 1 January – 26 May 2005?

(2) How many of these (a) accidents, (b) accidents causing injury and (c) accidents resulting in a fatality involved heavy vehicles including semi-trailers and B-Doubles?

Answer—

I am advised:
Information relating to traffic crash statistics is provided annually by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) in the publication, Road Traffic Crashes in NSW, which is publicly available on the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

*4193 HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION—Mr Slack-Smith to Minister for Health—

When will the construction of the new Narrabri Hospital commence?

Answer—

The redevelopment of Narrabri Hospital is recognised in the Department’s draft Asset Acquisition Program and will be considered for funding in the context of the statewide health investment priorities.

*4194 LANE COVE TUNNEL—Ms Berejiklian to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the Lane Cove Tunnel project:
What is the status of the State Government’s response to the Federal Government’s offer to pay $10 million towards the cost of filtration?

Answer—

I am advised:
In relation to filtration, the Government’s position remains that the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources in consultation with the Department of Health and Department of Environment and Conservation has set the toughest air quality standards in the world. These standards are met with all tunnels without the use of filtration.
I am advised the approval for the Lane Cove Tunnel was granted by the Minister for Planning in line with the strict air quality conditions imposed by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning.
The NSW Government has written to the Federal Member for North Sydney to indicate that given the above information, any filtration should be on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis with the Federal Government.
If the Federal Government increases its offer of $10 million for filtration to a commitment to fully fund half the cost via a special purpose grant, I will direct the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) to hold discussions with the Lane Cove Tunnel Company to achieve filtration of the ventilation stacks. The RTA advise its most recent estimate of the cost of filtration of the stacks is approximately $70 million.

*4195 CHATSWOOD STATION LIFT—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Transport—

In relation to interim arrangements regarding the construction of the new Chatswood Railway Station:

(3) When will the lift in Orchard Street be repaired and functioning?
(3) Why is this lift continually out of order?
(3) What will be done to ensure it is working properly?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I am advised that the temporary lift in Orchard Road has been operational since 16 April 2005. A maintenance agreement is in place for the lift, which includes an emergency call out service and monthly maintenance to ensure operational faults are rectified promptly.

*4196 CALLER ESTATE—Ms Berejiklian to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

In relation to correspondence to the Office of State Revenue regarding the Estate of the late Ada Caller:

(1) What is the Treasury doing to clarify the application of vendor duty under such circumstances?
(2) What is the Treasury’s response to this case?

Answer—

(1) Of all property transfers in the state, only 23 percent are required to pay vendor duty, while the remaining 77 percent qualify for one of the many generous exemptions from vendor duty payments.
(2) In the above case an Act of Grace payment of the vendor duty payable was made by the Commissioner of State Revenue.

*4197 ROOTY HILL SCHOOL LIBRARY—Mr Amery to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

(1) Is the new library proposal for the Rooty Hill High School high on the priority list for major capital works expenditure for schools in the Mount Druitt district?
(2) What is the latest estimate as to when the Rooty Hill High School will get its new library?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Department of Education and Training recognises the need for an upgrade to the existing library facilities at Rooty Hill High School. The Department has developed a concept for a project to upgrade the library and funding will be considered in the context of future major capital works priorities. It is not possible to provide an indication of the timeframe for the inclusion of the project in a forward program, as it is not possible to pre-empt the deliberations of the Budget Committee in the formulation of the annual State Budget.
*4198 COLYTON PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL—Mr Amery to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What is the present position on building a school hall at the Colyton Primary School?

Answer—

The NSW Government is committed to the provision of high quality public education in this State and to ensuring that our students and teachers are provided with the best possible facilities. Under the NSW Government’s initiative to provide a significant number of new communal halls during its current term, schools without a communal hall and with enrolments of more than 500 students are assigned priority consideration. The need to provide a communal hall facility at Colyton Public School is acknowledged and funding for this project will be considered in the context of future capital works priorities.

*4199 YELGUN REST STOP—Mr Page to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What is the cost estimate of the revised Yelgun Rest Area/Truck Stop including construction of access roads to and from the truck stop as proposed by the Roads and Traffic Authority?

(2) Does the $3 million in the Review of Environmental Factors include the Review of Environmental Factors and associated paperwork and meetings?

(3) If not, what is the cost of the Review of Environmental Factors and associated paperwork and meetings?

(4) Whilst the Roads and Traffic Authority is now proposing an entry and exit to the Rest Area/Truck Stop (including a separate entry to the local roads system), what is being done to overcome the mixing of highway and local traffic?

Answer—

(1) to (4) I am advised:

As part of the Roads and Traffic Authority’s (RTA’s) Truck Rest Area Strategy for the Pacific Highway, a site for a new rest area has been identified adjacent to the Yelgun interchange, which will be constructed as part of the proposed Brunswick Heads to Yelgun upgrade project. Construction of the new rest area is planned to be undertaken as part of the Brunswick Heads to Yelgun upgrade project.

In response to community representations, the RTA and the contractor Abigroup are currently reviewing the design for access to the rest area. Once this is complete, cost estimate details may be finalised.

*4200 HEAVY VEHICLES—Mr Page to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) In 2004 how many heavy vehicles used the Pacific Highway per week?

(2) In 2004 how many heavy vehicles used the New England Highway per week?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised:

The proportion of heavy vehicles on the Pacific Highway between 2001 and 2004 has increased slightly from 13% to 16% of total traffic volume. This indicates an increase in general road traffic, including light and heavy vehicles.
The Pacific Highway is one of Australia’s most significant freight routes carrying both freight between Sydney and Brisbane and freight to and within towns in the region. Ongoing increases have been experienced due to a range of factors, including improvements in the economy, population growth and related increases in demands for freight. The proportion of heavy vehicles on the New England Highway between 2001 and 2004 has decreased slightly from 17.7% to 16.1% of total traffic volume.

*4201 BUS SERVICES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to bus services:
(1) How many complaints were received about 387 and 389 bus services in 2004?
(2) How many of these complaints related to 387 and 389 buses that were cancelled?
(3) How many of these complaints related to 387 and 389 buses that were late?
(4) How many of these complaints related to 387 and 389 buses that were fully loaded and unable to pick up passengers?
(5) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 30 minutes for a 387 and 389 bus?
(6) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 45 minutes for a 387 and 389 bus?
(7) How many complainants stated that this problem was an ongoing concern, with buses regularly late or cancelled?
(8) What causes of delays and cancellations were identified when these complaints were investigated?
(9) What action was taken in response to these complaints?
(10) What action has the Government taken to ensure the 387 and 389 bus service is reliable and meets demand?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) 432
(2) 20
(3) 157
(4) 31
(5) 63
(6) 14
(7) to (10) The most common cause of delays for these services was traffic problems such as illegal parking and peak hour traffic congestion. Each complaint is investigated and callers are contacted and provided with the reasons for the delays of the relevant service. All services are continuously monitored and customer feedback reviewed. In addition to working closely with local councils to reduce traffic impediments, State Transit will continue to monitor bus loadings and timings along these routes.

*4202 CITYRAIL ESCAPE PROCEDURES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

(1) Did the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulators report into Train Door Emergency Egress and Access and Emergency Evacuation Procedures identify CityRail’s containment policy as putting passengers at risk?
(2) Given the high risk to CityRail passengers from the combination of increasing fires and accidents and City Rail’s containment policy, what action have you taken to change emergency evacuation procedures to allow passengers to escape train carriages?
Answer—

I am advised:
(1) No.
(2) In accordance with the Government’s response to the Final Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Waterfall Rail Accident, RailCorp will review and replace its current containment policy following a comprehensive independent risk assessment.

*4203 CITYRAIL SAFETY—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

(1) Have you told commuters that trains are getting later because CityRail is focusing more on rail safety?
(2) Why does CityRail data show dramatic escalation over the last two years in the number of passenger falls, people struck by trains and equipment, fires and explosions, and signals passed at danger?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) Information regarding CityRail’s reliability is available from the CityRail website at www.cityrail.info.
(2) It should be noted that performance data on the website now includes information from two old entities - StateRail and Rail Infrastructure Corporation.

*4204 CARERS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

How many carers are present in the Hornsby electorate?

Answer—

The Department does not keep information on numbers of carers on an electorate basis.

*4207 RAIL DUPLICATION—Mr Kerr to Minister for Transport—

In what year will work on the duplication of the Cronulla railway line commence?

Answer—

I am advised that work has commenced.

*4208 HOSPITAL CATERING—Mr Kerr to Minister for Health—

What are the Government’s plans for catering services at Sutherland Hospital?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my previous advice provided in response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 3998.

*4209 MUNICIPAL WASTE—Mr Richardson to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

(1) How many tonnes of municipal waste from the Sydney Metropolitan Area went to landfill in each of the following years:
   (a) 2001;
   (b) 2002;
(c) 2003;
(d) 2004?

(2) How many tonnes of municipal waste from the Extended Regulated Area went to landfill in each of the following years:
(a) 2001;
(b) 2002;
(c) 2003;
(d) 2004?

Answer—

The Carr Government’s waste management and reduction policies have succeeded in significantly reducing the amount of municipal waste disposed of in the Sydney metropolitan area by more than 25 percent since 1995. Over the same period, the amount of material recycled from the domestic waste stream has increased by more than 50 percent. That is, waste disposal is falling and recycling is increasing.

The NSW State of the Environment Report 2003 and the Department of Environment and Conservation’s Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery in NSW (2004 Progress Report) - both available on DEC’s website - provide detailed breakdowns of the disposal rates for the three key sectors of waste, including municipal waste, commercial and industrial waste and construction and demolition waste. These documents also outline, in considerable detail, why waste disposed from the commercial and industrial sector and the construction and demolition sector have fluctuated. These fluctuations tend to be closely related to the rate of building construction, overall economic activity and changes in population. I can advise, however, that since 2000, total per capita waste disposed of in the Sydney region for the three waste sectors combined has fallen by 6.5 percent.

*4210 COMMERCIAL WASTE—Mr Richardson to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

(1) How many tonnes of commercial and industrial waste from the Sydney Metropolitan Area went to landfill in each of the following years:
(a) 2001;
(b) 2002;
(c) 2003;
(d) 2004?

(2) How many tonnes of commercial and industrial waste from the Extended Regulated Area went to landfill in each of the following years:
(a) 2001;
(b) 2002;
(c) 2003;
(d) 2004?

Answer—

The Carr Government’s waste management and reduction policies have succeeded in significantly reducing the amount of municipal waste disposed of in the Sydney metropolitan area by more than 25 percent since 1995. Over the same period, the amount of material recycled from the domestic waste stream has increased by more than 50 percent. That is, waste disposal is falling and recycling is increasing.

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related to the rate of building construction, overall economic activity and changes in population. I can advise, however, that since 2000, total per capita waste disposed of in the Sydney region for the three waste sectors combined has fallen by 6.5 percent.

*4211 CONSTRUCTION WASTE—Mr Richardson to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

(1) How many tonnes of construction and demolition waste from the Sydney Metropolitan Area went to landfill in each of the following years:
(a) 2001;
(b) 2002;
(c) 2003;
(d) 2004?
(2) How many tonnes of construction and demolition waste from the Extended Regulated Area went to landfill in each of the following years:
(a) 2001;
(b) 2002;
(c) 2003;
(d) 2004?

Answer—

The Carr Government’s waste management and reduction policies have succeeded in significantly reducing the amount of municipal waste disposed of in the Sydney metropolitan area by more than 25 percent since 1995. Over the same period, the amount of material recycled from the domestic waste stream has increased by more than 50 percent. That is, waste disposal is falling and recycling is increasing.

The NSW State of the Environment Report 2003 and the Department of Environment and Conservation’s Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery in NSW (2004 Progress Report) - both available on DEC’s website - provide detailed breakdowns of the disposal rates for the three key sectors of waste, including municipal waste, commercial and industrial waste and construction and demolition waste. These documents also outline, in considerable detail, why waste disposed from the commercial and industrial sector and the construction and demolition sector have fluctuated. These fluctuations tend to be closely related to the rate of building construction, overall economic activity and changes in population. I can advise, however, that since 2000, total per capita waste disposed of in the Sydney region for the three waste sectors combined has fallen by 6.5 percent.

*4212 SECURITY GUARDS AND HANDGUNS—Ms Moore to Minister for Police—

(1) How many security guards carrying handguns have been robbed of their guns in the last five years?
(2) What action has the NSW Government taken to:
   (a) improve the safety of security guards and protect passers by from death or injury due to firearms?
   (b) prevent the theft of handguns from security guards?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Government has introduced a number of reforms to reduce the incidence of gun theft from the security industry in the last year. NSW Police has advised me that, as a result, over 1,000 firearms have been removed from the industry and strict conditions placed on those businesses where they were deemed necessary.

NSW Police is working with WorkCover and the Office of Industrial Relations to investigate security firms that fail to comply with OH&S obligations and industrial instruments put in place to protect security guards and the general community.
**4213 HANDGUN CONTROLS—Ms Moore to Minister for Police—**

With reference to the 300,000 handguns in Australia, and the additional 10,000 imported each year:

(1) Are you aware that a report by Samantha Lee of the National Coalition for Gun Control shows that there is not a National Firearms Registry, but eight separate registries with inconsistent and incompatible data?

(2) What action has the NSW Government taken to:
   (a) Work towards a common national legislative framework and data standards?
   (b) Ban semi-automatic handguns?
   (c) Prevent the future use of more powerful handguns (eg. “fast draw”, lightweight titanium, reduced recoil, laser sights) for criminal purposes in Australia?
   (d) Trace replica, deactivated, converted and imitation handguns, and to prevent them being reactivated or used for crime?
   (e) Ensure that handguns are safely stored?

**Answer—**

(1) The licensing and registration of firearms is administered by each individual State or Territory.

(2) (a) to (e) NSW is committed to reducing the prevalence of handguns in the community and continues to implement a package of reforms targeting illegal handguns announced by the then Minister for Police in September 2003. NSW has implemented the Prime Minister’s increased controls over handguns. For example, on 6 December 2002, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a national approach to significantly strengthen controls over access and use of handguns, and reduce the number of handguns in the community that do not have an approved target shooting role. The Handgun Agreement included the 28 resolutions for additional licensing controls made by the Australian Police Ministers’ Council on 20 November 2002, and a ban on some types of Handgun for target shooting, an associated buyback, and an amnesty for the surrender of illegal firearms. The Firearms Amendment (Prohibited Pistols) Act 2003, which amended the Firearms Act 1996, implemented those APMC and COAG decisions which were not already present in NSW law.

**4214 FARE HARMONISATION—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Transport—**

(1) What distinguishes bus “fare harmonisation” from price-fixing?

(2) Did the Government seek any legal advice, or consult Fair Trading or the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission?

(3) Given that the contractual arrangements have required private operators to make any alterations to services a matter for Ministry approval, as well as provide all fare revenue to the Ministry, does the Government acknowledge that it has resumed private assets in a de-facto manner?

(4) What compensation has been paid for this resumption?

**Answer—**

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The process for setting fares is governed by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992.

(3) And (4) No.
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Wednesday 14 September 2005

27 MAY 2005

(Paper No. 134)

*4215 SYDNEY FERRIES DRUG TESTING—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to Sydney Ferries drug testing:

(1) What is Sydney Ferries current drug testing policy?
(2) How many Sydney Ferries employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to cannabis by month since July 2002?
(3) How many Sydney Ferries employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to alcohol by month since July 2002?
(4) How many Sydney Ferries employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to amphetamines by month since July 2002?
(5) How many Sydney Ferries employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to opiates by month since July 2002?
(6) How many Sydney Ferries employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to cocaine by month since July 2002?
(7) How many Sydney Ferries employees, by position, refused to be tested?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (6) Sydney Ferries commenced random alcohol testing in March 2004 and random drug testing in September 2004.

Sydney Ferries does not record alcohol or drug testing results on a month by month basis. Cumulative results as at 17 June 2005, by classification, since testing began are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Alcohol Tests Negative</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Drug Tests Negative</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Refusal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Purpose Hands</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship Maintenance</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling Officers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One positive result for cannabis has been detected in this period.

(7) As at 17 June 2005, no Sydney Ferries employee has refused testing since the introduction of random drug and alcohol testing.

*4216 CITYRAIL DRUG TESTING—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to CityRail drug testing:

(1) What is CityRail’s current drug testing policy?
(2) How many CityRail employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to cannabis by month since July 2002?
(3) How many CityRail employees, by position, were tested and of those how tested positive to alcohol by month since July 2002?
(4) How many CityRail employees, by position, were tested and of those how tested positive to amphetamines by month since July 2002?
(5) How many CityRail employees, by position, were tested and of those how tested positive to opiates by month since July 2002?
(6) How many CityRail employees, by position, were tested and of those how tested positive to cocaine by month since July 2002?
(7) How many CityRail employees, by position, refused to be tested?

Answer—

(1) To (7) I am advised that information regarding RailCorp’s drug and alcohol testing is available from the CityRail website at www.cityrail.info.

STATE TRANSIT DRUG TESTING—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to State Transit drug testing:

(1) What is State Transit current drug testing policy?
(2) How many State Transit employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to cannabis by month since July 2002?
(3) How many State Transit employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to alcohol by month since July 2002?
(4) How many State Transit employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to amphetamines by month since July 2002?
(5) How many State Transit employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to opiates by month since July 2002?
(6) How many State Transit employees, by position, were tested and of those how many tested positive to cocaine by month since July 2002?
(7) How many State Transit employees, by position, refused to be tested?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (6) State Transit’s Drug Policy was introduced in accordance with Section 9c of the Passenger Transport Act and the Passenger Transport (Drug and Alcohol Testing) Regulation 2004. Alcohol breath testing commenced on 31 March 2004 and other drug testing commenced on 1 September 2004.

State Transit does not record alcohol or drug testing or results on a month by month basis.

As at 31 May 2005 cumulative results, by classification, since testing began are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>Numbers tested per classification</th>
<th>Total Tests Conducted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bus Operators</td>
<td>Managers/Supervisors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>1683</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One illicit use of amphetamines was detected.

(7) As at 31 May 2005 no State Transit employees have refused testing.

PUMPOUT SUBSIDY—Mr Pringle to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

Will the Government reconsider the decision not to grant Hawkesbury City Council residents the same subsidy as Blue Mountains City Council residents for their pumpout sewerage services?
Answer—

The NSW Government is implementing its Priority Sewerage Program (PSP), aimed at providing environmentally acceptable sewerage systems to urban communities where the current methods of sewage treatment and disposal have been identified as creating an environmental or public health risk. The investment of resources in the development of infrastructure solutions, such as the PSP, provides subsidies to pump-out customers across Sydney Water’s area of operations. The introduction of a pump-out subsidy in the Blue Mountains was considered appropriate in regard of the special status of the Blue Mountains as a World Heritage Area. The Government has no plans to introduce subsidies for pump-out in areas other than the Blue Mountains. In time, subsidies in the Blue Mountains will reduce as more residents are connected to the sewerage system.

*4219 PUMPOUT SUBSIDY—Mr Pringle to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

Will the decision to not grant Hawkesbury City Council residents the same subsidy as Blue Mountains City Council residents for their pumpout sewerage services have negative impacts on the important environment values of the Hawkesbury area?

Answer—

I understand that my colleague, the Hon Frank Sartor MP Minister for Energy and Utilities, has already provided a response to this question in his answer to Question on Notice No 4218.

*4220 TEMPERATURE MONITORING STATION—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

Would the Minister advise where the temperature monitoring station for Hawkesbury schools for the hotspot Air Cooling Program is located?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training’s Air Cooling Program is based on data provided by the Australian Government’s Bureau of Meteorology. Information concerning the location of temperature monitoring stations can be obtained from this organisation.

*4221 COMPLAINT—FAIR TRADING—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Has a complaint been received from James Thompson by the Office of Fair Trading?
(2) If so, what is the status of the investigation into that complaint?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading has received various complaints over the years from a number of different consumers identifying themselves as Mr James Thompson, Mr J Thompson and Mr James Thomson. Further details are therefore required to assist in identifying the correct Mr Thompson and the issue involved, before I can provide a response on this matter.
PERSONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Is it a requirement of the Department of Fair Trading that Real Estate Agents have compulsory Indemnity Insurance?
(2) If not, why not?
(3) If not, is the Government considering the introduction of compulsory Personal Indemnity Insurance for Real Estate Agents?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The Member for Myall Lakes appears to be confused between professional indemnity insurance and personal liability insurance.
Section 22 of the Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002 provides that professional indemnity insurance may be imposed as a condition on licensees under the Act, such as real estate agents.
When the Act commenced on 1 September 2003, the imposition of professional indemnity insurance as a licensing condition was deferred due to uncertainty in the insurance market and to ensure that the requirement was not too onerous because of the availability of this class of insurance in the market.
The market for professional indemnity is again being examined by the Office of Fair Trading to determine whether professional indemnity insurance should be made a licensing condition for real estate agents.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS’—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Has the Department of Fair Trading considered the use of ‘Disclosure Statements’, in sale of business transactions, similar to those used in South Australia?
(2) If so, will the Department of Fair Trading mandate such ‘Disclosure Statements’ or similar documents for sale of business transactions?
(3) If not, why not?
(4) If so, when will the Department introduce such ‘Disclosure Statements’ or similar documents in sale of business transactions?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) Yes.
(2) No.
(3) The legislative content in NSW is different and appropriate consumer protection is provided by other means.
(4) Non applicable.

REDEVELOPMENT PLANS—HAT HEAD—Mr Stoner to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

In relation to plans to redevelop Hat Head Holiday Park and Public Reserve:
(1) Do the plans involve an additional 18 cabins that the plans indicate encroach on the public beach in the reserve?
(2) Do the plans not include provision for a helicopter landing area that has been required for past emergencies, including floods and bushfires?
(3) Contrary to correspondence from your office dated 30 April 2004, have residents been advised by the council on 20 April 2005 that there will be no further public consultation?

(4) Are you aware residents were given a copy of a plan at a meeting on 7 December 2004 that was not open to the public, and that this plan was substantially different to the plan advised by the council on 20 April 2005?

(5) Has there been no consultation with the adjacent landholder and National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding the plans?

Answer—

The Department has no current action in regard to redevelopment of the Hat Head Holiday Park. Kempsey Council has advised that there are no current plans for redevelopment of this site. A moratorium on further development in the Hat Head area is in place until investigations into sewage treatment capacity are completed.

*4225 FLUORIDATION—KEMPSEY—Mr Stoner to Minister for Health—

In relation to your decision to fluoridate Kempsey water supplies:

(1) Under what legislative authority can your Director General ignore a resolution passed by Kempsey Shire Council to defer fluoridation in order to undertake community consultation?

(2) What is the estimated recurrent annual cost to the council of maintaining the fluoridation plant?

(3) Is your department aware of any adverse affect of fluoride in water supplies upon asbestos water pipes, as are used in Kempsey Shire?

Answer—

(1) The legislation by which the Director-General of NSW Health may direct a Council or Water Supply Authority is administered by the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957.

(2) The annual operating cost of fluoridation plants varies from site to site depending on factors such as the type and size of the plant, and its location and accessibility. The type of plant to be used at Kempsey and its location are still being determined.

(3) No.

*4226 TOWNSHIP—SOUTH WEST ROCKS—Mr Stoner to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

In relation to the township of South West Rocks:

(1) What has become of the $40,000 promised by the Assistant Minister for a strategic planning review of the South West Rocks area?

(2) Given that the Director General of your department indicated at the Coastal Conference at Lake Macquarie last year that all councils with Local Environmental Plans (LEP) more than 15 years old would be required to update them, will you require the LEP for South West Rocks, which dates back to 1987, to be updated?

(3) What became of a $15,000 planning workshop for South West Rocks conducted by Parsons Brinckerhoff in 2002?

Answer—

(1) Kempsey Council has received $40,000 funding under the Planning Reform Funding Program to assist in strategic planning in the South West Rocks area.

(2) Council will be required to update its local environmental plan for the entire Kempsey local government area (including South West Rocks) as part of the planning reform process, by the end of 2008.
(3) The planning workshop for South West Rocks conducted by Parsons Brinkerhoff was an initiative of the Kempsey Council. This question should be directed to the Council.

*4227 DORMANT ACCOUNTS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

(1) Does Hornsby Shire Council have any dormant accounts relating to money received from developer contributions?
(2) If yes, what is the value of those accounts?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I provide the following details in response to your questions:
I am advised that Hornsby Shire Council has four different plans relating to its developer contributions. These plans are not dormant and the council has carried out various works under three of these plans. Council has advised that works for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 April 2005 have included approximately $460,000 for Drainage, $865,000 mostly for Open Space, $115,000 for Civic Improvements, $115,000 for Bushland and Environmental and $111,000 for Library and Community Facilities.
Council’s fourth plan relates to the construction of a car park in one of its suburbs. Expenditure on the car park has not occurred, as the location of the car park was dependent on the location of other infrastructure. The car park location will be finalised, and the funding will be utilised, in the near future.

*4228 PATIENT NUMBERS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Health—

(1) How many patients were taken to Hornsby Hospital Accident and Emergency Department in 2003, 2004 and 2005 to date, as a result of:
   (a) road trauma; and
   (b) other trauma (e.g. industrial)?
(2) How many of these patients were:
   (a) transferred to another hospital; and
   (b) admitted to Hornsby Hospital?

Answer—

(1) The table below summarises the number of patients taken to Hornsby Hospital Accident and Emergency Department as a result of road or other trauma in 2003, 2004 and 2005*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005 (YTD January)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Road Trauma</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Other Trauma</td>
<td>2,210</td>
<td>2,233</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,385</td>
<td>2,427</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) The table below summarises the number of patients, recorded in the above statistics, admitted to Hornsby Hospital and those transferred to another hospital for treatment in 2003, 2004 and 2005*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005 (YTD January)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Transferred to other hospital</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Admitted to Hornsby Hospital</td>
<td>2,183</td>
<td>2,229</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,385</td>
<td>2,427</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data from February 2005 not yet available - pending clinical coding
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**
**Wednesday 14 September 2005**

*4229 OCCUPANCY RATE—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Health—*

What is the occupancy rate of Hornsby Hospital Intensive Care Unit on a monthly basis for the years 2004 and 2005 to date?

Answer—

The Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service have advised the following occupancy rates for the Hornsby Hospital Intensive Care Unit/High Dependency Unit on a monthly basis for the years 2004 and 2005 to date:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupancy Rate Hornsby Hospital ICU (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I am also advised that the Hornsby Hospital ICU/HDU increased from 11 beds to 13 beds from 5 October 2004.

*4230 BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY INDEX (BASIX)—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—*

(1) Are you aware of concerns expressed by rural councils about the lack of preparedness of council building and planning staff for the 1 July 2005 implementation date of the BASIX building sustainability assessment?

(2) Will a single three-hour training session be sufficient to equip council staff to use the BASIX assessment?

(3) Will you extend the implementation date to allow rural council staff to receive more training in the BASIX assessment?

Answer—

(1) to (2) The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) has received positive feedback on the BASIX briefing sessions it has held across regional and rural NSW, attended by over 2,500 building professionals and local government officers.

The sessions have been complemented by extensive supporting information and a BASIX 1300 Help Line which, since April 2005, has assisted 25-30 people per day on various general and technical matters.

(3) In considering issues raised by all stakeholders as well as the importance of water and energy conservation given the drought, I do not consider a delay for Regional BASIX is necessary for single dwellings and dual occupancies.

I have announced a three month voluntary period for all multi-unit residential development before BASIX becomes mandatory for these types of dwellings across NSW on 1 October 2005.

*4231 PURCHASE OF LAND—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—*

(1) Is the NSW Government continuing to purchase land in the area that was intended to be part of the Welcome Reef Dam?

(2) When was the last portion of land in this area purchased by the NSW Government?

(3) What percentage of the area originally intended to be part of the Welcome Reef Dam is currently owned by the NSW Government?
Answer—

(1) To (3) These matters are the Portfolio responsibility of the Minister for the Environment.

*4232 CROOKWELL HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Health—

With reference to your personal undertaking to me during our meeting on 15 September 2004 to replace the broken Dynamap blood pressure monitor at Crookwell Hospital, why has this equipment not yet been replaced?

Answer—

I am advised that Crookwell Hospital currently has one Dynamap machine in good working order and this machine meets the needs of the hospital.

In accordance with good equipment replacement practice, two Dynamap machines at an estimated cost of $7,000 each are included on the Area’s medical equipment replacement plan.

7 JUNE 2005

(Paper No. 135)

*4233 STOCK FEED FREIGHT—Ms Hodgkinson to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) Will you confirm that road trains passing through Jerilderie have been stopped from travelling because their loads of hay have exceeded the width of the trailer by up to 50 millimetres?

(2) As farmers purchasing fodder for drought affected stock can make cost savings of up to 20%, delivered to the farm gate by using road trains instead of b-doubles, will you extend the approval to carry oversize loads of fodder already approved for b-doubles to road trains?

(3) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I’m advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) provides a concession to the fodder transport industry for the transportation of fodder into and within drought affected areas of NSW. The concession permits heavy vehicles carrying fodder to exceed the maximum vehicle width of 2.5 metres up to a maximum of 2.83 metres. The RTA imposes travel restrictions to ensure these wider vehicles do not impact on road safety.

The RTA has included B-doubles in the concession as part of the drought relief package. The concession is not able to be extended to road trains because of the increased road safety risk of these vehicles operating over width. Road trains have a much greater tail swing and are more likely to encroach on to other road lanes or footpaths.

NSW police stopped a road train travelling through Jerilderie as it did not have the necessary warning signage to identify it to other road users as a road train, as required under the General Road Train Notice 2000. When the vehicle was stopped, an RTA Inspector assisted in the inspection of the vehicle and identified it as over width.
*4234 GOULBURN RAILWAY WORKSHOP VISIT—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Transport—

(1) With reference to your visit to the Goulburn Railway Workshops on 18 May 2005, did you travel to Goulburn using the Southern Highlands CityRail network?

(2) If not, was your decision not to travel by train made because there was not a service available to get you from Sydney to Goulburn and return within a reasonable time period on the same day?

(3) During your tenure as Minister for Transport, have you ever travelled between Sydney to Goulburn on the CityRail Southern Highlands line?

(4) If so, on what date did you travel?

Answer—

When I visited the Goulburn rail workshops on 18 May 2005, my schedule did not permit the use of the train to get to Goulburn, which would have been my preferred travelling option. I will travel between Sydney and Goulburn on the train at the earliest possible opportunity.

*4235 TOURISM MANAGER—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Women—

(1) Have interviews been conducted to fill the position of Tourism Manager at the Goulburn Visitor Information Centre?

(2) When do you anticipate that this position will be filled?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Staffing arrangements at Visitor Information Centres are a matter for local government and this question should be directed to Goulburn Mulwaree Council.

*4236 INFECTION CONTROL PROCEDURES—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Health—

When will the Minister respond to my letter of 15 March 2005 on behalf of Mr John Benson, of Blacktown, in relation to the death of his wife at Blacktown Hospital and infection control procedures in NSW public hospitals?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my response issued in June 2005.

*4237 REPORT INTO SERIOUS DEATH IN THE WORKPLACE—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Health—

When will the Minister reply to my letter to the Minister dated 20 December seeking details of the Department of Health’s response to the Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No 1’s Report into Serious Death in the Workplace, in particular the recommendations relating to the proposed study into the costs and benefits of retractable needles?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my correspondence of June 21, 2005.

*4238 ROAD MAINTENANCE—MAROOTA—Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—
Would the Minister consider maintenance works on Wisemans Ferry Road between Sackville Ferry Road and Floyds Road South Maroota due to the acknowledged safety problems with this section of road?

Answer—

I am advised:
Maintenance work on Wiseman’s Ferry Road is continuing. The NSW Government has invested $5.7 million to upgrade selected locations between Pitt Town and South Maroota over the past two years. The Roads and Traffic Authority undertakes maintenance works continuously including shoulder maintenance, the removal of vegetation affecting drainage and overgrowth, litter collection, drainage maintenance and the replacement of linemarking. General surface pavement defects are repaired as identified.

*4239 SAFETY HAZARD—OLD NORTHERN ROAD—Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

When will a non-slip surface be applied to the southbound carriageway of Old Northern Road near the Wiseman’s Ferry Tip due to the high number of accidents at this location as supported by the local Police and the Rural Fire Service?

Answer—

I am advised:
This section of Old Northern Road has been investigated by the RTA. The accident analysis for the last three years does not show a pattern of off road accidents at the site. Recent skid resistance testing on this section of Old Northern Road by the RTA determined the skid resistance of the road pavement is satisfactory at the posted advisory speed limit of 45km/h. During May 2005 the RTA carried out the following measures at the site to boost safety:

- two wet and skid warning signs were installed on both ends of the section of the road;
- additional curve warning signs were installed along the bend; and
- a new 45km/h speed advisory sign was installed.

Motorists are advised to observe the 45 km/h speed advisory signs on either approach at this location.

*4240 CROWN LAND PURCHASE—WATER ONLY ACCESS—Mr Pringle to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

Will the Minister consider allowing the purchase of Crown Leases required by water only access properties on the same or similar basis as currently available to farmers?

Answer—

No. The Crown leases currently being purchased by farmers under new legislative provisions introduced with the passing of the Crown Lands Amendment (Budget) Bill are perpetual leases. None of the Crown tenures, which attach to water access only properties, are perpetual leases. Such tenures generally comprise licences administered by the Department of Lands to authorise domestic waterfront structures such as jetties and boat ramps, which have been constructed on Crown land below high water mark. Further, the Department’s long-standing operational policies do not support the sale of Crown land below high water mark.
*4241 CHILD PORNOGRAPHY POSSESSION CHARGES—Mr Stoner to Minister for Police—

In relation to charges of possession of child pornography involving an employee who worked in the paediatric ward at Kempsey District Hospital and who remained in the position for approximately three months after being charged by police:
(1) Did the charges involve the use of hospital computers?
(2) Did the charges involve any images of children who were patients in the ward?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me that this matter is still before the courts. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment further.

*4242 F3 EXPENDITURE—BRANXTON LINK—Mr Stoner to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) Would you advise what estimates are completed by the Roads and Traffic Authority on the expenditure on the F3 to Branxton link?
   (a) What is the total cost for this project?
   (b) What is the projected completion date?
   (c) What funds have the NSW Government committed to this project?

Answer—

I am advised:
The F3 freeway link to Branxton is a Federal Government project and subject to funding under the proposed Auslink agreement.
Discussions are continuing between the State and Federal governments as part of Auslink negotiations. However, the proposed AusLink arrangements mean the Federal Government will withdraw from its long standing accountability for fully funding National Highways, including the F3, at a time when these highways require significant investment in asset renewal.
The Federal Government is also planning to reduce maintenance, safety & urgent minor works funding levels.

*4243 BROKE VILLAGE WATER SUPPLY—Mr Stoner to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) Is the Minister aware that, due to a lack of a Ministerial grant offer, the Department had to remove allocated funding of $1 million for the Broke Village water supply project at the request of Singleton Council in the 2003-04 financial year?
   (a) If so, why was no Ministerial grant forthcoming?
   (b) If not, then why not?
(2) Why has this project been given a ranking of six in the prioritisation program?
(3) Is the Minister aware of Singleton Council’s concern that the amount of coal dust in the air from the surrounding open cut coal mines is contaminating rainwater tank supplies whilst the groundwater is heavily contaminated by faecal coliform?
   (a) If so, then what steps has the Minister taken with Singleton Council to rectify these health issues?
   (b) If not, why not?
(4) Will a Ministerial grant be allocated to this project in the foreseeable future?
   (a) If yes, when?
   (b) If not, why not?
Answer—

(1) and (2) The Government, through the Country Towns Water Supply & Sewerage Program, has committed $908 million to assist local water utilities overcome the backlog of required water supply and sewerage infrastructure that existed in 1996 prior to the implementation of the Program. In July 2003, Singleton Shire Council was advised of a $1M allocation for Broke Water Supply under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program for forward planning purposes, and it was made clear this allocation was subject to a formal Ministerial offer. In late 2003, I established an independent review of the Program to improve its efficiency and focus the remaining Government funds on areas of most need in regional New South Wales. Requests for funding, including Singleton Shire Council’s request for Broke Water Supply, were put on hold pending the outcome of the review. In June 2004, on behalf of the Government, I announced new Program conditions in accordance with the outcomes of the review. The new Program conditions streamlined the Program’s funding process and created an equitable and accountable prioritisation process for the allocation of the Program’s funds to areas of greatest need. An Inter-agency Prioritisation Committee was established to develop priority rankings for new projects under the Program. The rankings are undertaken in a transparent and equitable manner on the basis of security of supply, public health and environmental impacts. After careful consideration of all the projects submitted, the Inter-agency Prioritisation Committee assigned a rank of 6 to the Broke Water Supply project following consideration of information presented by Singleton Council in relation to the above criteria. This rank is not high enough to receive funding at this point in time.

(3) (a) and (b) I am aware that Council has raised concerns regarding these matters. Local Water Utilities are responsible for the provision of appropriate water supply services to local communities under the Local Government Act and the availability or otherwise of Program funding does not alleviate Council of its responsibilities in this regard.

(4) (a) and (b) Funding is currently not available for this project, as detailed above. Council may resubmit this project for consideration of funding in early 2006. The projects submitted will be prioritised and funding made available based on the priority of the project.

*4244 FLUORIDE AND FLUORIDATION—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Health—

(1) Has the Minister received 10 questions on fluoride from the Hastings Safe Water Association, referred by the Member for Port Macquarie?
(2) Has the Minister received a copy of the “Review of Water Fluoridation and Fluoride Intake from Discretionary Fluoride Supplements”, a review for the NHMRC done in 1999, as referred by the Member for Port Macquarie?
(3) What is the Minister’s view on these questions and documents?

Answer—

(1) Yes.
(2) Yes.
(3) The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is Australian’s peak health body for the achievement of the best possible standards for individual and public health body for the achievement of the best possible standards for individual and public health. In 1999, the NHMRC commissioned a review to evaluate scientific data gathered since 1990 relating to the health effects of fluoridated water and fluoride from other sources. This review concluded that water fluoridation continues to provide significant benefits in the prevention of dental caries, particularly in children but also in adults. The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2004 issued by the NHMRC confirms this position. On 29 July, 2004 Australian Health ministers endorsed the National Oral Health Plan and specifically endorsed the fluoridation of water supplies as an effective public health measure and
agreed to take this into account in the development of oral health services within their jurisdictions. In July 2004 the NSW Government increased the subsidy available to Councils for the capital costs associated with the addition of fluoride to the local water supply.

Water fluoridation is recommended by national and international and medical and scientific organisations including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Dental Association. It remains a safe, effective and important means of improving the dental health of the community, regardless of age and social or economic status. In 2004 the WHO also confirmed the need for water fluoridation wherever practicable. From a population health perspective, it remains one of the great disease prevention initiatives of modern times.

The process of water fluoridation has been consistently monitored since its interception and still continues to be the subject of reviews and research to confirm its efficacy and safety. Federal and State health authorities are fully aware of these studies.

There is no proven evidence that optimally fluoridated water is anything but a safe, effective and equitable means of helping to reduce dental decay for all age groups. This is so because only a minute quantity (up to one part per million) is required to be in the water to assist tooth enamel to resist decay. At this level there is no risk to people or the environment. The margin for safety is considerable and exceeds any possible ingestion levels from other discretionary sources.

The NSW Government and NSW Health will continue their strong commitment to fluoridation of public water supplies as a proven public oral health measure.

*4245 YEAR OF THE LIFESAVER—Mr Oakeshott to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

With respect to 2007 being the Year of the Lifesaver celebrating the 100th anniversary of volunteer surf life-saving in NSW:

(1) What is the Premier’s response to SurfLife Saving NSW’s request for formal legislative powers to provide support for safe swimming areas and the general safety of beach users?
(2) When will the Government review Practice Note 15 which outlines best practice for local government in respect to beach management?
(3) Does the Government support recurrent funding support for surf life-saving to assist with volunteer support, rescue units, capital works, surf life-saving and rescue equipment, and public liability insurance costs?
(4) What is the status of 74A Licence applications available to surf life-saving clubs?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The Department of Local Government reviewed Practice Note No 15 – Water Safety during 2004 in consultation with councils and industry stakeholders including Surf Life Saving NSW. As a result of that review, an updated version of the Practice Note was issued in September 2004.

The NSW Water Safety Taskforce, which consists of industry and Government representatives, will continue to monitor developments in water safety practices and any future reviews of the Practice Note will be determined in light of the Taskforce’s advice.

I am advised that Surf Life Saving NSW is yet to lodge a formal request for legislative powers.

The State Government has increased base funding to Surf Life Saving NSW by 150 per cent over the past ten years from $600,000 in 1994 to $1.7 million in 2004.

The Government has committed a further $8 million over the next four years for capital works upgrading to surf life saving club houses.

In addition, the State government has provided financial assistance for a number of specific issues. For example:

- $1.14 million special grant in 2001/02 to purchase equipment (31 quad bikes, 21 inflatable rescue boats, 6 jet skis, 250 radios, 35 rescue boats, 2 patrol trailers, 62 rescue tubes and 33 oxygen rescue units).
A special grant of $150,000 on top of their annual funding in 2002/03 to help with public liability insurance.

Approximately $1 million extra for capital works at lifesaving clubs such as Warriewood SLS and Avoca Beach and Garie Beach.

The State Government assisted Surf Life Saving NSW to develop their State Office at the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation through a combination of grants and low interest loans and long term land lease at minimal cost.

This year part of the State government funds will be used to upgrade the radio and communications network for rescue efforts.

The Government is exploring licensing alternatives for surf clubs with Surf Lifesaving NSW.

*4246 PRESCHOOLS REVIEW—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) What is the status of the Affordability Review for state-funded pre-schools?
(2) Was the Affordability Review completed in 2003 and re-submitted at the end of 2004? When will outcomes or decisions be reached on this important review?
(3) What is the status of pay equity issues for child care workers in state-funded preschools?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Preschool Affordability Review has been undertaken in two stages. The first stage was completed in early 2004 but was limited to consideration of fee relief funding. The second stage was initiated to enable a broader assessment of issues, and to take into account the full range of funding sources including fee relief, operational funding and funding to support the inclusion of children with special needs. I have received the report from the second stage review and have referred it to the Preschool Funding Advisory Committee for advice on options to proceed in a way that minimises impacts on services.

(3) I am advised that the Child Care award case is to be heard in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission in August and September 2005.

*4247 MOONEY CORRESPONDENCE—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

(1) Has the Minister received a registered letter from Mr Peter Mooney objecting to the proposed increase in rates by the Great Lakes Council which was sent by registered letter of 25 March 2005, and a letter to the Director General of the Department of Local Government on 30 March 2005?
(2) If so, when will the Minister reply to the letter?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

(1) Mr Mooney’s letter dated 25 March 2005 was received on 31 March 2005. The Department of Local Government does not have a record of receiving a letter dated 30 March 2005 from Mr Mooney.

(2) My Parliamentary Secretary responded to Mr Mooney’s letter on 4 May 2005.

*4248 NORTH SHORE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio to commence in the North Shore electorate within the next 12 months, including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?
The 2005/06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School.

This includes funding for Stage one of a major capital works project to upgrade facilities at North Sydney Boys High School announced in the 2004/05 State Budget. Planning for this project is currently being undertaken and it is anticipated that tenders for this project will be called for later this year. The anticipated completion date for this project is October 2006.

Dollar figures for new capital works projects are not included to ensure a more competitive tendering process. Project costs will be announced once the tender has been awarded – ensuring better value for taxpayers’ money.

Projects included in the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

*4249 NORTH SHORE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS — Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport —

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Transport portfolio to commence in the North Shore electorate within the next 12 months including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer —

I am advised: Information regarding infrastructure projects is available in the 2005-06 Budget Papers.

*4250 NORTH SHORE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS — Mrs Skinner to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter —

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Roads and Ports portfolio to commence in the North Shore electorate within the next 12 months including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer —

I am advised: Information on roads and maritime projects across NSW, including the electorate of the North Shore, are publicly provided in Budget papers and are regularly updated in community newsletters, on the Roads and Traffic Authority website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au and the NSW Maritime Authority website at www.maritime.nsw.gov.au.

*4251 RAILCORP MEDIA RELEASE — Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport —

In relation to RailCorp media release ‘Circular Quay Station Pylons’:

1. Who in RailCorp drafted the RailCorp media release ‘Circular Quay Station Pylons’ dated 7 June 2005?
2. Who in RailCorp authorised its release?
3. Who in RailCorp made the decision to release the statement without naming the spokesperson?

Answer —

I am advised:
(1) The RailCorp Public Affairs Unit.
(2) RailCorp Chief Executive Officer, Vince Graham.
(3) It is normal practice for the RailCorp Public Affairs Unit to release media statements without naming a spokesperson.

*4252 BUS SERVICES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to bus services:
(1) How many complaints were received about 380 bus services in 2004?
(2) How many of these complaints related to 380 buses that were cancelled?
(3) How many of these complaints related to 380 buses that were late?
(4) How many of these complaints related to 380 buses that were fully loaded and unable to pick up passengers?
(5) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 30 minutes for a 380 bus?
(6) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 45 minutes for a 380 bus?
(7) How many complainants stated that this problem was an ongoing concern, with buses regularly late or cancelled?
(8) What causes of delays and cancellations were identified when these complaints were investigated?
(9) What action was taken in response to these complaints?
(10) What action has the Government taken to ensure the 380 bus service is reliable and meets demand?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) 405
(2) 9
(3) 70
(4) 58
(5) 46
(6) 21
(7) Not available
(8) to (10) The most common cause of delays for these services was traffic problems such as illegal parking and peak hour traffic congestion. Each complaint is investigated and callers are contacted and provided with the reasons for the delays of the relevant service. All services are continuously monitored and adjustments made where necessary. In addition to working closely with the Roads and Traffic Authority and local councils to reduce traffic impediments, State Transit will continue to monitor bus loadings and timings along these routes.

*4253 WORKING GROUP INVESTIGATION—Mr Debnam to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

In relation to the working group investigating options for amendment of the Anti-Discrimination Act (reference Question and Answer No 2739):
(1) Has the working group completed its review?
(2) If so, when did they complete their review?
(3) If not, when is their review due for completion?
(4) When will any amendments be presented to Parliament?

Answer—

The Working Group is currently continuing its review. A decision regarding the need for legislative amendment will be made once the Government has considered the working group’s report.
**FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ACCIDENTS**—Mrs Hopwood to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

1. How many traffic accidents involving four-wheel-drive vehicles have occurred in the Hornsby electorate in 2003, 2004 and 2005 to date?
2. How many have involved a fatality?
3. How many involved an injury?
4. How many occurred outside a school?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to traffic crash statistics is provided annually by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) in the publication, Road Traffic Crashes in NSW, which is publicly available on the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

**MOUNT COLAH TRAFFIC LIGHTS**—Mrs Hopwood to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

1. When Landcom was providing land releases along Beryl Avenue, Mount Colah and into Oxley Drive, did the Roads and Traffic Authority plan to place traffic lights at the intersection of Foxglove Road and Pacific Highway, Mount Colah?
2. If yes, why were these lights not installed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority has no record of plans to provide traffic signals at the intersection of Foxglove Road and Pacific Highway, Mount Colah, at the time of the Landcom land release.

**HORNSBY TAFE**—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What jobs will be lost at Hornsby TAFE as a result of Budget cuts?

Answer—

The total budget for TAFE NSW will increase to almost $1.5 billion in 2005-06 – an increase of $57 million or 4 per cent on the 2004-05 budget.

**SAFETY HOUSE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police—

1. How many Safety House programs remain in operation in the Miranda and Sutherland Local Area Commands respectively?
2. How many Neighbourhood Watch Programs remain in operation in the Miranda and Sutherland Local Area Commands respectively?
3. What is the amount of financial assistance made available by the NSW Police Service to these schemes in the last two years?
Answer—

(1) A comprehensive audit has recently been completed across all Local Area Commands where the Safety House Program is in operation.
(2) NSW Police has advised me there are currently two active Neighbourhood Watch areas in Miranda Local Area Command and three in Sutherland Local Area Command.
(3) Neighbourhood Watch is a community-based crime prevention program, financed through local committee fundraising and assisted by NSW Police Crime Prevention Officers at the Local Area Command level.

*S4258 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Kerr to Minister for Health—

(1) How many patients were taken to Sutherland Hospital Accident and Emergency Department in 2003, 2004 and 2005 to date as a result of:
(a) road trauma; and
(b) other trauma (e.g. industrial)?
(2) How many of these patients were:
(a) transferred to another hospital;
(b) admitted to Sutherland Hospital?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised that data collected by the Sutherland Hospital only captures the number of road or other trauma patients actually admitted to the Hospital. The table below summarises the number of patients admitted to the Sutherland Hospital for treatment of road and other trauma in 2003, 2004 and 2005*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admittance Category</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005 *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Road trauma</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other trauma</td>
<td>2498</td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Covers the period 1/1/05 to 30/4/05

*S4259 CRONULLA RAILWAY LINE TENDER—Mr Kerr to Minister for Transport—

(1) What is the name of the planning consultant that has been engaged to undertake an environmental assessment of the duplication of the Cronulla Railway Line?
(2) What date was the tender awarded to this consultant?
(3) What is the value of the tender?
(4) What is the date the environmental assessment is to be completed by?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) GHD Pty Ltd.
(2) 24 December 2004.
(3) $385,186
(4) The environmental assessment is currently scheduled for completion by early 2006.

*S4260 SAFETY HOUSE PROGRAMS—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police—

(1) How many Safety House programs remain in operation in the North Shore and Gladesville Local Area Commands respectively?
(2) What is the amount of financial assistance made available by the NSW Police Force to this program in the last two years?
A comprehensive audit has recently been completed across all Local Area Commands where the Safety House Program is in operation.

*4261 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police—

(1) How many Neighbourhood Watch programs remain in operation in the North Shore and Gladesville Local Area Commands respectively?

(2) What is the amount of financial assistance made available by the NSW Police Force to this program in the last two years?

Answer—

(1) NSW Police has advised me there are currently eleven active Neighbourhood Watch areas in North Shore Local Area Command and one in Gladesville Local Area Command.

(2) Neighbourhood Watch is a community-based crime prevention program, financed through local committee fundraising and assisted by NSW Police Crime Prevention Officers at the Local Area Command level.

*4262 GLENNIES CREEK DAM—Mr Sours to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

What is the scope and extent of the major works (new works) listed in Budget Paper No. 4 for Glennies Creek Dam to be commenced in 2006 and completed in 2012?

Answer—

State Water has advised:
Glennies Creek Dam is scheduled for structural integrity reviews following recent changes to dam safety standards.
The $126,000 funding will go towards studies of the spillway capacity and design in terms of performance during extreme flood conditions.
The investigations will focus on the long-term safe performance of the structure to ensure on-going delivery of services to water users, communities and the environment.

*4263 BURRENDONG DAM—Mr Sours to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

What is the scope and extent of the major works (new works) listed in Budget Paper No. 4 for Burrendong Dam to be commenced in 1994 and completed in 2011?

Answer—

State Water has advised:
The Burrendong Dam Capital Works Program commenced in 1994, with a series of projects such as automation and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Systems (SCADA).
In the late 1990’s the need to upgrade Burrendong Dam to comply with modern day dam safety standards was identified. Preliminary studies commenced in 1999 followed by detailed investigations in 2003.
This year's budget announcement of $600,000 will continue the investigations into the best long-term solution to meet dam safety requirements and will consider environmental improvement opportunities to minimise the impacts of cold water releases into the Macquarie River.
Consultation with key stakeholders and community groups has started and studies focusing on ways of improving water delivery efficiencies and environmental improvements will continue. Once a preferred solution is developed and after environmental assessments, construction is expected to start in 2007. The investigations are focusing on the long-term safe performance of the structure to ensure on-going delivery of services to water users, communities and the environment.

*4264 GLENBAWN DAM—Mr Souris to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

What is the scope and extent of the major works (new works) listed in Budget Paper No. 4 for Glenbawn Dam to be commenced in 2006 and completed in 2011?

Answer—

State Water has advised:
Glenbawn Dam is scheduled for structural integrity reviews following recent changes to dam safety standards.
The $187,000 will go towards geotechnical evaluations to determine the dam’s structural ability to withstand an extreme earthquake event and to study the effects of the recently revised hydrology and the impact on the original spillway design.
The investigations will focus on the long-term safe performance of the structure to ensure on-going delivery of services to water users, communities and the environment.

*4265 LOCAL AREA COMMANDS—Ms Seaton to Minister for Police—

In relation to each of the following Local Area Commands: (a) Camden; (b) Shoalhaven (c) Goulburn: What are the reported crime statistics and the clean-up rate against each category of crime in the periods 1 January to 31 December 2003; 1 January to 31 December 2004; and 1 January to 31 June 2005?

Answer—

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics. I suggest the Honourable Member's question is more appropriately addressed to the Attorney General, within whose portfolio the Bureau resides.

*4266 HEALTH—ALBURY WODONGA—Mr Aplin to Minister for Health—

Given that the results of the mid-term review of the cross-border health agreement were to have been delivered in July 2005 but the review has yet to commence, will you:
(1) Recommit to the viability and desirability of this cross border health agreement;
(2) Visit Albury to meet with the Victorian Health Minister to reinvigorate the dynamic to achieve progress in the agreement;
(3) Provide adequate funding and appoint a senior administrator to drive this project?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I am advised by the Greater Southern Area Health Service that all parties to the cross border health agreement have been actively working to further cross border health integration in the Albury Wodonga area. I am advised that the mid term review will make recommendations as to how to progress the integration process. I look forward to considering any recommendations contained in that review.
*4267 PUBLIC HOSPITAL PAYMENTS TO SPECIALISTS—Mr Aplin to Minister for Health—

(1) What arrangements and payments are in place for medical specialists undertaking teaching at Albury Base Hospital and at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital?

(2) What are the reasons for any differences in the treatment of specialists between the two base hospitals?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Employed medical specialists are remunerated in accordance with the Staff Specialists (State) Award which includes an expectation that the staff specialists will teach as apart of his or her normal duties. Visiting Medical Officers are independent contractors who are remunerated in accordance with either the Public Hospitals (Visiting Medical Officers Sessional Contracts) Determination 1994 or the Fee For Service Agreement between the New South Wales Department of Health and the Australian Medical Association (New South Wales).

Under these arrangements, a Visiting Medical Officer who participates in teaching and training as specified in his or her service contract will receive the appropriate hourly rate on an individual basis at the commencement of the contract period and are to be reviewed annually.

*4268 SURGEON CONTRACTS—ALBURY BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Aplin to Minister for Health—

(1) Are you aware that six orthopaedic and general surgeons have ceased providing services to Health Albury-Wodonga because the area health service has failed to negotiate a reasonable contract?

(2) Did the contracts with these surgeons expire in October 2004?

(3) Is the Greater Southern Area Health Service currently employing itinerant surgeons on a fly-in basis at $2,000 per day plus expenses?

(4) What provisions are being made for after-care and follow-up for any surgery conducted by these itinerant surgeons?

(5) Does this itinerant surgery constitute an acceptable delivery of service?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Greater Southern Area Health Service that the contracts for four Orthopaedic Surgeons at Albury Base Hospital were extended after their expiry at the end of September 2004 to allow for a renegotiation period. Negotiations continue between the Surgeons and Greater Southern Area Health Service. Two General Surgeons have signed contracts with Greater Southern Area Health Service.

(3) and (4) I am advised that effective strategies are in place to ensure emergency service is maintained at the Albury Base Hospital. Locum surgeons (both Orthopaedic and General) have been employed to cover any shortfall that may occur in service delivery. The locum Visiting Medical Officers are responsible for the care of the patients treated by them while they are on site. Follow up care is then transferred, where required, to one of the Visiting Medical Officers who have agreed to accept care of the patient.

(5) I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Greater Southern Area Health Service, the locum Visiting Medical Officers have been credentialled by the Area Health Service to work at Albury Base Hospital and, therefore have the appropriate qualifications and experience to deliver quality health care to the community of Albury-Wodonga. The performance of all clinicians continues to be monitored through the Clinical Governance Unit of the Greater Southern Area Health Service.
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Wednesday 14 September 2005

8 JUNE 2005

(Paper No. 136)

*4269 INSURANCE PROTECTION TAX ACT 2001—Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

Are there proposals to amend the Insurance Protection Tax Act 2001?

Answer—

The Government currently has no specific proposal to amend the Act.

*4270 ST ALBANS ROAD—ST ALBANS—Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

With the growing tourism in the McDonald Valley will the Minister consider providing funds towards the sealing of St Albans Road, on account of Hawkesbury City Council’s inability to provide funding?

Answer—

I am advised:
St Albans Road is classified as a Regional Road. As such, maintenance and upgrading of St Albans Road is the responsibility of Hawkesbury City Council.
Over the last five years, the NSW Government has allocated more than $2.5 million to Hawkesbury City Council for road maintenance.

*4271 BASIC SKILLS TESTING—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

With respect to the two basic skills tests which take place during Primary School - one in Year 3 and one in Year 5:
(1) Has a tutorial program has been set up to assist students who have been identified as failing?
(2) Are identified students meant to be provided with tutorial vouchers, valued at approximately $700, which they can use to gain access to a tutor to help them with their basic skills?
(3) Has the Federal Department of Education called for tenders to provide the tutorial program?
(4) Were schools encouraged to apply to be considered as a tutorial centre and teachers encouraged to apply to be considered as tutors?
(5) Does the State Government support schools providing open access to schools to allow the tutors to use their facilities after hours?
(6) Is it correct that it has been two years since the inception of the program, yet there are still no vouchers, nor any access to tutors? If not correct, what is the current situation?
(7) Can students identified as needing help access the program set up to assist them?

Answer—

(1) Yes.
(2) Parents and carers of eligible students are able to access individual out of school hours tuition in reading for their children to the value of $700 through a voucher system.
(3) Yes.
(4) Schools across NSW have been encouraged to apply to act as tutorial centres. To date over 670 schools have indicated their willingness to act as tutorial centres.
Teachers in NSW have been encouraged to express interest in being tutors. To date over 1400 teachers have applied to be tutors.

(5) Schools that act as tutorial centres will provide access to tutors to use their facilities before and after school hours. However, tuition in most instances must be completed within two hours of school finishing time.

(6) The NSW Department of Education and Training’s Response for Tender for brokerage of Tutorial Voucher Initiative in NSW was submitted to the Australian Government’s Department of Education Science and Training 12 months ago in July 2004.

On 8 April 2005, DEST signed an Agreement appointing the NSW Department of Education and Training as the Broker for Tutorial Voucher Initiative in NSW.

Since that time over 670 tutorial centres have been established in schools across the state, more than 1400 teachers have registered their interest in being tutors and more than 6,600 parents and carers have been invited to participate in the Tutorial Voucher Initiative. Tuition will now commence in Term 3 2005.

(7) More than 6,600 parents and carers have been invited to participate in the Tutorial Initiative Voucher. Eligible students will be able to commence individual reading tuition in Term 3 2005. Each student will be able to access 12 one-to-one reading tutorial sessions of 45 minutes. An individual pre and post tuition assessment will be included to ensure that the student’s work program meets their specific literacy needs.

*4272 RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION FORMULA RECOMMENDATIONS—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Health—

(1) What is the status of recommendations to improve the equity of the Resource Distribution Formula for each Area Health Service in NSW as at June 1 2005?
(2) What Area Health Services are “over-equity”, and by how much?
(3) What Area Health Services are “under-equity” and by how much?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The 2005 revision of the Resources Distribution formula has been completed and I am currently considering the recommendations.

*4273 LICENSEES-IN-CHARGE OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS—Mr Oakeshott to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

With respect to the Supervision Guidelines issued by the Commissioner of the Office of Fair Trading for Licensees-in-Charge of Real Estate Agents, is the Minister satisfied that the reporting demands imposed are not overly onerous in terms of the daily activities of business?

Answer—

The Supervision Guidelines for licensees-in-charge of real estate agents basically consist of a requirement for a licensee to establish written procedures in relation to the following matters:

(1) the daily or next day banking of trust money;
(2) monthly reviewing of trust account cash flow;
(3) substantiation of price estimates;
(4) checklists covering the sales process, particularly requirements in the Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002 in relation to accurate advertising, disclosures of conflicts of interest, and restrictions on obtaining a beneficial interest in property; and
(5) complaints handling, including the handling of financial complaints.

The matters covered in items 1-4 reinforce matters regulated under the Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002. Having a complaints procedure is basic to fair trading.
The Guidelines do not prescribe in detail what the procedures should be – that is left to the licensee to decide. However, in order to facilitate enforcement of the guidelines, the procedures and checklists must be able to be produced for inspection and there needs to be evidence of the regular use and maintenance of the documentation within the agency.

It is understood that some private organisations have developed checklists and procedures and have been marketing them to agents.

Altogether, the Guidelines take a pro-active risk management approach to assist in addressing areas of consumer risk. The existence of procedures in relation to consumer protection matters which are already regulated helps prevent consumer complaints from arising. This can only be of benefit to both businesses and consumers.

*4274 CATCHMENT EXCAVATION—Mr Stoner to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

Do you have any plans to excavate sediment from any State dam catchment areas in NSW, in order to enhance future dam capacity?

Answer—

State Water has advised:
There are no plans to excavate sediment in State Water reservoirs. Previous studies indicate that State Water reservoirs have insignificant levels of accumulated sediment and the costs of excavating are well beyond the small benefits in increased storage capacity.

*4275 CHILD PORNOGRAPHY POSSESSION CHARGES—Mr Stoner to Minister for Health—

In relation to charges of possession of child pornography involving an employee who worked in the paediatric ward at Kempsey District Hospital and who remained in the position for approximately 3 months after being charged by police:

(1) Did the charges involve the use of hospital computers?

(2) Did the charges involve any images of children who were patients in the ward?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised by the Department of Health that charges did not involve the use of hospital computers or images of children who were patients in the ward.

Further comment in regard to the details of the case would be inappropriate at this time.

*4276 EXPECTED DIVIDENDS—STATE-OWNED CORPORATIONS—Mr Stoner to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

Can you advise what are the expected dividends for the 2005-06 budget year from the following State-owned Corporations:

(a) Sydney Water Corporation;
(b) Sydney Catchment Authority;
(c) Hunter Water Corporation;
(d) State Water;
(e) EnergyAustralia;
(f) Integral Energy;
(g) Country Energy;
(h) Macquarie Generation;
(i) Delta Electricity;
(j) Eraring Energy;
(k) TransGrid?

Answer—

Expected dividend payments are outlined in the 2005-06 Budget Papers.

*4277 ORAL HEALTH—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Health—

(1) How many dental practitioners were registered for the Oral Health Fee For Service Scheme at 30 June in each of the years from 2001 to 2005?
(2) What was the budget and actual expenditure of the Oral Health Fee For Service Scheme in each of the years from 2001 to 2005?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme (OHFFSS) was launched in July 2001. The table below identifies the number of providers (dentist and prosthesis) identified by the Area Health Service as at end of June between 2002 and 2005.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year (end June)</th>
<th>Numbers of Providers registered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No fixed budget was set for the Scheme because, by its nature, it is intended to be flexible, by supplementing public sector oral health services. Expenditure on the scheme has been based therefore on the cost of the Oral Health Fee For Service Scheme vouchers claimed. The table identifies the Scheme’s expenditure for each of the financial years listed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year (end June)</th>
<th>Numbers of Providers registered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>4.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-05</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*4278 NURSES OVERTIME PAYMENT—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Health—

(1) What was the total monetary amount paid as overtime to nurses in public hospitals in March, June and September and December quarters of 2003 and 2004, and the March quarter of 2005?
(2) What was the amount budgeted for each of the abovementioned periods?

Answer—

(1) I am advised that the Department of Health does not hold central records of overtime paid to nurses specifically in public hospitals.
(2) I am advised that the Department of Health does not hold information regarding overtime budgets for nurses as a distinct classification.

*4279 REGISTERED NURSES NUMBERS—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Health—

How many registered nurses were employed by:
(a) NSW Health;
(b) each Area Health Service;
(c) the Children’s Hospital at Westmead; and
(d) Justice Health
in non-nursing positions at 30 June in each of the years from 2001 to 2005?

Answer—

The NSW Department of Health does not collect statistics in relation to registered nurses employed in non-nursing positions.

*4280 PROJECT BUDGET ALLOCATION/TYP£—UPPER HUNTER—Mr Souris to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

In the electorate of Upper Hunter, what are the individual projects and how much is allocated for each project, in each of the categories displayed on page 101 of Budget Paper No 4:

(1) Asset Acquisition Program:
   (a) Road Development Minor Works;
   (b) Infrastructure Maintenance Improvement Works;
   (c) Road Safety, Licensing and Vehicle Management;
   (d) Traffic and Transport?

(2) Maintenance and Other Works:
   (a) Road Network Infrastructure;
   (b) Road Safety, Licensing and Vehicle Management;
   (c) Traffic and Transport?

Answer—

I am advised:
Information on roads projects across NSW, including the electorate of the Upper Hunter, is publicly provided in Budget Papers and is regularly updated in the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au and in community newsletters distributed by the RTA.

*4281 KEEPIT DAM—Mr Souris to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

What is the scope and extent of the major works (new works) listed in Budget Paper No 4 for Keepit Dam to be commenced in 1994 and completed in 2010?

Answer—

State Water has advised:
The Keepit Dam Capital Works Program commenced in 1994, with a series of projects such as automation and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Systems (SCADA).
In the mid 1990’s the need to upgrade Keepit Dam to comply with modern day dam safety standards was identified. Preliminary studies commenced in 1999 followed by detailed investigations in 2003.
Keepit Dam is being upgraded to ensure the dam meets modern dam safety requirements for large to extreme flood and earthquakes.
Extensive technical and environmental investigations are well advanced and State Water has now short-listed options to four that involve various combinations of wall crest raising and additional spillway capacities with estimated costs ranging from $56M to $79M.
Community consultation on the four options is currently proceeding.
A multi-level offtake to reduce cold water releases from the dam is proposed to form part of the upgrade as well as improving downstream fish passage to achieve effective fish movement past the various weirs in the lower Namoi River.
The $1.265 million Government allocation in 2005/06 for Keepit Dam Upgrade will enable a preferred upgrade solution to be selected, environmental assessments completed and all pre-planning to be completed so the upgrade is ready to start detailed design by mid-2006. Construction is expected to be completed in 2009.

*4282 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—EDUCATION PORTFOLIO—Mr Slack-Smith to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio that will commence in the Barwon electorate within the next 12 months, including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

The 2005-06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School. Projects included in the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

*4283 SAFETY STATISTICS—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to the CityRail website:
(1) Who in CityRail is responsible for updating performance statistics on the CityRail website?
(2) Are you aware that safety statistics have not been updated since February?
(3) When will CityRail’s safety statistics on collisions, derailments, falls, strikes, fires or explosions, signals passed at danger and fatalities be updated and on what date and day each month will they be updated?
(4) How many collisions, derailments, falls, strikes, fires or explosions, signals passed at danger and fatalities occurred on CityRail by month for March, April, May and June to date?

Answer—

I am advised:
Information regarding CityRail’s latest available safety performance statistics is available in the CityRail website at www.cityrail.info.

*4284 381 BUS SERVICE—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to bus services:
(1) How many complaints were received about 381 bus services in 2004?
(2) How many of these complaints related to 381 buses that were cancelled?
(3) How many of these complaints related to 381 buses that were late?
(4) How many of these complaints related to 381 buses that were fully loaded and unable to pick up passengers?
(5) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 30 minutes for a 381 bus?
(6) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 45 minutes for a 381 bus?
(7) How many complainants stated that this problem was an ongoing concern, with buses regularly late or cancelled?
(8) What causes of delays and cancellations were identified when these complaints were investigated?
(9) What action was taken in response to these complaints?
(10) What action has the Government taken to ensure the 381 bus service is reliable and meets demand?
I am advised:

(1) 60  
(2) 4  
(3) 8  
(4) 10  
(5) 5  
(6) 4  
(7) Not available  
(8) to (10) The most common cause of delays for these services was traffic problems such as peak hour traffic congestion. Each complaint is investigated and callers are contacted and provided with the reasons for the delays of the relevant service. All services are continuously monitored and customer feedback reviewed. In addition to working closely with local councils and the Roads and Traffic Authority to reduce traffic impediments, State Transit will continue to monitor bus loadings and timings along this route.

*4285 CONFIDENTIAL SAFETY INFORMATION REPORTING SCHEME—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to the Confidential Safety Information Reporting Scheme:

(1) How many calls have been received by the Office of Transport Safety Investigation’s (OTSI) Confidential Safety Information Reporting Scheme (CSIRS) phone line per month since its inception?

(2) How many of these calls have resulted in investigations by OTSI, what issues were investigated, which investigations have been completed and what was the outcome of each investigation?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Since its establishment, the Office of Transport Safety Investigation has received 118 reports through the Confidential Safety Information Reporting Scheme.

(2) The status of the 118 reports is as follows:

- 4 reports are currently being substantiated and evaluated;
- 56 Safety Valve Notifications have been issued to the reporters’ employers;
- 33 investigations are in progress;
- 19 have been referred to the appropriate transport regulator for action;
- 2 matters were already being investigated under s66 of the Rail Safety Act;
- 2 matters were already being investigated by the Office of Transport Safety Investigation as part of a systemic investigation;
- 1 matter was resolved by a local government council, and
- 1 matter was resolved by the reporter.

The matters most frequently reported fall into the following categories:

- Safeworking irregularity/breach;
- Alcohol and drug irregularity;
- Signal passed at danger;
- Rolling stock/vehicle irregularity;
- Infrastructure irregularity, and
- Emergency equipment.

*4286 VALUER FEES—Ms Hodgkinson to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—
(1) Why has the renewal fee for registration as a valuer been increased by 213%?
(2) What is the administrative cost to the Department of Fair Trading to process each renewal application?
(3) How many working hours are involved in the processing of each renewal application?
(4) What is the administrative cost to the Department of Fair Trading to process each renewal application that is not received by the due date?
(5) How many additional working hours are involved in the processing of each renewal application that is not received by the due date?

Answer—

(1) The claim made is incorrect. However I can advise that the new valuers fees, introduced on 31 March 2005 under the Valuers Regulation 2005, were arrived at after taking account of the following factors:
- The valuers registration fees were aligned with licence application fees charged to property agents and conveyancers. It is appropriate to align the application fees for these occupations, given the similarity of the regulatory regimes.
- The valuers fees were then multiplied by three to account for the three year registration period.
- Consumer Price Index movements since the last fee increase were incorporated into the fees. Valuers fees were last adjusted for the increase in the Consumer Price Index on 1 July 2003. The new fees have been adjusted for the 2004 and 2005 Consumer Price Index increases.
- The valuers ‘annualised’ renewal fee of $192 is broadly comparable to the annual renewal fee for real estate, stock and station, strata and business agents, which is $227, and for conveyancers, which is $204.

(2) to (5) Applications in this area can be complex and diverse which means that some applications take longer to process than others, especially where wider checks need to be undertaken with external agencies. It is therefore not possible to provide an indicative timeframe or costing for this matter.

*NAMING OF FERRIES—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Transport—

(1) With reference to your reply (ML05/00197 dated 28 May 2005) to my representations regarding the naming of CountryLink Trains, are the names of Sydney Ferries being removed to accord with the same logic, of not confusing passengers, that is being employed by CountryLink regarding train names?
(2) If not why is the NSW Department of Transport applying a double standard in not naming country trains after country cities while retaining Sydney ferries named after Sydney locations such as Freshwater, Narrabeen, Queenscliff and Collaroy?

Answer—

I am advised:
Sydney Ferries Corporation currently has no plans to rename any of the vessels in its fleet.

*INFRACTION NOTICE—Ms Hodgkinson to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

(1) Was infringement notice 7001357936 for vehicle ABH 88J between 4.05pm and 4.08pm on 23 April 2004 issued as a result of observation from a camera or direct visual observation of a person?
(2) How can you explain the fact that at the time of the alleged offence vehicle ABH 88J was garaged in Goulburn almost 300 kilometres from the location of the offence?
(3) How many cases of incorrect recording of vehicle registration have been brought to the attention of the Infringement Processing Bureau during:
   (a) 2000?
   (b) 2001?
(c) 2002?
(d) 2003?
(e) 2004?
(f) to date during 2005?

(4) How many of these cases arose from erroneous analysis of camera images?

(5) Will you ensure that a written apology is sent to the registered owner of vehicle ABH 88J?

Answer—

(1) Infringement Notice 7001357936 was issued as a result of direct observation by a person.
(2) The Infringement Processing Bureau is responsible for the processing of infringement notices, not their issue. I am unable to comment on the circumstances surrounding the issue of the notice.
(3) Due to the configuration of the Infringement Processing Bureau’s computer systems, this data is not able to be retrieved without the use of considerable time and diversion of resources away from core responsibilities, which cannot be justified.
(4) See question (3) above.
(5) Representations on this matter have been received from the registered owner of vehicle ABH 88J, which the Infringement Processing Bureau reviewed in accordance with the guidelines approved by the relevant issuing authority. As a result of this review, the infringement notice has been cancelled. The Infringement Processing Bureau has advised the owner of the vehicle in writing of the decision, and extended an apology.

*4289 TRAILER DEALER COMPLAINT—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Has the Minister received complaints through his Newcastle Fair Trading office concerning three trailer dealers operating in the Hunter Valley who are unlicensed?
(2) If so, when was the complaint received?
(3) If so, what is the status of the complaint?
(4) If so, if the complaint has not been addressed, why not?
(5) If so, if the complaint is being addressed, what is the current position concerning the complaint?
(6) If so, if the complaint has been addressed, when was it addressed and what was the outcome?

Answer—

(1) Yes.
(2) The complaints were received between 8 July 2004 and 15 February 2005.
(3) One complaint was not justified and the matter was closed accordingly. Two other complaints have been investigated by Fair Trading and appropriate action taken. These matters are currently being finalised.
(4) Not applicable.
(5) In the other two complaints, the dealers in question have lodged an application for an appropriate licence. These are currently being assessed by Fair Trading. Fair Trading also conveyed its findings to the complainant who indicated that he was satisfied with the outcome.
(6) Not applicable.

*4290 SOMMERS FLOATS—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Did the principal of Sommers Floats, Mr Jim Sommers, contact your office on 4 October 2004?
(2) If so, has anybody from your office contacted Mr Sommers?
(3) If not, why not?
Answer—

My colleague, the Hon Reba Meagher MP, was responsible for the Fair Trading portfolio on 4 October 2004. However, I have referred the question to the Office of Fair Trading for examination and advice. I am advised that there does not appear to be any record of contact by Mr Jim Sommers, the principal of Sommers Floats, with the Office of Fair Trading on 4 October 2004.

*4291 WOLLONGONG CONSERVATORIUM—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

(1) How many people in the Illawarra region will be affected by cuts to music education provided by the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music?
(2) How many courses will be cut and what staff positions and how many will be lost because you have refused to provide sufficient funding?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Wollongong Conservatorium of Music is not managed by the Department of Education and Training. It is an autonomous institution, managed by an independent, community-based board. The NSW Government has not reduced funding to the Conservatorium.

I understand that the Principal of Wollongong Conservatorium advised the Department that while a small number of classes have been rationalised due to a drop in enrolments, there have been no cuts to programs or staff.

*4292 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—BANKSTOWN—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio that will commence in the Bankstown electorate within the next 12 months, including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

The 2005/06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School.

This includes funding for a new children’s centre to accommodate Child Studies and Aged Care training facilities at Bankstown TAFE. A scope of works and schedule for the delivery of the project is currently being developed.

Dollar figures for new capital works projects are not included to ensure a more competitive tendering process. Project costs will be announced once the tender has been awarded – ensuring better value for taxpayers’ money.

In addition, an ongoing project to provide a new hall, covered outdoor learning area (COLA), canteen, car parking, landscaping and associated works at Bankstown Public School is included in the 2005/06 Infrastructure Statement.

Projects included in the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.
*4293 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—AUBURN—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio that will commence in the Auburn electorate within the next 12 months, including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

The 2005/06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School.

This includes a new project for the provision of a hall and associated amenities at Lidcombe Public School. A scope of works and schedule for the delivery of the project will be developed in consultation with the school community.

Dollar figures for new capital works projects are not included to ensure a more competitive tendering process. Project costs will be announced once the tender has been awarded – ensuring better value for taxpayers’ money.

The following ongoing projects are listed in the 2005/06 Infrastructure Statement in the Auburn electorate: a project to provide a Civil Construction and Carpentry Workshop including modifying existing accommodation at Bankstown (Chullora) TAFE; and Stage Two of an upgrade at Berala Public School.

Projects included in the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

*4294 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—ALBURY—Mr Aplin to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio that will commence in the Albury electorate within the 12 months, including total estimated costs, expected completion and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

The 2005/06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School.

Projects included in the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

*4295 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—BALLINA—Mr Page to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio that will commence in the Ballina electorate within the next 12 months, including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

What is the exact status of the building of the next stage of Mullumbimby High School as this information is not provided in the budget papers?
Answer—

The 2005-06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School.

This includes funding for Stage Three of the upgrade of Mullumbimby High School. A scope of works and schedule for the delivery of the project will be developed in consultation with the school community.

Dollar figures for new capital works projects are not included in the budget papers to ensure a more competitive tendering process. Project costs will be announced once the tender has been awarded – ensuring better value for taxpayers’ money.

Projects included in the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

*4296 RAIL TICKETS—Mr Kerr to Minister for Transport—

What is the annual number of tickets sold from Caringbah, Woolooware and Cronulla Railway Stations for the following years:
(a) 2003?
(b) 2000?
(c) 1994?

Answer—

RailCorp advises me:
Ticket prices vary according to the time of day the ticket is purchased and whether the purchaser is entitled to a concession.

*4297 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—CRONULLA—Mr Kerr to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Roads and Ports portfolio to commence in the Cronulla electorate within the next 12 months including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

I am advised:
Information on roads projects across NSW, including the electorate of the Cronulla, is publicly provided in Budget papers and is regularly updated on the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au and in community newsletters distributed by the RTA.

*4298 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—CRONULLA—Mr Kerr to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio to commence in the Cronulla electorate within the next 12 months including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

The 2005/06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a
further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School.

This includes the following ongoing projects listed in the 2005/06 Infrastructure Statement in the Cronulla electorate: Stage 1 of an upgrade at Burraneer Bay Public School; Stage 1 of site consolidation and facilities upgrade at Caringbah High School; and Stage 1 of an upgrade at Endeavour Sports High School.

Dollar figures for new capital works projects are not included in the published 2005/06 Infrastructure Statement to ensure a more competitive tendering process. Project costs will be announced once the tender has been awarded – ensuring better value for money.

Projects included in the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

*4299 BICYCLE CYCLEWAYS—Mrs Hopwood to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What plans exist for bicycle cycleways in the Hornsby electorate?
(2) How much funding is allocated for this?
(3) Do the plans include a section from Cowan to Berowra?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to bicycle infrastructure projects can be found on the Roads and Traffic Authority’s website www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

*4300 PACIFIC HIGHWAY TRAFFIC—Mrs Hopwood to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) How many vehicles travel weekly along the Hornsby electorate section of the Pacific Highway in 2004 and 2005 to date, from Hawkesbury River Bridge to Berowra, travelling north and travelling south?
(2) In 2004 and 2005 to date, how many travel weekly, (a) in morning peak time and (b) afternoon peak time, Mondays to Fridays, travelling north and south?

Answer—

I am advised:


The provision of detailed information relating to traffic volumes at various locations would involve an excessive use of resources and time.

*4301 HORNSBY FIRE UNITS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

(1) How many community fire units are present in the Hornsby electorate and what is their exact location?
(2) How many more are planned and when will they be installed into the electorate?
Answer—

(1) Fourteen.

The community fire units are located at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Suburb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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(2) As at 1 July 2005 it is planned to establish community fire units at the following locations during 2005/06 -

- Heather Place, Hornsby, and
- Marine Crescent, Hornsby Heights.

9 JUNE 2005

(Paper No. 137)

*4302 WATER SUBSIDY PROGRAM—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) Has the Country Towns Water subsidy program been cut to $32 million this year?
(2) Will the Minister commit to providing the necessary $27 million over the next 10 years to sewer the remaining 10 communities in the Mid-Coast Water region that remain unsewered?

Answer—

(1) No. Funds of up to $67.2 million have been allocated for expenditure under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program for the 2005/06 financial year. This funding is composed of new Treasury allocations of $32.2 million plus $35 million of Program funds available from previous allocations to the Program.

(2) The Government, through the Country Towns Water Supply & Sewerage Program, has committed $908 million to assist local water utilities overcome the backlog of water supply and sewerage infrastructure that existed prior to the implementation of the Program in 1994. Recently, I introduced new Program conditions to streamline the Program’s funding processes and implemented an equitable and accountable prioritisation process for the allocation of Program funds to areas of greatest need. Priority rankings for new projects under the Program are now assigned by an Inter-agency Prioritisation Committee. Rankings are undertaken in a transparent and equitable manner on the basis of security of supply, public health and environmental impacts.

A number of sewerage projects within MidCoast Water’s area of operation were ranked by the Inter-agency Prioritisation Committee. After careful consideration of the projects submitted to the committee, a rank of 4 was assigned to the Crowdy Head and Stroud sewerage projects and a rank of 7 to the sewerage projects for Stroud Road, Allworth, Bundabah, Coomba Park, Nerong, North Arm
Cove, Pindimar North and Pindimar South. Unfortunately, none of these rankings are high enough to receive Program funds at this time.

Program funding priorities are reviewed on an annual basis. MidCoast Water may resubmit these projects for consideration of funding in early 2006. The submitted projects will be prioritised and funding made available based on priority of the projects.

*4303 FISHING LICENCES—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—

Can the Minister confirm that every cent of every fishing licence goes into the Trusts program, and not one cent goes into either consolidated revenue or the Department of Fisheries budget?

Answer—

The Fisheries Management Act 1994 requires that all money collected from the NSW Recreational Fishing Licence fee be placed into the Recreational Fishing Trusts and spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW. Expert anglers sit on both trusts - one for saltwater and one for freshwater and decide how to reinvest the funds across a number of important recreational fishing projects.

*4304 INCOME TAX EQUIVALENTS—STATE OWNED CORPORATIONS—Mr Stoner to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

What are the expected Income Tax Equivalents for the 2005-06 budget year from the following State-owned Corporations:
(a) Sydney Water Corporation;
(b) Sydney Catchment Authority;
(c) Hunter Water Corporation;
(d) State Water;
(e) EnergyAustralia;
(f) Integral Energy;
(g) Country Energy;
(h) Macquarie Generation;
(i) Delta Electricity;
(j) Eraring Energy;
(k) TransGrid?

Answer—

Expected income tax equivalents payments are outlined in the 2005-06 Budget Papers.

*4305 DROUGHT ASSISTANCE—Mr Stoner to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—

In relation to the Government’s stated figure of $160 million paid in drought assistance:
(a) How much of this amount has been paid as subsidies to farmers?
(b) How much of this amount has been paid as assistance to small businesses?
(c) How much of this amount has been spent on salaries and administration?

Answer—

(a) Approximately 82 percent of drought assistance expenditure was provided as direct assistance to farmers. This includes transport subsidies, exceptional circumstances interest subsidies, low interest loans to farmers and the waving of various fees.
(b) Approximately 3 percent of drought assistance expenditure was provided to small businesses through programs administered by NSW Department of State and Regional Development.

(c) The remaining approximately 15 percent was provided as indirect assistance to farmers. This includes Rural Financial Counsellors, Drought Support Workers, various counselling services, farm family gatherings and assistance to help alleviate town water supply problems. Administration and salaries form a component of these assistance measures.

*4306 GOULBURN TO CAMDEN CYCLE CLASSIC—Ms Hodgkinson to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) Are you aware that the organisers of the Goulburn to Camden Cycle Classic were promised a six-month turnaround by the RTA for approval of the above event?

(2) As the organisers have now been waiting for a reply from the RTA for some eight months, will you inform me of the reason for the delay in providing a reply?

(3) As the NSW Police and local Councils involved in this event have already given approval will you instruct your Department to provide an answer to the organisers without any further delay?

Answer—

I’m advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is currently working through its special event approval process for this event. The following information has been provided by the RTA in relation to the approval process for the Goulburn to Camden Cycle Classic:

- Six months is listed as a nominal time period only to review and assess an event of this type;
- In May 2005, the event organiser changed the event from a “Cycle Event” to a “Cycle Race”. A vehicle race requires a complete reassessment of the conditions to hold such an event.

The RTA has had regular contact with the event organiser since the first meeting held in November 2004. The event Traffic Management Plan was only delivered to the RTA for review on 19 May 2005. The recent delivery of this document and the late notice that this event would now be held under “Race” conditions, have added to the approval timeframe.

The Traffic Management Plan for the event is currently being assessed by RTA officers and may only be approved subject to all road safety and traffic management issues being fully addressed.

*4307 SPORTS TOURISM—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Women—

(1) What is the estimated sports tourism value to the host Australian cities of the:
   (a) Australian Open?
   (b) Australian PGA Championship?
   (c) Australian Masters?
   (d) Johnnie Walker Classic?
   (e) Heineken Classic?
   (f) Jacob’s Creek Open?

(2) What incentives has the NSW Government offered to the organisers of these events to attract them to NSW?

(3) Why is NSW the only mainland state not to host a major golf tournament and reap the concomitant sports tourism benefits?

(4) Did the NSW Government offer the organisers of the Johnnie Walker Classic, until recently held in Thailand and now to be located in Perth, any incentives to move the tournament to NSW?

(5) If not, why not?

Answer—
(1) to (f) With the exception of the Centenary Australian Open in 2005, the Government has not been approached to host the listed events so detailed event feasibility assessments were not required.
(2) The NSW Major Events Board provided $200,000 to support the Centenary Australian Open in 2005.
(4) No.
(5) The Government was not approached to consider the event.

*4308 DROUGHT SUPPORT WORKER—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) With reference to your 17 May 2005 commitment to expand the Drought Support Worker Program, how many additional Drought Support Workers will the Department of Primary Industries employ?
(2) Where will they be located and what regions will each new Drought Support Worker service?
(3) Have any of these additional Drought Support Workers been appointed?
(4) Have these positions been advertised yet?
(5) If so, on what dates and in what media were these positions advertised?
(6) If not, what is the reason for the delay in placing these advertisements?

Answer—

(1) Three (2.5 Equivalent Full-time positions).
(2) Goulburn (Full-time), servicing the Rural Lands Protection Boards of Goulburn; Moss Vale (south of Abercrombie River); Yass (north of Hume Highway); Young (east of Olympic Highway); and Central Tablelands (south of Abercrombie River).
   Hay (Full-time), servicing Rural Lands Protection Boards of Hay; Balranald; Wentworth; and Hillston (south of Parkes to Broken Hill railway line).
   Wagga Wagga (Part-time), servicing Rural Lands Protection Boards of Wagga Wagga; Gundagai; Narrandera; and Young (west of Olympic Highway).
(3) Yes, Goulburn appointed on 23 May 2005 and Wagga Wagga appointed on 20 May 2005.
(4) Yes, the only vacant position, which is at Hay, has been advertised.
(5) Hay position was advertised in Riverine Grazier newspaper, Hay on 7 June 2005.
(6) No delay.

*4309 TICKET PRICES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—


(1) What was the AM and PM peak ticket price of a return train fare from Concord West to Central Station?
(2) What was the AM and PM peak ticket price of a return train fare from Penrith to Central Station?
(3) What was the AM and PM peak ticket price of a return train fare from Sutherland to Central Station?
(4) What was the AM and PM peak ticket price of a return train fare from Parramatta to Central Station?
(5) What was the AM and PM peak ticket price of a return train fare from Denistone to Central Station?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) to (5) Ticket prices vary according to the time of day the ticket is purchased and whether the purchaser is entitled to a concession.
*4310 NEWCASTLE SYNAGOGUE—Mr Debnam to Minister for Police—

What police resources have been allocated, by week, to investigating the attack on the Newcastle synagogue on the night of April 20, 2005 (reference Question 4023)?

Answer—

I refer the honourable Member to my answer to his previous Question on Notice No. 4023 on this subject.

*4311 BUS LANES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

In relation to Bus Lanes:
(1) How many infringement notices were issued in 2004 and to date in 2005 for illegal use of bus only lanes in Sydney?
(2) Of these infringement notices issued, how many were generated by bus lane cameras?

Answer—

(1) and (2) To provide a response to these questions would involve considerable time and diversion of resources away from core responsibilities of the Infringement Processing Bureau, which cannot be justified.

*4312 RISK OF HARM REPORTS—24 HOUR—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) How many reports of children at risk of harm received by the DoCS Helpline have required further assessment/investigation in less than 24 hours for each month between June 2004 and June 2005?
(2) How many of these reports failed to receive such assessment or investigation within the specified timeframe for each month between June 2004 and June 2005?

Answer—

(1) See response to Question on Notice No 4072.
The March 2005 and June 2005 quarter data is being compiled and will be available later in 2005.
(2) All reports received at the DoCS Helpline undergo an initial assessment. Information about secondary assessments/investigations is not currently available. It is anticipated that the data will be available later this year.

*4313 RISK OF HARM REPORTS—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) How many reports of children at risk of harm received by the DoCS Helpline have required further assessment/investigation in less than 10 days for each month between June 2004 and June 2005?
(2) How many of these reports failed to receive such assessment or investigation within the specified timeframe for each month between June 2004 and June 2005?

Answer—

The March 2005 and June 2005 quarter data is being compiled and will be available later in 2005.
(2) All reports received at the DoCS Helpline undergo an initial assessment. Information about secondary assessments/investigations is not currently available. It is anticipated that the data will be available later this year.

*4314 WORKING CHILDREN—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) How many Department of Community Services staff have been checked under the working with children checks?
(2) How many of Department of Community Services staff have not been checked under the working with children checks?
(3) What are the reasons for not having staff checked under the working with children checks?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The Department of Community Services complies with all requirements of the Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998 for staff to be checked under the Working with Children Check.

*4315 STAFF STATISTICS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) What is the total number of staff employed by the Department of Community Services for each year between June 1998 and June 2005?
(2) How many of these staff are employed in out-of-home care or child protection positions?
(3) How many of these staff hold
   (a) university degrees in social welfare
   (b) other degrees (specify the range of other degrees)
   (c) other qualifications (specify the range of other qualifications)?

Answer—

(1) and (2) This information is available in the Department’s Annual Reports.
(3) The Department of Community Services has applied a degree level qualification as an essential selection criterion for all new Caseworker positions from May 2004. However, Aboriginal applicants are exempted from the formal qualification requirement in recognition of the skills and knowledge they contribute to the Department’s work with Aboriginal families.

*4316 CARE SERVICES—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

How much funding has the Department Community Services given to for-profit organisations for home care and foster care services for each month in 2003, 2004 and 2005?

Answer—

In 2005/06 the Department of Community Services will spend a record $626.5 million working with the community and non-government sector to provide a range of services to help and support children, young people and families.

*4317 REPORT NUMBERS—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

How many at risk of harm reports has the DoCS Helpline received during the following months:
October 2004
November 2004
December 2004
Answer—

Data to December 2004 is available from the Department of Community Services website: www.community.nsw.gov.au – News & Publications – DoCS Data. The March 2005 and June 2005 quarter data is being compiled and will be available later in 2005.

*4318 STAFF STATISTICS—OFFICE OF CHILDREN’S GUARDIAN—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) How many staff have been employed with the Office of Children’s Guardian for each year since its establishment?
(2) What are the positions held by staff in each year?
(3) What was/is the budget for employment for staff in each year?
(4) What are the current activities of the Office of Children’s Guardian?
(5) How many care plans have been vetted for children in care in NSW?

Answer—

(1) The numbers of staff employed in the Office of the Children’s Guardian each year since inception have been:
   2000-2001  12
   2001-2002  16
   2002-2003  15
   2003-2004  16
   2004-2005  19

(2) to (4) This information is available in the Children’s Guardian Annual Reports.
(5) There is no requirement for care plans to be vetted by the Children’s Guardian.

*4319 RISK OF HARM REPORTS—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) How many reports of children at risk of harm received by the DoCS Helpline have required further assessment/investigation in more than 10 days for each month between June 2004 and June 2005?
(2) How many of these reports have been closed without investigation or assessment for each month between June 2004 and June 2005?

Answer—

(1) Quarterly data to December 2004 is available from the Department of Community Services website: www.community.nsw.gov.au – News & Publications – DoCS Data. The March 2005 and June 2005 quarter data is being compiled and will be available later in 2005.
(2) All reports received at the DoCS Helpline undergo an initial assessment. Information about secondary assessments/investigations is not currently available. It is anticipated that the data will be available later in the year.
**4320 RISK OF HARM REPORTS**—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

How many reports of children at risk of harm received by the DoCS Helpline have required further assessment/investigation in less than 72 hours for each month between June 2004 and June 2005? How many of these reports failed to receive such assessment or investigation within the specified timeframe for each month between June 2004 and June 2005?

Answer—


(2) All reports received at the DoCS Helpline undergo an initial assessment. Information about secondary assessments/investigations is not currently available. It is anticipated that the data will be available later this year.

**4321 WORKCOVERS NEW INVESTMENT BOARD**—Mr O'Farrell to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

What fees, allowances and any other payments are made to members of Workcover’s new Investment Board?

Answer—

The WorkCover Investment Board was established to determine the investment policies for the investment of the Workers Compensation Insurance Fund and to report to me, as the responsible Minister, on the investment performance of the Fund. The matter of fees and allowances payable to members of the WorkCover Investment Board was referred to the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal (SOORT) for recommendation of an appropriate level. The Tribunal is an expert body on remuneration setting and is independent of Government. The Tribunal’s recommendations were subsequently accepted and the following fee levels set:

- Chairperson $64,700 per annum
- Directors $37,200 per annum

In addition, the Tribunal recommended payments of $6,000 per annum for the Chairperson and $4,000 per annum for Chairpersons of other committees that meet at least quarterly. Reimbursements are also made for incidental expenses such as travel costs. These fees were effective on the Board’s commencement in March 2005.

**4322 CYCLEWAYS—CRONULLA**—Mr Kerr to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What plans exist for bicycle cycleways in the Cronulla electorate?

(2) How much funding is allocated for this?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to bicycle infrastructure projects can be found on the Roads and Traffic Authority’s website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au.
Following the recent NRMA study of the F3, what actions will take place to solve the concerns raised?

Answer—

I’m advised:
The F3 freeway is the responsibility of the Federal Government and subject to funding under the proposed Auslink agreement.
Discussions are continuing between the State and Federal governments as part of Auslink negotiations.
However, the proposed AusLink arrangements mean the Federal Government will withdraw from its long standing accountability for fully funding National Highways, including the F3, at a time when these highways require significant investment in asset renewal.
The Federal Government is also planning to reduce maintenance, safety & urgent minor works funding levels.

(1) In the past 4 weeks, did an axle snap on a train in the cutting south of Berowra Station in the Hornsby electorate?
(2) What caused the axle to snap?
(3) How was this rectified?
(4) How long was the train delayed?
(5) Were there any commuter or staff injuries?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) to (4) On 30 May 2005 at Berowra, an axle on a double-deck suburban service was not rotating correctly. There was no axle breakage.
(5) There were no reported injuries to passengers or crew.

The Department of Health does not budget on the basis of electorates. For the purpose of allocating budgets to Area Health Services, the Department of Health does not make a direct link between the receipt of gaming machine taxation revenues and funding for specific Area Health Service enhancements.
This year’s NSW Health Budget is a record $10.9 billion. That is a 105% increase since the last Coalition Government.
The NSW Budget has provided $1 billion for the Northern Sydney/Central Coast Area Health Service, which includes Hornsby. That is an increase of $79 million on last year.
The NSW Budget also provides funding for an additional 19 beds at Hornsby Hospital including an extra adult intensive care bed.
*4326 MULWALA SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT—Mr Aplin to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) In view of the need to build a much larger capacity sewerage treatment plant to cater for a substantial increase in population at Mulwala, will you review previous advice on funding available under the country towns water and sewerage scheme?

(2) What level of commitment will be made to the provision of essential infrastructure to encourage growth and development in Mulwala on the New South Wales border with Victoria?

Answer—

(1) No. Council is responsible for works to cater for growth after 1996.

(2) On 15 February 2005, I advised Corowa Shire Council that funding under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program conditions will be made available for construction of the Mulwala Sewerage scheme over the next three financial years. This funding is subject to my approving an application for construction funds from Council after it has completed preconstruction activities and is ready to call tenders. The rate of financial assistance applicable to Council’s adopted scheme will be determined when Council’s application for construction funding is received, designs are completed and Council is ready to call tenders. Program funding of $177,500 has already been allocated towards the $355,000 estimated cost of preconstruction activities for replacement of the Mulwala Sewage Treatment Plant.

*4327 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM CONCESSIONS—Ms Moore to Minister for Transport—

(1) Are participants in the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) not eligible for transport concessions in NSW, unlike other low income earners?

(2) Do CDEP participants receive $2.08 a day to cover their additional costs as workers, and does this act as a disincentive for Aboriginal people to gain work experience and skills through CDEP?

(3) When will the NSW Government provide transport concessions to CDEP participants to ensure they receive the same benefits as other people on low incomes and in recognition of their extra efforts to obtain work?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program has been designed and implemented by the Commonwealth Government. The effectiveness of the program and the adequacy of the supplementary payment are matters for the Commonwealth Government.

*4328 FACTORY COMMUNITY CENTRE PRE-SCHOOL—Ms Moore to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) Are there sufficient Pre-School services in the Redfern and Waterloo area?

(2) What are the Government’s plans for children’s services in this area?

(3) Does The Factory Community Centre Pre-School operate from Department of Housing owned building that does not meet childcare standards?

(4) Is it true that there is high need for childcare services in this area and that The Factory Community Centre Pre-School provides care for marginalised families?

(5) What help will the Government provide to The Factory Community Centre Pre-School in Waterloo for capital works necessary to meet childcare standards?
Answer—

(1) to (5) There are currently eight licensed child care services in the Redfern/Waterloo area. The Department of Community Services funds six of these services. The Factory Community Centre Inc is the Licensee for Poet’s Corner Kindergarten, which operates from a Department of Housing owned building located at 55 Morehead Street, Redfern. I am advised the Kindergarten has demonstrated compliance with the Children’s Services Regulation 2004. The Factory Community Centre Inc has formed a partnership with Sydney Day Nursery Children’s Services to implement a Parent Resource Program at Poet’s Corner Kindergarten. This program provides extra support for vulnerable families. The Department of Community Services is providing additional funds of $74,987 annually for three years to support this program.

DoCS funded Preschools in the Redfern Waterloo area are also able to access funds from the Scheme for Children with Additional Needs (SCAN) program which supports children from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) families, children with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (A&TSI) children and children with challenging behaviours. The Federal Government is chiefly responsible for funding and planning for the provision of childcare. I am advised that accreditation requirements applying to The Factory Community Centre relate to the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System administered by the Federal Government. I am also advised that the Federal Government provides funding to ensure services have access to appropriate resources for accreditation.

*4329 FACTORY COMMUNITY CENTRE PRESCHOOL—Ms Moore to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) Are there sufficient Pre-School services in the Redfern and Waterloo area?

(2) What are the Government’s plans for children’s services in this area?

(3) Does The Factory Community Centre Pre-School operate from Department of Housing owned building that does not meet childcare standards?

(4) Is it true that there is high need for childcare services in this area and that The Factory Community Centre Pre-School provides care for marginalised families?

(5) What help will the Government provide to The Factory Community Centre Pre-School in Waterloo for capital works necessary to meet childcare standards?

Answer—

(1) to (5) There are currently eight licensed child care services in the Redfern/Waterloo area. The Department of Community Services funds six of these services. The Factory Community Centre Inc is the Licensee for Poet’s Corner Kindergarten, which operates from a Department of Housing owned building located at 55 Morehead Street, Redfern. I am advised the Kindergarten has demonstrated compliance with the Children’s Services Regulation 2004. The Factory Community Centre Inc has formed a partnership with Sydney Day Nursery Children’s Services to implement a Parent Resource Program at Poet’s Corner Kindergarten. This program provides extra support for vulnerable families. The Department of Community Services is providing additional funds of $74,987 annually for three years to support this program.

DoCS funded Preschools in the Redfern Waterloo area are also able to access funds from the Scheme for Children with Additional Needs (SCAN) program which supports children from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) families, children with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (A&TSI) children and children with challenging behaviours. The Federal Government is chiefly responsible for funding and planning for the provision of childcare. I am advised that accreditation requirements applying to The Factory Community Centre relate to the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System administered by the Federal Government. I am also advised that the Federal Government provides funding to ensure services have access to appropriate resources for accreditation.
*4330 REDFERN COURT—Ms Moore to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

(1) Are minor court matters from the former Redfern court being heard at the Newtown court?
(2) Does the Newtown court now sit five days a week, and was this increased from three days, since the closure of the Redfern court?
(3) How many cases from the Redfern area have been heard at Newtown court after being mentioned at, or referred from, the Downing Street court?
(4) Why are these cases not heard at the Downing Street court, as you advised when announcing the closure of the Redfern court?
(5) What specialist support services are provided for Aboriginal people at the Newtown court?
(6) What specialist support services are provided for Aboriginal people at the Downing Street court?
(7) How many Aboriginal people have been held in custody at Newtown since the Redfern court was closed?
(8) Do the Newtown court and Police facilities meet standards for holding those at risk of self-harm, particularly Aboriginal people?
(9) How many prisoners or people on remand or facing charges at Newtown court, or in custody at Newtown have been identified as “at risk” of self-harm?
(10) What action has the Government taken to ensure the safe custody of people held at Newtown?

Answer—

I refer the Member for Bligh to my response of 8 June 2005.

*4331 LAND TAX/AFFORDABLE HOUSING—Ms Moore to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

(1) In relation to the exemptions from land tax for low cost housing within five kilometres of the Sydney GPO, for the 2003/4 year:
   (a) What are the total funds from Land Tax that were foregone?
   (b) How many applicants obtained this concession?
   (c) What is the total number of units or lots of land affected?
   (d) What are the mean and median amounts for units/lots?
   (e) In which suburbs were these lots/units, and how many in each?
(2) In relation to the exemptions from land tax for boarding houses for the 2003/4 year:
   (a) How many applicants obtained this concession?
   (b) What is the total number of units or lots of land affected?
   (c) What are the mean and median amounts for units/lots?
   (d) In which suburbs/towns were these lots/units, and how many in each?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Office of State Revenue does not hold land tax data based on a financial year. Data is based on a tax year from midnight 31 December in any given year. To provide a response to this question would involve considerable time and diversion of resources, away from core responsibilities of the Office of State Revenue, which cannot be justified.

*4332 RACHEL FORSTER HOSPITAL SITE—Ms Moore to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) What plans does the Government have for the Rachel Forster Hospital site in Redfern?
(2) Will the Government sell this site?
(3) What protections for the local community’s residential amenity will the Government provide for any redevelopment of this site?
Answer—

(1) to (3) Discussions are occurring between the Department of Health and Redfern Waterloo Authority in regards to the future use of the former hospital site.

*R4333 RACHEL FORSTER HOSPITAL SITE—Ms Moore to Minister for Health—

(1) What plans does the Government have for the Rachel Forster Hospital site in Redfern?
(2) Will the Government sell this site?
(3) What protections for the local community’s residential amenity will the Government provide for any redevelopment of this site?

Answer—

(1) to (3) Discussions are occurring between the Department of Health and Redfern Waterloo Authority in regards to the future use of the former hospital site.

*R4334 RESHAPING PUBLIC HOUSING—Ms Moore to Minister for Housing—

(1) How will the Government consult with current Department of Housing tenants, tenants organisations and peak bodies such as Shelter and the Tenants Union to develop policy for the Plan for Reshaping Public Housing?
(2) Will current Department of Housing tenants entering new tenancy agreements, either when they have applied for transfer or are forced to relocate by the Department, be subject to new tenure and eligibility policies?
(3) At what annual income level will Department of Housing tenants be required to pay 30% of their income in rent?
(4) At what annual income level will tenants be required to pay market rent for Department of Housing properties?
(5) How will the Department of Housing recognise the impact of high market rents for inner city properties and consider tenants’ ability to pay market rent when assessing eligibility for rental subsidies?
(6) What notice will be given to tenants whose income is increased to 30% of their income or to market rent? Will increases be introduced incrementally to help tenants adjust?

Answer—

(1) The Government is utilising a number of existing tenant consultation mechanisms to consult on changes under Reshaping Public Housing. The Government has also established a reference group comprising representatives from non-government organisations and peak bodies.
(2) No
(3) and (4) The annual income level at which a household is required to pay rent at 30% of income or pay market rent will vary by household size and type. I am happy to arrange a detailed briefing for the honourable member on this subject.
(5) Tenants pay a subsidised rent based on income or market rent, whichever is the lesser amount. This takes account of the tenant’s ability to pay market rent in high rent inner city areas.
(6) Tenants will be notified well in advance of rental changes. The change will be introduced through a sliding scale, which increases from 25% to 30% as a tenants’ income increases.

*R4335 WATER USAGE CHARGES—Ms Moore to Minister for Housing—

(1) How much money will the Department of Housing save annually by passing the cost of water usage to tenants?
(2) In relation to the Queensland Department of Housing’s Research House project where water saving devices significantly reduced water use and the cost of installing the devices was recovered through reduced usage charges within 4 years, will the Department of Housing install water efficient devices in all its properties before passing on water usage charges to tenants?

(3) In relation to the Auditor General’s report “Planning for Sydney’s Water Needs” which states that increased individual metering encourages consumers to reduce water use:
   (a) What is the estimated cost to install individual water meters for each Department of Housing household?
   (b) How long would it take the Department of Housing to recover the cost of installing individual water meters for each household through reduced water usage costs?
   (c) Will the Department of Housing install individual meters for each household before charging tenants for water usage?

Answer—
(1) and (2) I refer the honourable member to the Government’s April 2005 policy announcement Reshaping Public Housing.
(3) Questions about the Auditor-General’s report Planning for Sydney’s Water Needs should be directed to the Minister for Energy and Utilities. Tenants will be asked to contribute to the costs of their water usage both in metered and unmetered properties.

*4336 NEW RAILWAY STATION—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Transport—

When do you estimate that the new railway station for Chatswood will be complete?

Answer—
I am advised:
Chatswood Station is being redeveloped as part of the Epping to Chatswood Rail Line. The new station is scheduled for completion by the end of 2007.

*4337 CHATSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

(1) What is the status of the funding application of Chatswood Primary School for the construction of additional classrooms and the upgrade of facilities?
(2) Given the State Government has proposed to oversee the construction of an additional 500 units in the Chatswood CBD, will you be giving this matter greater priority?

Answer—
(1) and (2) I am advised that the Department has completed a Facilities Review at Chatswood Public School. As a part of the review, demographers conduct an analysis of past, current and projected enrolments in the local area and enrolment patterns of surrounding schools. The Facilities Review forms the basis of an asset plan for the school and any proposed work will be considered in the context of future regional and statewide capital works priorities. I am unable to provide an indication of the timing for the inclusion of the project in a forward program, as it is not possible to pre-empt the deliberations of the Budget Committee in the formulation of the annual State Budget.

*4338 BRIDGEWAY HOUSE—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Health—

(1) What is the status of Bridgeway House at Parramatta?
(2) What is the future of Bridgeway House?
Answer—

(1) and (2) The Sydney West Area Health advises that the rehabilitation activities of Bridgeway House, Cumberland Hospital are being relocated from Bridgeway House to the Pavilion, also on the grounds of Cumberland Hospital during the month of June 2005.

The current staff of Bridgeway House will continue to provide the same level of service and activities to the consumers. There will be no reduction to, or loss of, current programs.

The Pavilion is larger than Bridgeway House and will provide more space for activities. The name of “Bridgeway House” or similar, may be used at the new facility.

The staff of Bridgeway House will have their offices at the Community Mental Health services building at Granville. Through improved communication, planning, education and staff knowledge of best practices in community rehabilitation, staff resources will be better utilised by co-locating all staff who conduct similar community rehabilitation services.

*4339 SENTINEL EVENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORTS—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Health—

When will you be responding to the Sentinel Events Review Committee reports?

Answer—

The Government response to the Sentinel Events Review Committee’s (SERC) 1st report was released on December 2004. It is available on the NSW Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au.

The Government is currently preparing its responses to the 2nd report, Tracking Tragedy 2004, released by the SERC in April 2005.

*4340 CHATSWOOD CBD—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

Given the State Government has approved the construction of 500 additional units in the Chatswood CBD, what measures have you taken to deal with additional traffic congestion as a result?

Answer—

The Department has not approved an application for the construction of 500 additional units in the Chatswood Central Business District.

An application for the construction of three residential buildings providing a total of 509 units has been lodged with the Department. The application was on public exhibition until 4 July 2005.

Traffic related issues along with other environmental and amenity issues will be considered in the Department’s assessment of, and any decision on, the application.

*4341 NEW TRAINS —Mr Amery to Minister for Transport—

(1) Did the electric train known as the Millennium Train first enter service during the term of this Government?

(2) Did the electric train known as the Tangarra first enter service during the term of the Unsworth Labor Government?

(3) Did the diesel engined train known as the X.P.T. first enter service during the term of the Wran Labor Government?

(4) Under which Labor Government, between the years of 1941 and 1965 were the double decker trains on the Sydney network introduced?

(5) Which other Governments in this State have taken significant initiatives to introduce any new train for the betterment of the State’s railways?
Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Yes. The Millennium Train commenced service on 1 July 2002.
(2) The Tangara train was designed, manufactured and purchased under the Unsworth Labour Government.
(3) Yes. The XPT train commenced service in 1981.
(4) The Tulloch double-decker suburban carriage commenced service in 1964, which was the year NSW changed Labor Premiers from Heffron to Renshaw.
(5) The Carr Labor Government has undertaken significant initiatives in rail rolling stock in the fine tradition of previous NSW Labor Governments. In addition to the Millennium trains, some of this Government’s rolling stock projects include the Xplorer/Endeavour rail cars which commenced service in November 1993. As I announced earlier this year, the budget for the 05-06 financial year has the following provisions for rolling stock:

“In this year’s budget we’re allocating $17.1 million to this massive fleet replacement, which means these brand new trains will enter service nine years ahead of schedule.

The $211.6 million rolling stock budget allocation also includes:

- $84 million to commence the construction of 81 new Outer Suburban Cars (OSCAs);
- $58.6 million to complete the ongoing construction of 41 OSCAs;
- $21 million for the completion of 14 new Hunter Valley rail cars;
- $14.3 million for improved vigilance safety systems;
- $9 million for refurbishment of the XPT fleet;
- $5 million for works to replace the train radio network; and
- $2.6 million for enhanced on board train communications.

Mr Watkins said the investments were part of the Carr Government’s total commitment to rolling stock upgrades, worth more than $2.5 billion, to be completed by 2010.

*4342 DAM CONSTRUCTION—Mr Amery to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) How many water storages such as dams and weirs are currently in operation to supply water to the State’s population?
(2) What is the name of each of these entities, and which State Government is credited with the construction of these projects?

Answer—

State Water has advised:

(1) and (2) A number of agencies, organisations and individuals own and operate dams and weirs in NSW that supply water to the state’s water users and the environment.

State Water Corporation has 21 dams and over 200 weirs currently in operation to supply water to the State’s population.

The table below outlines the name of the State Water dams, and which State Government is credited with the project.

Dams operated by the Sydney Catchment Authority fall within the administration of the Minister for the Environment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dam</th>
<th>Government Responsible</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Finish Date</th>
<th>Government Credited at Date of Opening</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copeton</td>
<td>R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>1971 (Stage 1) 1973 (Stage 2) 1976 (Stage 3)</td>
<td>N. Wran, Premier (ALP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Split Rock</td>
<td>R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>N. Greiner, Premier (Liberal)</td>
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<td>Keepit</td>
<td>B. Stevens, Premier (UAP)</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>R. Heffron, Premier (ALP)</td>
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<td>Chaffey</td>
<td>R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>N. Wran, Premier (ALP)</td>
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<td>Windamere</td>
<td>R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>N. Wran, Premier (ALP)</td>
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<td>Burrendong</td>
<td>W. McKell, Premier (ALP) R. Hefron, Premier (ALP)</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)</td>
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<td>Wyangala</td>
<td>T. Bavin, Premier (Nationalist)</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>1936 (Original)</td>
<td>B. Stevens, Premier (UAP)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>R. Hefron, Premier (ALP)</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1971 (Enlarged)</td>
<td>R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)</td>
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<td>Carcoar</td>
<td>R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)</td>
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<td>R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)</td>
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<td>Lake Cargelligo</td>
<td>W. McKell, Premier (ALP)</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>J. Cahill, Premier (ALP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Brewster</td>
<td>W. McKell, Premier (ALP)</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>J. Cahill, Premier (ALP)</td>
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<td>Blowering</td>
<td>J. McGirr, Premier (ALP) R. Hefron, Premier (ALP)</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)</td>
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<td>Burrinjuck</td>
<td>J. Carruthers, Premier (Liberal Reform) A. Mair, Premier (UAP)</td>
<td>1907 1940 1988</td>
<td>1927 (Original) 1956 (Improved) 1994 (Upgraded)</td>
<td>T. Bavin, Premier (Nationalist) J. Cahill, Premier (ALP) J. Fahey, premier (Liberal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hume</td>
<td>W. Holman, Premier (ALP) J. Cahill, Premier (ALP) B. Unsworth, Premier (ALP) R. Carr, Premier (ALP)</td>
<td>1925 1957 1986 1996</td>
<td>1936 (Original) 1961 (Enlarged) 1987 (Strengthened) 2003 (Remedial)</td>
<td>B. Stevens, Premier (UAP) R. Hefron, Premier (ALP) B. Unsworth, Premier (ALP) R. Carr, Premier (ALP)</td>
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<td>Menindee Lakes</td>
<td>J. McGirr, Premier (ALP)</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>1960 (Substantial)</td>
<td>R. Heffron, Premier (ALP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenbawn</td>
<td>W. McKell, Premier (ALP) J. Cahill, Premier (ALP) N. Wran, Premier (ALP)</td>
<td>1947 1983</td>
<td>1958 (Original) 1987 (Raised)</td>
<td>J. Cahill, Premier (ALP) B. Unsworth, Premier (ALP)</td>
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Glennies Creek: N. Wran, Premier (ALP) 1980, 1983; N. Wran, Premier (ALP)

Lostock: R. Askin, Premier (Liberal) 1969, 1971; R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)

Toonumbar: R. Askin, Premier (Liberal) 1969, 1971; R. Askin, Premier (Liberal)

Brogo: R. Askin, Premier (Liberal) 1974, 1976; N. Wran, Premier (ALP)

*4343 REGIONAL PARKS—Mr Amery to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

How many hectares of land have been set aside for a Regional Park in Western Sydney?
How many hectares of land have been protected against urban and commercial development in Western Sydney since this Government came to office?
How does the size of the land mentioned above compare to established parks and reserves in the inner city of Sydney?

Answer—

Currently 6298 hectares are set aside for regional parkland in Western Sydney, of which 1438 hectares are currently developed to some degree for recreation.
Since 1995, the Sydney Region Development Fund has acquired 1082 hectares for regional open space within Western Sydney. Information about natural areas that may have been acquired by the Department of Environment and Conservation should be directed to the Hon Bob Debus MP, Minister for the Environment.
In direct comparison the current 1438 hectares of developed regional parkland in Western Sydney is compared with 605 hectares of regional parkland in the inner west and city areas.

*4344 RESPONSE TIMES—Mr Amery to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

(1) What is the average response times for the fire brigade to attend to reports of house fires in:
(a) the State of New South Wales as a whole?
(b) the Mount Druitt area?

(2) How have these figures varied over the past five years?

Answer—

(1) (a) The average response time of the New South Wales Fire Brigades to house fires across the whole of New South Wales in 2004 was 8 minutes 34 seconds.
(b) The average response time of the New South Wales Fire Brigades to house fires in the Mount Druitt area in 2004 was 8 minutes 6 seconds.

(2) As the methodology used to record response times has changed over the past five years, comparisons during this period would be inappropriate.

*4345 MOUNT DRUITT HOUSE FIRES—Mr Amery to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

(1) How many house fires have been reported to the NSW Fire brigade in the Mount Druitt area during:
- 2003
- 2004
(2) How many of the fires resulted in death?
(3) How many of these fires resulted in injury?

Answer—

(1) The number of house fires reported to the NSW Fire Brigades in all Mount Druitt postcode 2770 areas (including Bidwell, Blackett, Dharruk, Emerton, Herbersham, Letherbridge Park, Minchinbury, Mount Druitt, Mount Druitt Village, Shalvey, Tregear, Whalan and Willmot) during

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 (to 31 May)</td>
<td>29</td>
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(2) None

(3) Fires that resulted in injury:

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 (between 1 January and 31 May)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*4346 LAND DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT—Mr Amery to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

(1) How many hectares of land are proposed to be developed in the Blacktown, Penrith and Fairfield Council areas for the purpose of generating employment?

(2) What is the latest estimate of the number of employment positions that will be created from these developments?

Answer—

The State Government is involved in the following:

- State Environmental Planning Policy No 59 – Central Western Sydney Economic and Employment Area (SEPP 59) zones approximately 600 hectares within the Blacktown City Council area to be developed for employment uses. It is estimated that 8,000 jobs will be created.
- The development of the former ADI site at St Marys in Blacktown and Penrith Local Government Areas is expected to provide 69 hectares of employment land. This is projected to create approximately 1,250 jobs.
- The North-West Growth Centre Draft Structure Plan currently on public exhibition identifies industrial and employment land, some of which is located in the Blacktown Local Government Area. Across Blacktown and Baulkham Hills Local Government Areas there is the potential for over 300 hectares of business/employment land and over 250 hectares of industrial land. Future employment land opportunities are being explored through the Westlink M7 Corridor Land Use Strategy and the Metropolitan Strategy.

*4347 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—BLACKTOWN—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio that will commence in the Blacktown electorate within the next 12 months, including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

The 2005/06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a
further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School.

This includes the following ongoing projects listed in the 2005/06 Infrastructure Statement in the Blacktown electorate: a new hall, canteen and covered outdoor learning area (COLA) at Blacktown South Public School; and Stage One of an upgrade at The Hills Sports High School.

Dollar figures for these projects are not included to ensure a more competitive tendering process. Project costs will be announced once the tender has been awarded – ensuring better value for taxpayers’ money. Projects included in the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

*4348 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—MANLY—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio that will commence in the Manly electorate within the next 12 months, including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

The 2005-06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School.

This includes an ongoing project to upgrade accommodation at Harbord Public School. Projects included in the 2005-06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

*4349 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—BATHURST—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio that will commence in the Bathurst electorate within the next 12 months, including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

The 2005-06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School.

Projects included in the 2005-06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

*4350 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—BEGA—Mr Constance to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

What are the details of all infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio that will commence in the Bathurst electorate within the next 12 months, including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

The 2005/06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a
further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School. Projects included in the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

*4351 TRAIN FINE—Mr Constance to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

Why have you not responded to the difficulties of John Cullen of Batemans Bay regarding a State debt recovery fine?

Answer—

While no representations were forwarded by the Member for Bega’s office for my attention, I am aware that the State Debt Recovery Office has offered Mr Cullen a number of options to resolve the train fine, and he has chosen his preferred option. As a result, the matter is now outside the jurisdiction of the State Debt Recovery Office.

*4352 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICES RUNNING COSTS—Mr Constance to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

(1) How much does it cost to run all National Parks in the Southern Region?
(2) What proportion does the amount in (1) represent of the total budget for running all National Parks in NSW?
(3) What are the National Parks and Wildlife Service’s (NPWS) fire management costs and how is fire management funded?
(4) Now that NPWS is a division of the Department of Environment and Conservation how much of the NPWS running costs are hidden behind this department, being assumed through other divisions?

Answer—

(1) to (4) The National Parks and Wildlife Service is now part of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). I am advised that in 2004/05 the total recurrent and business activity expenditure for Southern Branch of the Parks and Wildlife Division of DEC was approximately $43.5 million. The proportion of Southern Branch expenditure to the total expenditure of the Parks and Wildlife Division is approximately 22 per cent. Recurrent funding for the Parks and Wildlife Division in 2005/06 is estimated to be around $199 million, which equates to an average of $33 per hectare compared to approximately $32 per hectare over 2004/05. Recurrent funding per hectare in 2005/06 is more than double that of 1994/95, which was less than $16 per hectare. Various divisions within DEC contribute towards the department’s fire management responsibilities. However, an indicative cost for fire management funded through the 2004/05 recurrent allocation to the Parks and Wildlife Division, which is primarily responsible for fire management, was in excess of $40 million. Fire management activities are funded from recurrent allocations and the department’s fire insurance arrangements. The Parks and Wildlife Division is responsible for on-park and wildlife management. All other functions previously carried out by NPWS have been integrated with the activities performed by other Divisions that now comprise DEC.

*4353 BALDWINS ROAD—Mr Constance to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

Given the level of erosion and weeds along Baldwins Road will the Department rectify these problems given the environmental damage being caused?
Answer—

I have been advised that Baldwins Road, Brogo comprises part Council public road under the control of Bega Valley Council and part Crown road under the control of the Department of Lands.
I understand that Bega Valley Council has approved the subdivision of adjoining freehold land which relies on the use of the Crown public road component of Baldwins Road for access. In normal circumstances, when a road is required for public access, the responsibility for maintaining the road is transferred to the local Council.
I have directed that an officer of the Department of Lands inspect Baldwins Road and prepare a report on its condition, and the extent of the erosion and weed problems.
Once the report has been finalised and assessed the Department will liaise with Council to determine an appropriate course of action to address the concerns raised.

*4354 QUAAMA AND CANDELO—Mr Constance to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

Why hasn’t the land needed to expand fire sheds at Quaama and Candelo been granted to the Rural Fire Service?

Answer—

I am advised that this matter relates to requests to the Department of Lands for approval to develop rural bushfire facilities on certain Crown lands that are covered by reserves for the notified public purpose of public recreation.
In considering such requests under the Crown Lands Act 1989 the Department must have regard to case law precedents, which dictate that any use of a Crown reserve must be conducive with the gazetted purpose for the reserve.
On this basis, the Department has been unable to accommodate requests to locate Rural Fire Service facilities on public recreation reserves, such as those at Quaama and Candelo.
However, the Crown Lands Legislation Amendment Act 2005 contains provisions to allow for the use of a reserve for purposes additional to the original declared purpose.
I have asked the Department of Lands to utilise these provisions and give priority to addressing the requirements of Quaama and Candelo rural bushfire services when this legislation is proclaimed.

*4355 ROCKS CENTRE—Mr Constance to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

(1) What is the cost of renovations at the Rocks Centre by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and why is this necessary given the renovations carried out five years ago?
(2) Why are Australian craftspeople being evicted, when gift shops selling overseas products are being established?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) The cost of the reconfiguration of the Rocks Centre is $4.7 million. The initiative follows an overall review of The Rocks undertaken in 2004 which identified that The Rocks Centre was not performing well – tenants’ businesses were struggling and the Centre had a number of structural problems (including a leaking roof and poor connections between floors). Major capital works are being undertaken to improve the building and opportunities for tenants.
(2) Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority called publicly for expressions of interest for retail premises in the refurbished Rocks Centre, as leases on all tenancies had expired. All existing tenants were invited to submit an expression of interest. A tender evaluation panel reviewed the expressions of interest according to strict probity guidelines and evaluation criteria.
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Wednesday 14 September 2005

*4356 GREY ASBESTOS—Mr Constance to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

When will you respond to my letter regarding the installation of grey asbestos in the roof cavities of homes in south east New South Wales?

Answer—

A response has been sent to Mr Constance’s letter.

*4357 CUTTAGEE LAKE CATCHMENTS—Mr Constance to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—

When will you respond to representations made by industry representatives and conservationists on the Cuttagee Lake Catchment?

Answer—

I will shortly issue a detailed response on the Cuttagee catchment to Ocean Watch Ltd and to the Member for Bega. I understand the letters have inappropriately confused the findings of the CSIRO’s cooperative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology about Bondi State Forest with the situation applying in the Cuttagee Creek catchment in Murrah State Forest, where many critical parameters are substantially different.

If the Honourable Member’s constituents have evidence that Forests NSW is not complying with IFOA, or if the IFOA is inadequate, they should take the evidence to the regulatory authorities (the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Agriculture and Fisheries Division of the Department of Primary Industries) for independent investigation.

*4358 DIRECTOR OF LIQUOR AND GAMING—Mr Crittenden to Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for the Central Coast—

(1) Did Mr Darrell Loewenthal, the delegate of the Director of Liquor and Gaming, in a letter to the Member for Wyong dated 10th November 2004 concerning Belmont Golf Club, state in paragraph 3: “Insofar as compliance with section 41J of the Act is concerned, it has been established that the actions of the Club fall within guidelines issued to address situations where negotiations for the disposal of land have been entered into prior to the commencement of new legislation. In this regard, as negotiations involving the development commenced prior to 10 December 2003, the Club is not captured by the provisions of Section 41J of the Act.”?

(2) Did Mr KM Brown, the Director of Liquor and Gaming, on 17th November 2004, in a letter to the solicitors TD Kelly & Co. concerning Belmont Golf Club, acting for the Member for Wyong, state in paragraph 10 the following: “It is unfortunate that the wording in the last sentence of paragraph 3 of Mr Loewenthal’s letter to Mr Crittenden dated 10 November 2004 seems to suggest that the Club need not comply with Section 41J for this was not the intention. The Club is required to comply with Section 41J but in the event it doesn’t and provided it falls within my guidelines, and provided the disposal has generally been for the benefit of members of the Club and has been supported by the members, I would not anticipate taking any proceedings for a breach of that section.”?

(3) Did you sign a letter to the Member for Swansea dated 10 November 2004 which contained exactly the same paragraph 3 as that contained in Mr Loewenthal’s letter to the Member for Wyong dated 10th November 2004? When did you become aware that paragraph 3 was erroneous and could mislead the Member for Swansea? Did you take any action to clarify your comments to the Member for Swansea?

(4) Was a letter sent from the Department of Gaming and Racing or yourself to the Belmont Golf Club dated 10 November 2004 which in part states as follows:
“I am of the view that negotiations involving the development commenced prior to 10 December 2003 and as a result the disposal of club land detailed within the negotiations is not captured by the provisions of Section 41(J) of the Act.”?

(5) Did you or anyone from your Department send a letter to Belmont Golf Club clarifying your letter or your Department’s letter to Belmont Golf Club dated 10 November 2004?

(6) If not, when will you or your Department retract the erroneous advice that has been given to the Belmont Golf Club?

(7) Did T D Kelly & Co, Solicitors for the Member for Wyong write to Mr K M Brown, Director of Liquor & Gaming on 26 May 2005 pointing out that his (Mr Brown as Director of Liquor & Gaming) intended inaction cannot confer a civil immunity on the directors of Belmont Golf Club absolving them from the discharge of their fiduciary duties?

(8) If Belmont Golf Club is relying on this erroneous advice from you or the Department of Gaming & Racing could this result in legal liabilities being incurred by persons acting on that advice and legal liabilities being incurred by your Department?

(9) Do you think it is appropriate that when an error occurs in one piece of correspondence from someone in your administration including yourself that it is clarified to all other recipients of correspondence from yourself or your administration who received the same or similar erroneous letters, in part or full?

What procedures and quality controls exist within your administration to ensure that when clarifying letters need to be sent by your administration that all recipients of the erroneous material receive the clarifying material?

(10) Were you informed as Minister for Gaming and Racing that your Department had made a mistake that resulted in you signing an incorrect letter?

(11) What is the authority for your guidelines mentioned in Mr Brown’s letter to T.D. Kelly & Co. Solicitors dated 17 November 2004?

(12) On what basis has it been determined by Mr K M Brown, the Director of Liquor & Gaming that the contractual arrangements between Belmont Golf Club and Kalayla Pty Ltd has “generally been for the benefit of members of the Club and supported by members”?

(13) Given that neither a valuation nor any financial analysis was undertaken let alone presented to members prior to the decision, how has Mr K M Brown, the Director of Liquor & Gaming determined that these contractual arrangements have “generally been for the benefit of members”?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) I did sign a letter to the Member for Swansea dated 10 November 2004. The letter did not contain exactly the same paragraph as paragraph 3 in Mr Loewenthal’s letter to the Member for Wyong dated 10 November 2004. Furthermore, my letter to the Member for Swansea contained an additional paragraph informing him that the Club had been reminded of the need to ensure future compliance with Part 4A of the Registered Clubs Act, which includes section 41J.

(4) A letter was sent by Mr Loewenthal, the Delegate of the Director of Liquor and Gaming to the Chairman of Belmont Golf Club on 10 November 2004. It contained the quoted paragraph. The paragraph preceding the quoted paragraph was as follows:

Insofar as compliance with Section 41J of the Act is concerned, it has been established that the actions taken by the Club are covered by Departmental guidelines issued to cover situations where negotiations for the disposal of land had been entered into prior to the commencement of the new legislation.

The paragraph following the quoted paragraph was as follows:

Notwithstanding the determination, the Club should be mindful of the need to ensure compliance with the provisions of Part 4A of the Registered Clubs Act, (which includes section 41J), whilst in pursuit of the Club’s long term objectives as part of its agreement with the Terrace Tower Group.

(5) On 27 May 2005, the Department sent a letter to Hunt and Hunt, solicitors for the Directors of Belmont Golf Club, expanding upon its earlier correspondence with the Club.
(6) Not applicable.

(7) Yes.

(8) Mr Loewenthal’s letter to the Club dated 10 November 2004, and referred to in some detail in my answer to question 4, set out what the position of the Director of Liquor and Gaming was with respect to section 41J and Belmont Golf Club.

(9) I am satisfied, that the position the Director of Liquor and Gaming had adopted at that time, and which is more fully set out in my reply to question 4, had been communicated to the Club.

(10) The letter I signed and forwarded to the Member for Swansea on 10 November 2004, when read as a whole was not mistaken.

(11) They are not my guidelines.

(12) The view adopted in determining if a disposal of land has generally been for the benefit of members is to accept prima facie an assertion to that affect, unless or until it has been demonstrated otherwise and/or evidence has been provided that the particular disposal has not generally been for the benefit of members. Supported by members means exactly that, supported by way of vote or in some other overt manner.

By adopting the approach outlined in answer 12.

10 JUNE 2005

(Paper No. 138)

*4359 CARAVAN REPLACEMENT—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Is the Minister aware of a matter before the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal concerning application: Mr Martin Ford in relation to the purchase and subsequent replacement of a caravan?

(2) Is the Minister aware that the faulty caravan purchased by Mr Ford was “lost” after it had been returned to the factory for a replacement?

(3) Can the Minister advise if this is an isolated case or if other caravans have been “lost” or not returned to other owners under similar circumstances from the same manufacturer?

(4) If so, how many other consumers are currently affected or still awaiting the return of their caravans?

(5) If so, what action has the Minister taken to assist, warn and prevent other consumers being affected?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) The Chairperson of the Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal advises me that the facts in this matter will be explored at the hearing scheduled for 26 July 2005. I am advised that the Office of Fair Trading is also investigating Mr Ford’s allegations but is of the understanding that he has already successfully lodged a claim against his insurer for the loss.

(3) I am advised that no other complainant has alleged that their caravan has been “lost” by the manufacturer.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Not applicable however, I am advised Fair Trading’s investigation has established that the manufacturer has ceased to trade and that no known licensed dealer is selling the manufacturer’s new caravans.

*4360 RESIDENTIAL PARKS ACT REVIEW REPORT—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) When will the Minister act on recommendations and findings of the Residential Parks Act Review report tabled in the Parliament in December 2004?
(2) What action has the Minister taken to date in respect of the recommendations contained in that report?

Answer—

(1) I will be in a position in the near future to advise of the Government’s intentions in this regard.
(2) The action taken includes consultation with the key interest groups on the impact of the matters identified in the review report.

*4361 RETIREMENT VILLAGES ACT 1999—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) When will the Minister act on recommendations contained in the Retirement Villages Act 1999 report tabled in the Parliament in March 2005?
(2) What action and consultation will occur in relation to the recommendations contained in the report?

Answer—

(1) Following the conclusion of consultations and a proposal being submitted to cabinet any legislation will be considered by Parliament.
(2) I am advised that since I tabled the report of the review of the Retirement Villages Act 1999 on 24 March 2005, the Office of Fair Trading has been in consultation with stakeholders concerning the review’s recommendations. I will be meeting with relevant groups myself in the near future.

*4362 WATER QUALITY—Mr Pringle to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

In view of the 50 per cent reduction in environmental flows available to the Hawkesbury River and the fact that approximately 54,000 residents utilise water drawn directly from the river, what additional drinking water monitoring is proposed at the North Richmond plant to ensure the health and safety of residents?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that North Richmond Water Filtration Plant has been built to handle the wide range of variable raw water quality that is normally associated with extraction from a river source like the Hawkesbury River. It has the most sophisticated treatment processes of any plant operated by Sydney Water. These processes are capable of handling a wide range of chemical, physical and biological parameters that may be present in the raw water.

The water quality monitoring program in place for the North Richmond system is tailored to monitor the key drinking water quality variables associated with a river extraction plant. This monitoring plan is reviewed and approved by NSW Health annually.

Testing is carried out in raw water and treated water for a wide range of water quality characteristics. Test results are reported to NSW Health and are available on-line at www.sydneywater.com.au.

A summary of test results is also provided to customers each quarter in the “Your Water” brochure posted with quarterly accounts.

*4363 HAWKESBURY RIVER—Mr Pringle to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
In view of the 50 per cent reduction in environmental water flows to the Hawkesbury River, does the Government propose to:

(a) Increase water quality monitoring?
(b) Purchase a weed harvester to combat the likely outbreak of salvinia?
(c) Take measures to support the Hawkesbury prawn and fishing industries?
(d) Upgrade the standard of effluent discharge from the sewerage treatment plants?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

(a) Sydney Water undertakes a significant environmental and water monitoring program in the Hawkesbury River in line with its principal objectives to protect the environment and public health.

The monitoring includes sewage treatment system discharge quality as well as receiving environment quality to ascertain compliance with Sydney Water’s Operating Licence and Environment Protection Licence requirements. The frequency of monitoring and water quality parameters are set by NSW Health and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

A number of other agencies also undertake monitoring in the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment, including local government authorities and the Sydney Catchment Authority.

Further details relating to Sydney Water’s monitoring program are provided in the annual report, available on-line at www.sydneywater.com.au.

(b) This question should be directed to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources.

(c) This question should be directed to the Minister for Primary Industries.

(d) The level of treatment at each of the inland plants is designed to meet the environmental requirements specified in the Sewage Treatment System Licences issued to Sydney Water by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Sydney Water has been working over the past decade to upgrade treatment levels at its Hawkesbury sewage treatment plants (STPs), resulting in the significant reduction of nutrient loads from its plants. In 2003-04 all inland plants complied with nutrient load licence limits.

Nutrient loads will be further reduced with the decommissioning of Glenbrook STP, now in progress. The wastewater that was previously treated at Glenbrook STP, a conventional secondary treatment plant, will be treated at Penrith STP, an advanced nutrient removal plant.

*4364 WATER QUALITY MONITORING—Mr Pringle to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

What are the locations of the water quality monitoring points for the Hawkesbury River and its tributaries?

Answer—

The sites at which monitoring is undertaken are published in Sydney Water’s Annual Report, available on-line at www.sydneywater.com.au.

*4365 ROUSE HILL POLICE STATION—Mr Pringle to Minister for Police—

With the massive increase in population growth in the Rouse Hill district and North-Western Sydney in general, when does the Minister propose to establish a permanent police presence in the area?
In line with current total asset management planning processes, all agencies are required to identify the most appropriate properties to support government services. This includes the development of ongoing capital investment strategies. All NSW Police properties will be included in this planning process.

*4366 BUS SERVICES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

In relation to bus services:
(1) How many complaints were received about 382 bus services in 2004?
(2) How many of these complaints related to 382 buses that were cancelled?
(3) How many of these complaints related to 382 buses that were late?
(4) How many of these complaints related to 382 buses that were fully loaded and unable to pick up passengers?
(5) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 30 minutes for a 382 bus?
(6) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 45 minutes for a 382 bus?
(7) How many complainants stated that this problem was an ongoing concern, with buses regularly late or cancelled?
(8) What causes of delays and cancellations were identified when these complaints were investigated?
(9) What action was taken in response to these complaints?
(10) What action has the Government taken to ensure the 382 bus service is reliable and meets demand?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) 9
(2) 1
(3) 1
(4) 1
(5) Nil
(6) Nil
(7) Not available
(8) to (10) The most common cause of delays for these services was traffic problems such as peak hour traffic congestion. Each complaint is investigated and callers are contacted and provided with the reasons for the delays of the relevant service. All services are continuously monitored and customer feedback reviewed. In addition to working closely with local councils and the Roads and Traffic Authority to reduce traffic impediments, State Transit will continue to monitor bus loadings and timings along this route.

*4367 FISHERMEN’S SAFETY—Mr Richardson to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

What steps are you taking to ensure that fishermen’s safety is not compromised by the restrictions imposed on them by the new Lord Howe Island Marine Park, which are causing tourists to fish under unsafe weather conditions or miss out altogether?

Answer—

The Lord Howe Island Marine Park Zoning Plan was developed after four years of detailed consultation with local operators of fishing boat charters. Ninety per cent of tourists who fish other than from the shore, do so under the guidance of licensed local fishing charter operators. The zoning plan permits fishing in 73% of the island’s water and this enjoys strong community support without compromising the safety of fisher men and women.
FISHING PROMOTION—Mr Richardson to Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Women—

(1) Are you aware that, although your Department promotes fishing as a recreational activity to undertake on Lord Howe Island, the new Marine Park zonings mean that many tourists are unable to fish or put their lives at risk by fishing under unsafe weather conditions?

(2) What steps are being taken to ensure that tourists who want to go fishing are still encouraged to visit the island and catch fish when they are there?

(3) What steps have you taken to moderate the impact on the charter boat fishing industry on the island of prohibition on boats longer than 5 metres long anchoring in the lagoon?

Answer—

(1) The Lord Howe Island Marine Park comes under the jurisdiction of the Department for the Environment. However, Tourism NSW advises me that under the current park zoning plan, the majority of the coastal waters offering shelter from the prevailing winds remain available for fishing. 90% of tourists who fish, do so under the guidance of a licensed local fishing charter operator. These operators are required to carry appropriate vessel operating qualifications. The safety of their customers is paramount and they are required to operate in a safe manner at all times.

(2) Effective destination management will ensure that the Island remains an attractive place to live and to visit.

The Government’s natural resource management agencies have been working closely with Lord Howe Island residents to ensure that the Island’s natural resources and its economy are being sustainably managed and that conservation and tourism continue to co-exist.

(3) No new initiatives with respect to the Island’s charter boat fishing industry are considered necessary as the current zoning plan has the support of a majority of the local community. Visitors will continue to be able to enjoy recreational fishing on Lord Howe Island either independently or through the available deep sea, rock and shore fishing charters.

Tourism New South Wales continues to work in partnership with the local tourism association and will continue its current marketing campaign strategy for Lord Howe Island, focussing on PR and on-line marketing to increase awareness and intention to travel in the domestic target markets.

ELECTRICITY MARKET—Mr Richardson to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) How many residential customers have switched from Integral Energy to Energy Australia since the introduction of full contestability to the electricity market?

(2) How many business customers have switched from Integral Energy to Energy Australia since the introduction of full contestability to the electricity market?

(3) How many residential customers have switched from Energy Australia to Integral Energy since the introduction of full contestability to the electricity market?

(4) How many business customers have switched from Energy Australia to Integral Energy since the introduction of full contestability to the electricity market?

Answer—

(1) to (4) The information sought is commercial-in-confidence as Integral Energy and Energy Australia compete with each other as well as other licensed energy retail suppliers in the New South Wales competitive energy market.
In relation to attacks on places of worship:
(1) Have there been any convictions for attacks on churches, synagogues, mosques or other places of worship in NSW in the last ten years?
(2) If so, in each case, what was the date and location of the attack and the date and the nature of the conviction?

Answer—
(1) and (2) I am advised by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) that for the 10 year period between 1994 and 2003, 39 charges were proven under section 106 (1) of the Crimes Act 1900. Section 106 (1) of the Act relates to breaking and entering a place of worship and committing a serious indictable offence. However, BOCSAR does not record more specific information in relation to attacks on places of worship.

In relation to travelling times:
(1) What will be the impact of the significant increases in traffic expected from the Cross City Tunnel through the suburbs of Glebe, Annandale and Paddington on bus travel times in those areas, especially the 433, 432 and all routes using the Anzac Bridge?
(2) Would a dedicated bus lane over the Anzac Bridge improve running times for bus services that travel to and from the CBD via the Anzac Bridge?
(3) Has the Department of Transport participated in any investigation of an outbound bus lane over the Anzac Bridge (to be conducted under the conditions of consent for approval of the Cross City Tunnel), and what are the outcomes of any such investigations?
(4) Does the Department of Transport support the provision of priority signalling for light rail services, as in other cities, to improve running times of services?
(5) Does the Department of Transport accept that an important way to improve average road speed for motorists is to lift the average speed of the public transport system?
(6) What impact will slowing of the rail timetable have on average road speeds?

Answer—
(1) and (2) This matter falls within the administration of the Minister for Roads and should be referred to that Minister.
(3) to (5) There is no Department of Transport.
(5) RailCorp has not conducted any studies on this issue.

Given your advice that “guidelines” for clubs produced by the Director of Liquor and Gaming only applied to agreements entered into for the disposal of land prior to the commencement date of the legislation and that since that date all clubs are required to strictly comply with the legislation (ref Q&A 4060):
(1) As s41J of the Registered Clubs Act commenced in March 2004 and the contractual agreement between Kalayla Pty Ltd and Belmont Golf Club was executed on 19 July 2004, why hasn’t the Director of Liquor and Gaming implemented the s41J provisions?
Answer—

The guidelines provide that some form of agreement, e.g. memorandum of understanding, must have been entered into prior to 10 December 2003. I am advised that negotiations into the proposal to dispose of land were formalized on 24 July 2003 by way of execution of a Letter of Appointment between Belmont Golf Club and Woodbury Park Estates Pty Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Terrace Tower Group) on behalf of the Terrace Tower Group.

*4373 RANDOM DRUG/BREATH TESTING—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Police—

1. Is the Minister aware of the results of the Victorian trial of random drug/breath testing for drivers of heavy vehicles?
2. If so, will he advise me what those results indicated?
3. What is the current process under which NSW Police are able to conduct drug testing on a heavy-vehicle driver?
4. How many tests, using the process in (3) above, were conducted in the past 12 months?
5. How many of these tests were positive?
6. What were the penalties given to those heavy-vehicle drivers who provided a positive drug test reading?
7. Are NSW Police able to conduct tests on heavy-vehicle operators on a random basis?
8. If not, why not?
9. Are there plans to introduce random drug testing of heavy vehicle drivers?
10. Are there plans to introduce random drug/breath testing of heavy-vehicle drivers?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

1 and 2. Results of the Victorian trials have not yet been made available to NSW Police.
3. There is no differentiation in drug testing legislation between drivers of heavy vehicles and those of any other type of vehicle.
4 and 5. There is currently no way to distinguish between samples taken from drivers of heavy vehicles and those of any other type of vehicle.
6. Court results are a matter for the Attorney General's Department.
7. Random breath tests for alcohol are conducted on all drivers, including those of heavy vehicles.
8. N/A.
9 and 10. Plans to introduce legislation allowing random drug testing of all motor vehicle drivers, including those of heavy vehicles, are in progress.

*4374 TAXI RANKS IN CITY OF SYDNEY —Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Transport—

1. (a) How many signposted taxi ranks exist in Sydney, within the approximate perimeters of Bathurst Street, Sussex Street, Macquarie Street and Circular Quay?
   (a) What is the location of each of these signposted taxi ranks?
2. (a) How many signposted taxi ranks exist in the Rocks area of Sydney?
   (b) What is the location of each of these posted taxi ranks?
3. Have you received any correspondence from the NSW Taxi Council Ltd or (b) any Taxi company or (c) Taxi operator or (d) member of the public requesting an increase in the number of taxi ranks in the Sydney CBD or The Rocks localities?
4. Will he review the current number of signposted taxi ranks available in the Sydney CBD and the Rocks with a view to increasing the numbers?
Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (4) The location of taxi ranks in the Sydney CBD is determined by the Sydney City Council, who may consult with NSW Police, the Roads and Traffic Authority and the NSW Taxi Council in considering such matters.

The Ministry of Transport is a member of a Working Group convened by the Roads and Traffic Authority which is looking at the possible provision of additional taxi pick up and set down zones in the CBD, North Sydney and other key areas. The NSW Taxi Council is also a member of this Working Group.

*4375 POLICE SERVICE ACT—Mr Oakeshott to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

(1) Do the provisions of the Police Service Act that deny senior police officers natural justice in cases of possible dismissal also apply to the public service generally?
(2) Is there concern that these provisions inhibit talented individuals seeking careers in the police service, or the public service generally?
(3) If these standards only apply to police, why has this one area of public service been singled out for such standards that are potentially unjust?
(4) Would you consider appointing a suitable person to examine the circumstances of dismissal of former Deputy Commissioner Jarratt in a non-litigious way, to see whether some amendment might need to be made to the legislation to give serving police and future police officers some assurance that Parliament recognises their valuable role in society?

Answer—

(1) to (4) I am advised that the provisions in section 51 of the Police Act 1990 for the removal of senior police are largely the same as the provisions of the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002 that apply to senior executives throughout the public sector.

As Mr Jarratt’s appeal is currently before the High Court it would not be appropriate to make any comment in relation to this matter.

*4376 HARASSMENT CASES—Mr George to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

(1) What is the annual cost to the State Government for (non sexual) harassment cases in NSW?
(2) What is the annual cost per user to the Department of Health?

Answer—

(1) and (2) There are currently no centrally held records on (non-sexual) harassment cases to determine an annual cost.

*4377 POLICE HANDLING —Mr Stoner to Minister for Police—

In relation to Mr Stephen Quintano’s allegations regarding police handling of investigations into the disappearance and assaults on his two young children:

(1) Are you aware that the ICAC advised Mr Quintano that it no longer deals with matters concerning NSW Police officers since the establishment of the Police Integrity Commission (PIC)?
Are you aware that the PIC advised Mr Quintano that as the matter is now old and that documents considered that at the most, incompetence on the part of police could be established, it would not handle his complaint?

In relation to (1) and (2) above, and given that you have indicated that two of the offenders remained at large, what action do you propose to deal with Mr Quintano’s complaints?

**Answer—**

I am advised that Mr Quintano’s allegations arising from the investigation into the alleged abduction of his children in 1986 were referred to the Wood Royal Commission in 1996 and subject to an Internal Affairs investigation in 1997, an Ombudsman’s review in 1997, a Police Integrity Commission review in 1997, an investigation by the NSW Police Child Protection Enforcement Agency in 1998 and Supreme Court proceedings. I understand no adverse findings were made against police.

In relation to the proposed Kempsey to Eungai upgrade of the Pacific Highway:

(1) What is the likely impact of the proposed works on flooding in the Sevenoaks drainage area, near Clybucca, given that this area currently stays flooded for longer periods than other areas in the district during flood events, due in part to ineffective floodgate operation?

(2) In view of these likely impacts, what action do you propose to undertake to ensure that landowners are not disadvantaged?

**Answer—**

(1) and (2) I am advised:

The NSW Government is contributing $1.6 billion over ten years to the $2.2 billion Pacific Highway Upgrade Program.

The Government’s priority to improve safety on the Pacific Highway is delivering dual carriage way from Hexham to the Queensland border.

The Kempsey to Eungai upgrading project includes the development of a 39 kilometre dual carriageway route along the Pacific Highway between the existing dual carriageways south of Kempsey to Eungai Rail.

A community liaison group has been established as part of the commencement of the environmental impact assessment and concept design phase of the project.

The RTA will continue to work with landowners and communities to ensure any concerns are addressed.

**WATER EXTRACTION**—Mr Amery to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

(1) What is the average rate of water extraction from the State’s river systems on an annual basis?

(2) What is the trend in water extractions from the State’s rivers over the past five years?
Answer—

(1) The long-term average extraction for the regulated rivers is 5700GL. Added to this is the unregulated Barwon/Darling system of about 190 GL. Since these figures represent about 90% of total NSW extractions the average rate of water extraction from the State’s river systems on an annual basis is estimated as 6500 GL.

(2) Over the past five years the state has been in drought, the state wide extractions have been:

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>4120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>5300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As can be seen the average extraction is 81% of the long-term extraction. This is a consistent result considering the paucity of recent rainfall.

*4380 CAPPED WATER DIVERSIONS—Mr Amery to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

(1) What is the current position of all Governments participating in the Murray Darling Basin Commission in complying with the cap on water diversions?
(2) Is the Barwon Darling Catchment the only one in New South Wales not to have a “cap” on water diversions?
(3) Is it a fact that Queensland will not have a cap in place for some time?
(4) Is it the Minister’s intention not to insist on a “cap” in the Barwon-Darling until the Queensland Government establishes its own cap on diversions?

Answer—

(1) All of the partner governments to the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement support the Cap and report annually to the Independent Audit Group on their compliance with it. The South Australian and Victorian Governments are particularly keen to see a Cap compliance strategy introduced on the Barwon-Darling. This Government remains committed to implementing a strategy on the Barwon-Darling this year.

(2) With the exception of the regulated Border Rivers, for which a Cap agreement is being finalised in partnership with Queensland, the Barwon Darling is the last of the major irrigation rivers within NSW not to have a specific Cap management strategy in place. As you would be well aware, having been Minister for Land and Water Conservation during the peak of NSW Water Reforms and existence of the Barwon-Darling River Management Committee, this government has made a considerable and concerted effort to work with the community to develop a Cap management strategy for the Barwon-Darling. It is a particularly complex issue and one that has proven very challenging to the local community who have expressed a diversity of views on how water should be shared in this valley.

(3) With respect to water management in Queensland, this Government continues to oppose the approach taken in that state. However, Queensland has argued all along that while it is supportive of the Cap agreement, it would define its caps differently to the other states, on the basis that its rivers were under-developed at the time the Cap was introduced. This is not consistent with the intent of the Cap, which was to put a halt to growth in water diversions throughout the Basin. The Queensland caps are broadly defined through their Water Resource Plans, which I understand have now been completed for all Basin rivers. While two of these plans do not allow for any further growth, it remains a concern that growth in development and water use will still be allowed in other valleys that affect New South Wales – for this is clearly inconsistent with the intent of the Cap agreement.
(4) No. The approach taken in Queensland is entirely inconsistent with the intent of capping water use in the Basin’s rivers. NSW is committed to the Cap and to implementing a management strategy on the Barwon-Darling that ensures diversions comply with it. Action taken in NSW to comply with the Cap is not predicated on the action, or inaction, of Queensland.

**4381 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—HORNSBY ELECTORATE—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—**

What are the details of all the infrastructure projects in the Education portfolio that will commence in the Hornsby electorate within the next 12 months, including total estimated cost, expected completion date and amount allocated this year?

Answer—

The 2005/06 State Budget provides over $390 million for the construction or redevelopment of schools and the provision of information technology infrastructure and minor capital works. In addition, a further $88.9 million has been allocated to upgrade and redevelop TAFE Institutes across the State as well as the National Art School.

Projects included in the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program are scheduled to be announced later this year.

**4382 FULL FARE PRICES—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport—**

For a full fare, in relation to prices as at 1 September in each of the following years 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004:

(1) What was the price of a return ticket from Berowra station (via North Shore line) to Central Station and from Hornsby (via North Shore line) to Central Station?

(2) What was the price of a return fare from Hornsby (via the main North line) to Central Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Ticket prices vary according to the time of day the ticket is purchased and whether the purchaser is entitled to a concession.

**4383 CLEARWAY PROJECTS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport—**

Regarding the Hornsby clearways project extra platform construction:

(1) How many car spaces will be lost in the High Street car park?

(2) How many extra car spaces will be added the George Street car park?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) It is estimated that following the completion of construction of the extra platform at Hornsby Station, the High Street car park will have approximately 27 parking spaces.

(2) Design work is currently being undertaken to determine the number of additional car spaces that could be provided in the George Street car park.
BELMONT GOLF CLUB—Mr Crittenden to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

With respect to Belmont Golf Club (Ref. Q 4056):

(1) On how many occasions has the Premier’s Department Regional Co-ordinator for the Hunter, Mr. B. Chard met with the President and/or other directors and/or officers of Belmont Golf Club?
(2) What is/are the date(s) of this/these meeting(s)?
(3) Who was present on each occasion there has been a meeting?
(4) On each occasion who was the individual or party who initiated the meeting(s)?
(5) Did any Board member, Director or officer of Belmont Golf Club seek Mr. Chard’s support for, or intervention in, or involvement with respect to any or all aspects of the proposed development between the Belmont Golf Club and Kalayla Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of the Terrace Tower Group?
(6) Did Mr. Chard meet with the Terrace Tower Group at the same time as the Minister for the Hunter met with them for a briefing?
(7) If not, has Mr. Chard met with the Terrace Tower Group or any officer, employee associate or Director of the Terrace Tower Group at any other time?
(8) With regard to Aboriginal Land Claim 6577, are you satisfied that all relevant inquiries as to the validity of the claim have been, and will continue to be made, prior to determination of the claim?

Answer—

(1) to (8) The contract group between Belmont Golf Club and Kalayla Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Terrace Towers Group, is a private contract.

I am advised that there is an Aboriginal land claim on part of the land involved in this contract, Aboriginal Land Claim 6577.

I am advised processing of this claim has occurred in due order. All Aboriginal land claims are treated in the same manner and are based on their merits.

The local Member, Mr Milton Orkopoulos, Member for Swansea, has been kept appraised of the situation by the Premier’s Department Regional Coordinator, Mr B Chard.

21 JUNE 2005

(Paper No. 139)

EUREKA FLAG—Mr Stoner to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

(1) Who authorized the flying of the Eureka Flag on the Sydney Harbour Bridge on 3 December 2004 to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Eureka Stockade?
(2) Will this flag fly every year on 3 December?
(3) If yes, what reasons were given for this decision to be reached, as it is neither a public holiday nor an official day of commemoration?
(4) If yes, which state buildings and/or structures will the Eureka Flag fly from?

Answer—

Following a request by the Premier of Victoria, the New South Wales Government agreed to fly the Eureka Flag on the Sydney Harbour Bridge to mark the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade. The Eureka Flag was also flown in the National Capital.

I am advised that the flag will be flown annually at Parliament House. This is a matter for the Presiding Officers and the Parliament, not the New South Wales Government.
*4386 MILLENNIUM TRAINS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport—

(1) How many Millennium trains are currently in use?
(2) How many Millennium carriages are there?
(3) Where do these trains run in the rail system?
(4) In the past year, how many times have these existing trains broken down, and what were the reason?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) to (3) The number of Millennium trains transporting passengers varies according to the timetable and crew training program. Information regarding the number of Millennium trains in the CityRail fleet and services currently operating can be found on the CityRail website at www.cityrail.info.
(4) Under the contract with EDI Rail, performance is measured in terms of “Contract Incidents”. A Contract Incident is one which results in an in-service delay in excess of 3 minutes. There have been 100 Contract Incidents in the past 12 months, of which five required cancellation of the train service.

*4387 FREIGHT TRAIN CURFEW—BLUE MOUNTAINS—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport—

(1) Is there a curfew on freight trains utilising the Western line through the Blue Mountains?
(2) Is so, what are the details?
(3) Has electric traction been considered?
(4) Has the Minister considered utilising a Cargo Sprinter style service?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) and (2) No.
(3) Yes.
(4) A cargo Sprinter style service is limited in the amount of haulage it can carry and would lead to an increase in the frequency of freight trains through the Blue Mountains.

*4388 WINDSOR POLICE STATION—Mr Pringle to Minister for Police—

(1) Will the Minister consider a public/private partnership or any other proposal to fast track the establishment of a new Police Station for the Hawkesbury District?
(2) When is it proposed to improve police accommodation in the Hawkesbury District?

Answer—

An ongoing program to deliver 27 new police stations over the next 5 years was announced in the budget papers of 2004-05. Richmond/Windsor is one of the locations included in this program. Procurement methods such as public / private partnerships are being considered as part of the overall planning process.

*4389 WINDFARMS—Ms Seaton to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) Regarding Crookwell Windfarm 1, what studies have been done by any agency of NSW government on the financial, environmental, energy output, cost per unit and other performance of the project?
(2) Who prepared these studies?
(3) Are they publicly available?
(4) What were the results of the studies?
(5) What are the:
(a) Annual costs per turbine
(b) Actual tonnes of carbon saved per turbine
(c) Details of actual hours operating per year per turbine
(d) Actual income per turbine per annum
(e) Details of surveys into wildlife damage
(f) Actual details of financial records including all losses and or profit
(g) Variation between actual income and 1997 estimates
(h) Details of all expenses and contributions since original application
(i) Details of all State Government subsidies?

Answer—

(1) to (4) The research, planning and studies undertaken prior to the construction and operation of Crookwell Wind Farm in July 1998, were carried out by Pacific Power. As part of Pacific Power’s assets, Crookwell Wind Farm was transferred to Eraring Energy by Ministerial Order under the Energy Services Corporations Act 1995 on 2nd August 2000.

On transfer, owing to the amount of documentation relating to Pacific Power’s assets held by its offices and in the 28,000 boxes archived at the Government Records Repository, legal agreement was reached between Pacific Power, TransGrid, Delta Electricity, Macquarie Generation and Eraring Energy as follows:

- boxes containing majority of files concerning a particular agency would be issued and held by that agency
- access would be given on request by other agencies for transfer of their files.

In order to ensure that any information supplied in response to this question is accurate and complete, Eraring Energy would need to allocate staff from their normal duties to search, locate and review all files and documents concerning Crookwell Wind Farm from other agencies. To provide this information would require an unreasonable use of available resources.

(5) (a) The information sought is considered “commercial-in-confidence” given Eraring Energy’s operation in a competitive market.

(a) Based on research compiled prior to the Crookwell Wind Farm being constructed it is estimated 8,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions are saved per turbine per annum.

(b) Estimated at 7,749 average hours operating time per turbine, taking into consideration the following factors:
- Maintenance requirements;
- Gear problems;
- Generator failures;
- Lightning strikes; and
- external disturbances.

(c) The information sought is considered “commercial-in-confidence” given Eraring Energy’s operation in a competitive market.

(d) To provide this information would require an unreasonable use of available resources in searching, collation and review of the requested information for the reasons given in answer (1)-(4).

(e) to (h) The information sought is considered “commercial-in-confidence” given Eraring Energy’s operation in a competitive market.

(f) Eraring Energy does not receive any State Government subsidies for Crookwell Wind Farm.

*4390 COMPANION ANIMALS ACT—Ms Seaton to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

(1) How many authorised officers are active in NSW in policing the Companion Animals Act?
(2) In each year since the commencement of the Act how many breaches have been detected under the Companion Animals Act where inspectors have found people selling animals without microchips?
(3) Of the breaches, how many have resulted in fines or other penalties?
(4) Have any breaches been detected as a result of following up advertisements for sales or giving-away of animals through classified advertisements?

Answer—

The Companion Animals Act falls within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Local Government.

*4391 ACTING JUDGES—Mr Tink to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

(1) How many matters have been dealt with by Judges or Acting Judges in the NSW District Court for each of the years 2003; 2004; and 2005?
(2) How many of these total number of matters dealt with by the NSW District Court, have been dealt with by Acting Judges for each of the years 2003; 2004; and 2005?

Answer—

This information cannot readily be retrieved from existing databases used in the Court. It would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to undertake a manual count.

*4392 F3 FREEWAY—Mr Souris to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What strategy or plans for improvement does the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) have which would effectively eliminate the remaining section of road which presently has a speed limit of 90kph?
(2) Will the RTA consider eliminating the 90kph section on the northbound route?
(3) Are there any sections of 2-lane roadway north or south bound between Wahroonga and Ourimbah?
(4) What plans does the RTA have for the upgrade of the road to three lanes?

Answer—

I am advised:
(1) and (2) As I have publicly stated on several occasions, I’ve asked the RTA to investigate lifting the speed limit on the F3 between the Hawkesbury River Bridge and Mount White to 100 km/hr from the current 90 km/hr. As announced in May 2005, the speed limit will shortly be increased to 100km/hr to coincide with the relocation of a speed camera.
(3) and (4) The F3 freeway is the responsibility of the Federal Government and subject to funding under the proposed Auslink agreement. The proposed AusLink arrangements mean the Federal Government will withdraw from its long standing accountability for fully funding National Highways, including the F3, at a time when these highways require significant investment in asset renewal. The Federal Government is also planning to reduce maintenance, safety & urgent minor works funding levels.

*4393 TAXIS EQUIPPED FOR DISABLED PEOPLE—Mr Amery to Minister for Transport—

(1) How many taxis are currently in service in New South Wales that are equipped to transport people with severe and/or permanent disabilities?
(2) How have these numbers varied since this type of taxi service was introduced by a Labor Government in 1981?
Answer—

I am advised:

1. There are 472 Wheelchair Accessible Taxi licences currently on issue in New South Wales.
2. I am advised by the Ministry of Transport that records are not available for 1981.

*4394 CONTRACTOR BEST PRACTICE SCHEME—Mr J.H. Turner to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

With reference to information regarding the practice of awarding contracts in the Department’s Best Practice Accreditation Scheme (reference to Question on Notice 3840):

1. Will the Minister advise why the tendering for the upgrade of the Bulahdelah Central School was raised to Best Practice?
2. Who made that decision?
3. Who are the twelve contractors registered for projects in the Great Lakes Council area under the Contractor Best Practice Scheme?

Answer—

1. Tendering for the Bulahdelah Central School was undertaken by the Department of Commerce in accordance with normal procedures. Under those procedures, for projects worth more than $2.5 million, tenders are invited from building companies that are registered in the Department’s Contractor Best Practice Accreditation Scheme.
2. As there was no departure from normal procedures, no decision was required.
3. The twelve Best Practice accredited firms registered for projects in the Great Lakes Council area include:
   - Richard Crookes Constructions Pty Limited
   - Brisland Pty Limited (the successful tenderer)
   - John Holland Pty Ltd
   - National Buildplan Group Pty Ltd
   - Reed Constructions Australia Pty Limited
   - ACH Clifford Pty Ltd
   - Lahey Constructions Pty Ltd
   - ADCO Constructions Pty Ltd
   - Belmadar Constructions Pty Ltd
   - Commercial Industrial Contractors Pty Ltd
   - Hansen Yuncken Pty Ltd
   - Brodyn Pty Ltd

*4395 MANNING GREAT LAKES POLICE COMMAND—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Police—

1. Is the Manning Great Lakes Police Command at full strength?
2. If not, what is the strength?
3. If not, when will the strength be brought to full strength?

Answer—

1. to (3) Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Internet site, www.police.nsw.gov.au.
*4396 HAZARD REDUCTION BURNING—Mr Constance to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

(1) What scientific research has been undertaken into hazard reduction burns?
(2) What support has been given to patients suffering asthma and other respiratory discomforts who suffer difficulties during burn offs in regional areas?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) that DEC scientists have played a leading role in building a substantial body of research on hazard reduction burning and related issues in bushfire management. This work was comprehensively reviewed in the book Flammable Australia: the fire regimes and biodiversity of a continent (eds R. Bradstock, J. Williams and A. M. Gill) published by Cambridge University Press. This work shows that hazard reduction burning is one of several important complementary measures in the protection of human life and property against bushfires.

To maximise opportunities for the public to be forewarned about a hazard reduction burn, it is DEC practice to issue local media releases when burns are planned.

*4397 DIVING LEVY—Mr Constance to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) How will the $20 levy for divers exploring Grey Nurse Shark habitats be spent?
(2) Will conservation groups benefit financially from the levy?

Answer—

(1) There is currently no $20 dive levy.
(2) N/A.

*4398 GOULBURN MATERNITY CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Health—

(1) In what media and on what days was the Goulburn Maternity Clinical Services Plan public consultation meeting, held on 10 June 2005, advertised?
(2) To which clinics, health care centres, doctors’ surgeries, community groups and to how many consumers was the Greater Southern Area Health Service questionnaire, associated with the review of maternity services, distributed?
(3) Has the availability of this questionnaire been advertised?
(4) If so, in what media and on what dates was the availability of this questionnaire advertised?
(5) Do consumers or other parties interested in making a submission on this review have to ring the Greater Southern Area Health Service to obtain a copy of the questionnaire?

Answer—

(1) I am advised by Chief Executive Greater Southern Area Health Service that a preliminary consultation meeting was held on the 10 June 2005 to canvas a number of issues including the provision of maternity services at Goulburn. Meeting advice was distributed to all Health Council Chairs and the General Managers and senior members of staff within the Area Health Service prior to the meeting date. This preliminary meeting was held to clarify key ideas for the working party with respect to community perceptions about maternity services.

More widely advertised consultations are envisaged for the future once the working party has established a community consultation plan.

(2) to (5) The working party is yet to decide the form of future consultation, whether by community meetings, questionnaires or newsletters.
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Wednesday 14 September 2005

*4399 INFRINGEMENT NOTICE—Ms Hodgkinson to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

(1) Was infringement notice 7630347184 for vehicle ALP 70D at 11.06am on 7 April 2005 issued as a result of observation from a camera or direct visual observation by a person?

(2) How can you explain the fact that at the time of the alleged offence vehicle ALP 70D was parked at Trinity Catholic College in Goulburn almost 300km from the site of the alleged offence in Anzac Parade, Maroubra?

(3) Will you ensure that a written apology is sent to the registered owner of vehicle ALP 70D?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The Infringement Processing Bureau has no record of infringement notice 7630347184 issued in relation to vehicle ALP70D.

*4400 DEMOLITION OF MILFIELD BRIDGE—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Women—

(1) Were you consulted by the Roads and Traffic Authority, the Minister for Roads or his office, before the decision to demolish the old Milfield Bridge, on the historic ‘Convict Trail’ on the Great North Road between Sydney and the Hunter Valley, was taken?

(2) If so, will you provide me with a copy of the advice that you provided in response to this consultation?

(3) As this bridge is the only significant tourist attraction in this area and its retention and conservation is supported by the Cessnock Council, the Convict Trail Project, the Milfield Heritage Preservation Group, the Cessnock Historical Society, the NSW Heritage Office and the community of Milfield, will you urgently seek a suspension of the demolition of this bridge to allow further conservation measures to be investigated?

Answer—

(1) to (3) This is a matter being addressed by the Roads and Traffic Authority under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Roads. Tourism NSW is advised that wide consultation with the community, Council and the NSW Heritage Office was undertaken regarding the bridge design.

*4401 PARRAMATTA DOMAIN PUBLICATION—Ms Allan to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

(1) Is your Department aware of a recent publication by Pam Trimmer on the ‘Parramatta Domain’?

(2) Does this document fill a much needed gap in accessible information on the history of Parramatta and surrounding areas?

(3) Will you request the Heritage Office assist in the production and distribution of the publication?

Answer—

I am advised that Ms Trimmer undertook substantial research for the publication using the resources of the Heritage Office library. The Heritage Office advise that they believe Ms Trimmer’s publication will be a welcome addition to other histories of the Parramatta area that have been published. The Heritage Office provide an annual grant of $45,000 to the Royal Australian Historical Society, which makes small grants for heritage-related research and publications to individual historians and historical societies.
SEWERAGE TREATMENT—BAULKHAM HILLS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) How is sewerage treatment outfall utilised in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area?
(2) Does the Baulkham Hills Shire Council manage the re-use of this water?
(3) Does Hornsby Shire Council undergo a similar utilisation of treated sewerage?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

(1) The Baulkham Hills Local Government Area (LGA) is served by three Sydney Water sewage collection and treatment systems - Rouse Hill, Castle Hill and the Upper Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall System which drains to North Head Sewage Treatment Plant. The Rouse Hill system incorporates a scheme that supplies recycled water for toilet flushing and external uses to the housing release area of Rouse Hill. The Rouse Hill Recycled Water Scheme serves the suburbs of Rouse Hill, Kellyville, Beaumont Hills and part of Castle Hill within the Baulkham Hills LGA.

The Rouse Hill Recycled Water Scheme is the largest residential recycled water scheme in Australia. The scheme currently supplies 1.3 billion litres of recycled water per year to over 15,000 dwellings and significantly reduces demand for drinking water. The scheme will supply over 4 billion litres of recycled water per year to around 36,000 dwellings when the area has been fully developed. As well as reducing the demand for drinking water, the scheme forms part of a co-ordinated water cycle management program designed to help protect the environmental health of the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers. It includes advanced treatment of sewage to enable recycling of wastewater, and pollution reduction measures on the stormwater system. More details about Sydney Water’s integrated approach to water cycle management in the Rouse Hill area can be found on-line at www.sydneywater.com.au.

The Castle Hill system provides 80 million litres of treated effluent per year for the irrigation of Castle Hill Golf Course.

(2) This question should be directed to the Minister for Local Government.

(3) This question should be directed to the Minister for Local Government.

ABORIGINAL LAND CLAIM—HORNSBY ELECTORATE—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

(1) What is the update on all parcels of land under an Aboriginal land claim (granted or otherwise) in the Hornsby electorate?
(2) Where are these sites?
(3) What plans/uses are proposed for these sites?

Answer—

(1) Aboriginal land claims lodged within the Hornsby electorate are within the Parishes of Cowan and South Colah, County Cumberland, and the status of the claims are shown on the enclosed attachments.

(2) Descriptions of the location of these claims are shown on the enclosed attachments.

(3) Once granted, the freehold of land is transferred to the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council, in this case the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council. What development may ultimately occur on those lands are matters for the local government council’s consideration under the State’s environmental planning regulations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLAIM NO</th>
<th>IDENTIFIER</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2683</td>
<td>Portions 23</td>
<td>Port Granted/Part Refused</td>
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<tr>
<td>3427</td>
<td>Vacant Crown land (VCL) west of Village Berowra</td>
<td>Port Granted/Part Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3428</td>
<td>VCL NE Berowra Heights, west of Highway</td>
<td>Port Granted/Part Refused</td>
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<tr>
<td>6175</td>
<td>Portions 19, 330, 282 &amp; land adjacent thereto off the Gully Rd</td>
<td>Refused</td>
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<tr>
<td>6176</td>
<td>Portions 394 &amp; 361</td>
<td>Refused</td>
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<tr>
<td>6177</td>
<td>Part. Portion 373 &amp; Lots 5 to 7 Sec. 23</td>
<td>Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6178</td>
<td>Lot 16 Sec. 24 &amp; Part Portion. 366 Turner Rd, Berowra Hts</td>
<td>Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6179</td>
<td>Portion 293 &amp; land adjacent thereto</td>
<td>Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6180</td>
<td>Portion 291</td>
<td>Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6181</td>
<td>Portion 265</td>
<td>Under investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6182</td>
<td>Portions 320, 360, 124, 286 &amp; land adjacent thereto.</td>
<td>Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6187</td>
<td>Land adjacent. to Sections. 4 &amp; 7 on the Gully Rd</td>
<td>Refused</td>
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<tr>
<td>6188</td>
<td>Portions. 378, Part 366, 367, Part Reserve 77011 &amp; land adjacent. to Portion. 104</td>
<td>Refused</td>
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<tr>
<td>6323</td>
<td>Land adjacent. to Sections. 4 &amp; 7 and the Gully Road</td>
<td>Under investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6324</td>
<td>Portions. 32, 293 and adjacent. Crown land</td>
<td>Under investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6325</td>
<td>Portions. 361 &amp; 394</td>
<td>Granted</td>
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<tr>
<td>6328</td>
<td>Portions. 291 &amp; adjacent. Crown land</td>
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<td>6329</td>
<td>Portions. 16 &amp; 366</td>
<td>Under investigation</td>
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<td>6330</td>
<td>Part Portion. 373 &amp; Lots 5 to 8 DP248563</td>
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<td>6465</td>
<td>Portion. 378, Part 366, 367, Part Reserve 77011 &amp; land adjacent to Portion 104</td>
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<td>6630</td>
<td>Lots 19, 330, 282, 286, 390, 363 DP752026 Lot 7010 DP93853 &amp; adjoining lands</td>
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<td>Portion 322</td>
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<td>6704</td>
<td>Portion 376 &amp; adjoining Crown land</td>
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<tr>
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<td>STATUS</td>
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<td>3424</td>
<td>Portion 73</td>
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<td>3425</td>
<td>Portions 875 &amp; vacant Crown land west of Portion 735</td>
<td>Part Granted/Part Refused</td>
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<td>3426</td>
<td>Vacant Crown land south of Mills Park</td>
<td>Part Granted/Part Refused</td>
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<td>6171</td>
<td>Portions 572, 1051, 1052, 723 and land adjacent to Quarry Road</td>
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<td>Portion 588</td>
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<td>6173</td>
<td>Portion 883</td>
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<td>6185</td>
<td>Land adjacent to Portions 884, 899, 431 &amp; 432 at end of Montview Parade</td>
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<td>6186</td>
<td>Land adjacent to Portions 430 &amp; 510 at end of Chakola Street</td>
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<td>Land adjacent to Portion 890 at end of Greenview Parade</td>
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<td>Portions 880, 896, 753, 897, 622 &amp; land adjoining thereto hatched on plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>6198</td>
<td>Portion 158 &amp; land adjoining thereto hatched on plan</td>
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<td>6326</td>
<td>Water Reserve 121 &amp; Reserve 100092</td>
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<tr>
<td>6327</td>
<td>Land adjoining 884, 899, 431 &amp; 432 at end of Montview Parade</td>
<td>Under investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6331</td>
<td>Portion 883</td>
<td>Granted</td>
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<td>6728</td>
<td>Lot 1092/46539, Lots 796 &amp; 963/752053, Lot 1107/727032 and Crown reserve adjoining Beaumont Rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>6729</td>
<td>Lot 71 DP752053</td>
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<td>6730</td>
<td>Vacant Crown land adjoining Lot 202 DP739648</td>
<td>Under investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6731</td>
<td>Lot 74 DP752053</td>
<td>Under investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6732</td>
<td>VCL and reserve adjoining Lot 938 DP752053</td>
<td>Under investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6733</td>
<td>Lot 938 DP752053</td>
<td>Under investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6734</td>
<td>Lot 11 DP775184</td>
<td>Under investigation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MILLENNIUM TRAINS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport—

(1) How many Millennium trains are currently in use?
(2) How many Millennium carriages are there?
(3) Where do these trains run in the rail system?
(4) In the past year, how many times have these existing trains broken down, and what were the reasons?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my correspondence of 5 July 2005.

HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Health—

(1) Did the Acting Health Care Complaints Commissioner, Judge Ken Taylor, leave the post in March 2005?
(2) On what dates was the Commissioner’s job advertised?
(3) How many applications were received?
(4) Have applicants been interviewed? If so, how many?
(5) Are interviews still underway? If not, when was the last interview held?
(6) Has any draft, interim or final recommendation on a replacement for Judge Taylor been to the Minister?
(7) Has the Minister received a copy of a letter reflecting adversely upon one of those interviewed for the Commissioner’s position?
(8) What action has the Minister taken following receipt of the letter?
(9) Is the letter and its contents the reason the position of Commissioner remains unfilled three months after Judge Taylor left the position?
(10) When will a new Commissioner be appointed?

Answer—

(1) to (10) The Position of Commissioner, Health Care Complaints Commission was filled in accordance with the procedures for filling Chief Executive Officer or equivalent positions/offices in New South Wales. A Selection Committee was established by the Director General of the Premier’s Department to undertake the recruitment process for a new Commissioner of the Health Care Complaints Commission. The Selection Panel comprised senior representatives of the public service and the judiciary. Its membership was:

Dr Colin Gellatly, Director General, Premiers Department
His Honour Judge Kenneth Taylor
Mr William Grant, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission
Ms Leigh Sanderson, Deputy Director General, The Cabinet Office

The Selection Panel considered the applicants and relevant material and made an independent recommendation to Cabinet on the preferred applicant. The nomination was subsequently submitted to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission for advice as to whether the committee wished to veto the proposed appointment. The Chair of the Parliamentary Committee advised that it did not wish to veto the appointment. Accordingly, a recommendation was made to Her Excellency the Governor to appoint Mr Kieran Pehm as Commissioner.
In relation to the announcement last year of the $241 million to be spent on mental health over 4 years:
(1) What has been spent in the 2004-05 financial year and on what specifically?
(2) How much will be spent in 2005-06 year and on what specifically?
(3) How much will be spent in 2006-07 and on what specifically?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The table below summarises mental health funding allocation and/or committed to Area Health Services (AHS) and other external service providers such as non-government organisations (NGO):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Funding Allocation ($M)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>$24.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>$48.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>$67.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These allocations will fund the implementation of the following initiatives:
- New forensic hospital at Malabar.
- Expansion of the psychiatric emergency care services.
- Implementation of mental health initiatives in partnership with external service providers.
- Further development of the role of mental health services in the community, including partnerships with local GP’s to better manage mental health clients.
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services linking a network of specialist clinical nurse consultants and allied health staff in child and adolescent psychiatry.
- Expansion of the court liaison and community forensic services.
- Enhanced provision of mental health services to Aboriginal communities by increasing the number of Aboriginal Mental Health Workers.
- Partnerships for Supported Accommodation.
- Expansion of the successful Housing Accommodation Support Initiative with the Department of Housing and NGO sector.
- Provide academic leadership in rural mental health education and research through effective partnerships through the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health.
- Funding for university-based research to better understand Schizophrenia and mood disorders.
- Increase the capacity of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.
- Workforce Development, including the mental health nursing reconnect program, mental health nursing development support to universities, scholarships, training and development support and psychiatrist training program.
- Integrated statewide child and adolescent mental health services, encompassing emergency assessment, supported beds in local hospitals and set up/step down day centers linked to tertiary hospitals and community facilities.
- Expansion of the mental health clinical information and accountability systems across the State.

Further information regarding overall mental health services is available in the Department of Health’s Annual Report. The Annual Report can be accessed via the Internet at www.health.nsw.gov.au.
*4407 UNDERGROUND STATION ADVERTISING BOARDS—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport—

Why have a large number of revenue generating advertising billboards on the CityRail underground network been removed without replacement for considerable periods of time?

Answer—

I am advised:
RailCorp is currently in the process of tendering out the management of all its outdoor advertising billboards. RailCorp anticipates that the new contractor will replace all existing billboards on walls opposite platforms on underground stations in the early stages of the new contract.

*4408 RURAL FIRE SERVICE ACCIDENT AND INJURY COMPENSATION—Mr Pringle to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

(1) In view of the concerns of volunteer Rural Fire Service members, would the Minister clarify the details of compensation schemes/payments available in the event of injury or death and any proposed changes?
(2) Will the Minister also ensure that prompt payments are made in the event of injury to meet an individual’s immediate financial commitments?

Answer—

(1) Compensation for injuries or death of volunteer Rural Fire Service members is covered under the Workers Compensation (Bush Fire, Emergency and Rescue Services) Act 1987 administered by the Minister for Industrial Relations. The scheme has been operating successfully since its inception and provides a great deal of flexibility not otherwise available under the principal Workers Compensation Act. Claims are reviewed on a regular basis by WorkCover and the other emergency services agencies covered by the legislation.

In the event of the death of a volunteer fire fighter, the lump sum compensation amount exceeds $300,000 and is payable to the dependants of the deceased. Where there are no dependants, a lump sum is paid to the estate of the deceased. Weekly benefits, indexed twice yearly, are paid to the dependant children. If a fire fighter is injured, compensation paid is based on average weekly earnings prior to the accident, together with all medical and related expenses. For self employed volunteers a policy has been adopted to assure that weekly payments reflect the income received by that person prior to the injury. This policy caters for primary producers and situations where income is seasonally based.

(2) Every attempt is made to ensure that claims are dealt with expeditiously and sympathetically, given the volunteer nature of the organisation. To avoid delays, provisional liability is accepted by WorkCover upon receipt of claims in those cases where further investigation is required. The NSW Rural Fire Service has procedures in place to ensure that any claims falling outside the legislation are examined individually under the special circumstances provisions of a policy formulated in consultation with WorkCover.

*4409 WINDSOR FLOOD FREE ACCESS ROAD—MCGRATHS HILL—Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

With residents’ concerns about the growth in traffic volumes, will the Minister ensure that the McGraths Hill Windsor flood free Access Road is constructed to a three lane or greater standard?
I’m advised:

The Windsor flood evacuation route across South Creek is part of the NSW Government’s $420 million Windsor Road upgrade and the $57 million Hawkesbury Nepean Flood Plain Management Strategy. As previously announced the flood evacuation route will be constructed to provide one lane in each direction which, along with the existing two lanes on Windsor Road between McGraths Hill and Windsor, will provide sufficient road capacity for many years. The Windsor Road flood evacuation route will provide more than 40,000 Windsor residents with additional time to evacuate during floods. It will also improve traffic flow and reduce peak hour congestion in nearby McGraths Hill and the Windsor town centre. Journey times between Windsor and Parramatta will be quicker because of the two extra lanes between Windsor and McGraths Hill. Tenders for construction of the route were called in June 2005, with construction expected to start in late 2005.

(1) In the negotiations between the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and the NSW Government regarding the ARTC taking over rail track through the Southern Highlands, what submissions were made to the ARTC by the NSW Government in respect of
(a) the turn back facility at Bundanoon;
(b) requests to upgrade turn back technology at Bundanoon?

(2) What specific requests or submissions were made by the NSW Government in support of maintenance of train services terminating at and originating from Bundanoon?

I am advised:
The ARTC negotiations were centred on the lease of the interstate main line for the purposes of securing a more competitive national rail freight network. As the Bundanoon turnback is for the use of CityRail services, it did not feature in negotiations.

What studies have been undertaken in the vicinity of the north of the Hawkesbury River to determine effects of the 50% reduction to environmental flows in the North Richmond area?

This matter falls within the administration of the Minister for the Environment.

(1) Why was the camera car decommissioned from Kuring-gai Local Area Command?
(2) Where is this car now, and for what is it being used?
NSW Police has advised me:
(1) The camera in the vehicle in question was faulty and unserviceable due to its age. A decision was therefore made to return the vehicle to Fleet Management.
(2) The vehicle has been reallocated to the City Central Commuter Crime Unit.

*4413 BEROWRA SUBSTATION—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

What work is being undertaken at the Berowra Substation to ensure security following a recent upgrade?

Answer—

EnergyAustralia has advised, in order to secure the site, it has temporarily fenced across the back of the Berowra Substation whilst civil works are undertaken in the outer yard. This fencing complies with EnergyAustralia’s new fencing standards. Once civil works are completed, the entire substation will be re-fenced to the new fencing standards, which includes the renewal of existing safety signs including those specifically directed toward children. EnergyAustralia will be using a range of fencing types that meet the new standards and are suitable for the site. This includes a mix of cladding and weldmesh panels, as well as razor tape and barbed wire on top of the fencing.

*4414 PROSPECT RESERVOIR—Mr Amery to Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

(1) What role does the Prospect Reservoir play in the supply of water to Sydney Water users?
(2) Are any changes to be made to this role in the future plans for the water supply?

Answer—

(1) and (2) This matter comes within the administration of the Minister for the Environment.

*4415 REDSHAW COTTAGE—Mr J.H. Turner to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

(1) Has or is funding to be relinquished from Great Lakes Disabled Alliance Inc-Redshaw Cottage?
(2) If so, why?
(3) If so, when?
(4) If so, what will happen to the assets of Great Lakes Disabled Alliance Inc-Redshaw Cottage?
(5) If funding has been relinquished or is about to be relinquished have any of the funds been dissipated?
(6) If so, how?

Answer—

In a letter dated 30 May 2005, Great Lakes Disabled Alliance, which owns Redshaw Cottage, notified the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care of its voluntary intention to relinquish all funding provided by the Department for day programs and support services to people with disabilities and their families in the Forster and Tuncurry area.
Great Lakes Disabled Alliance has provided the Department with three months notice of their intentions to relinquish auspice. The organisation will formally cease providing services from Thursday 1 September 2005 and is working closely with the Department to ensure continuity of service with the new provider/s.

While Redshaw Cottage at Strand Street, Forster is owned by Great Lakes Disabled Alliance, the Department has equity in this property. Negotiations are taking place with the organisation, so the building may continue to be used as a service outlet.

Current funding levels will be transferred to the new provider/s for the various program/s to ensure services continue.

*4416 BEACON HILL HIGH—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

In relation to Beacon Hill High School:

(1) What was the process at the Department of Education and Training when deciding to close Beacon Hill High School?

(2) What consultation and review processes were undertaken, if any, and how many of the 53 submissions obtained from various interested parties recommended the closure or sale of the school?

(3) What caused the Government to change its stance on Beacon Hill High School being considered an integral component of a new Northern Beaches Education Plan (May 2000), when one month later (June 2000) it determined that the Beacon Hill High School should be closed?

(4) How can the Government justify the closure of a school in view of the failure by the Department to establish a School Closures Review Committee?

(5) How did the processes undertaken by the Department comply with Section 28 (3) of the Education Act?

(6) Why were the other six public schools nominated for closure on the same day as Beacon Hill High School given the benefit of a review by the School Closures Review Committee, but Beacon Hill not given such benefit?

(7) Given that Section 28 (10) (b) of the Education Act states that a school can be closed “if the majority of the parents of children attending the school approve of the closure”, (a) what processes were put in place to determine the view of the “majority of the parents of children”, (b) what was the date of any documentation and location of that documentation, and (c) are you prepared to reverse the situation if the Department failed to determine the view of the majority of the parents of the children attending the school?

Answer—

(1) to (7) Following a review of secondary education provision on the Northern Beaches in 1999/2000 a detailed report entitled New Horizons was developed. It provided a plan to provide a five campus college.

I am advised that in June 2001, the Minister for Education and Training at that time announced that he proposed closing seven schools, including Beacon Hill High School. In accordance with section 28 (3) of the Education Act 1990 (NSW), the Minister established a School Closures Review Committee.

I am further advised of the seven schools proposed to be closed, four were the subject of a review by the committee because only those four met the criteria specified by section 28 (4). This section of the Act states “the School Closures Review Committee is to review and make recommendations to the Minister concerning the closure of a school if a majority of the parents of the children attending the school have, within 21 days of an announcement under subsection (2), submitted a request in writing to the Minister that a review of its closure be undertaken.”

Access to all relevant documents has been granted under the Freedom of Information legislation.

*4417 MIRANDA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police—
(1) Is the Miranda Local Area Command at full strength?
(2) If not, what is the strength?
(3) If not, when will the strength be brought to full strength?

Answer—

(1) to (3) Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Internet site www.police.nsw.gov.au.

*4418 CRONULLA POLICE STATION —Mr Kerr to Minister for Police—

Has consideration been given to a public/private partnership to fast track the improvement of police accommodation in Cronulla Police Station?

Answer—

An ongoing program to deliver 27 new police stations over the next 5 years was announced in the budget papers of 2004-05. Cronulla is one of the locations included in this program. Procurement methods such as public/private partnerships are being considered as part of the overall planning process.

*4419 DEMOLITION OF THE HISTORIC MILFIELD BRIDGE—Ms Hodgkinson to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What is the reason for the decision by the Roads and Traffic Authority to demolish the old Milfield Bridge, on the historic ‘Convict Trail’ on the Great North Road between Sydney and the Hunter Valley?
(2) Before this decision was taken, did you, your office, or the RTA consult with any other Government department, organisation or community group regarding the preservation of this important local tourism attraction?
(3) As this bridge is the only significant tourist attraction in this area and its retention and conservation is supported by the Cessnock Council, the Convict Trail Project, the Milfield Heritage Preservation Group, the Cessnock Historical Society, the NSW Heritage Office and the community of Milfield, will you urgently order a suspension of the demolition of this bridge to allow further conservation measures to be investigated?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to a question without notice in the Legislative Council, asked by the Honourable David Clarke MLC on 23 June 2006.

*4420 DEBT COLLECTION LETTER—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Health—

(1) Why has the Greater Southern Area Health Service retained the services of Mendelson’s Lawyers to collect allegedly overdue fees for radiology and other services at Goulburn Base Hospital to some 200 patients, who have not previously received any invoice for these services?
(2) As these patients have previously received no invoices, how can you justify the $57.50 legal costs, which have more than doubled the original invoice cost of $44.45?
(3) As at least some of these fees for radiology services were incurred by public patients accessing services through the Emergency Department at Goulburn Base Hospital, which should incur no cost to the patient, will you immediately cause these letters of demand to be withdrawn and review the original invoices to make sure that they were properly issued?
Answer—

(1) to (3) I am advised by the Greater Southern Area Health Service that all patients who received former Southern Area Health Service invoices and subsequent debt collection follow up had elected to be private patients. The signed private patient election is supported by Goulburn Hospital’s records.

The patients were sent original accounts and at least one follow up letter by the former Southern Area Health Service since February 2005. It is standard practice to engage the services of a debt collection agency when in-house debt recovery practices have not been successful. The debt collection agency charges a fee for its involvement.

*4421 GOULBURN TREATED EFFLUENT REUSE SCHEME—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

(1) What is the reason for the delay by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources in approving the joint application by the Southern Tablelands Football Association and the Cookbundoon Trust to use treated effluent to water the soccer playing fields at Cookbundoon?
(2) How long has the Department been considering this application?
(3) When do you anticipate a reply being given to this application?

Answer—

(1) There is no development application by the Southern Tablelands Football Association and the Cookbundoon Trust. An application was made by Goulburn Mulwaree Council for the Goulburn Treated Effluent Reuse Scheme. The application has been subject to a rigorous environmental impact assessment process to ensure that risks and impacts have been avoided or minimised, particularly with regard to water quality and potential health concerns. Considerable consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) has been required.

Delivery of treated effluent to the sporting fields would be determined by Council.

(2) Goulburn Mulwaree Council lodged the development application (DA) and supporting environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposal with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) on 12 October 2004. The DA and EIS were publicly exhibited between 18 November 2004 and 20 December 2004. Detailed submissions on health risks and water quality received from DEC and SCA have required careful resolution.

(3) The development application has now been approved.

*4422 HOME OWNERSHIP—Ms Moore to Minister for Housing—

(1) Is the Minister aware of the Five Year Plan developed by the UK Government, which aims to help 80,000 people purchase their own homes by 2010?
(2) Is this Plan consistent with the NSW Government’s policy to help increase housing security?
(3) Does this Plan provide a model for NSW with its First Time Buyer’s Initiative and ‘Homebuy’ programs?
(4) What action will the NSW Government take to increase the ability of low and middle income residents to buy their own home?

Answer—

(1) to (4) The NSW Government provides stamp duty concessions to first home buyers, saving them up to $20,000. Since April 2004 the NSW Government has provided $420 million in stamp duty concessions to 42,000 first home buyers.
Regarding the 389 bus service:

(1) How many complaints were received in 2004?
(2) How many of these complaints stated that buses were cancelled or late?
(3) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 30 minutes?
(4) How many complainants stated that this problem was an ongoing concern, with buses regularly late or cancelled?
(5) What action was taken in response to these complaints?
(6) What action has the Government taken to respond to the traffic congestion that affects this service?
(7) How will the Government ensure an efficient and regular service?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) 342
(2) 135
(3) 54
(4) N/A
(5) Each complaint is investigated and callers are contacted and provided with the reasons for the delays of the relevant service. All services are continuously monitored and customer feedback reviewed.
(6) and (7) State Transit continues to work closely with local councils and the Roads and Traffic Authority to reduce the impact of traffic impediments, including illegal parking and Council rubbish collection. State Transit is also discussing the expansion of existing bus priority measures in Elizabeth Street with Sydney City Council and the Roads and Traffic Authority in an effort to improve bus reliability.

In addition, State Transit will continue to monitor bus loadings and timings along this route.

*4424 WORKING WOMEN’S CENTRE—Ms Moore to Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Women—

(1) Is the Minister aware that the NSW Working Women’s Centre is set to close in June 2005 unless it receives additional funding?
(2) As three quarters of the Centre’s work relates to NSW industrial matters, will the NSW Government provide additional funds?
(3) If the Centre closes, where will NSW women obtain specialist help for concerns that particularly affect women, such as unfair dismissal of casual workers, pregnancy and carer discrimination, and the conflict between work and family?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Working Women’s Centre was a federal government initiative. It commenced in 1993-94 with approximately $297,000 in funding. Despite significant increases in the real operating costs of the Centre, this federal funding was reduced to approximately $240,000 in 2003-04.

In 1997, the NSW State Government stepped in to provide assistance to make up the considerable shortfall left by the federal government’s inadequate funding of the Centre, by providing an additional amount of $100,000. Since 1997, the State Government has continued to provide an additional $100,000 per year to the Centre through the Office for Women. The State Government had committed to continue this funding in 2005-06, despite the fact that it was a very difficult budget year for NSW, partly as a result of the federal government’s inequitable distribution of GST revenue. In these circumstances, it was not possible for the Office for Women to increase the funding to the Working Women’s Centre in 2005-06.

The Working Women’s Centre made it clear to the federal government that it required an extra $100,000 per year to keep its doors open. However, as at the time of the decision to close the Centre
on 6 June 2005, the Centre still had not heard from the federal government whether it was even prepared to continue funding at present levels for the 2005-06 financial year. It is unfortunate that the federal government was not prepared to meet its commitments to working women by increasing the funding to the Centre.

(3) The Women’s Equity Bureau (WEB) of the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) constructed and maintains the website – workandfamily.nsw.gov.au

This website provides a one-stop shop for employees and employers seeking information on women’s employment issues – particularly family friendly conditions of employment and parental leave entitlements.

The OIR provides telephone and web based information services on NSW employment legislation and state awards. The service received 336,000 calls during the last financial year. Women comprised 70% of callers of which two thirds were employees and the balance employers. In addition, of 2,000 calls received by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit over more than 5 years, 70% were from women.

The OIR investigates complaints of breaches of the NSW industrial laws as well as targeted inspections of employers’ employee records in selected industries. In 2004/05 the Office of Industrial Relations received 912 formal complaints from women about their employment entitlements. This figure represents 41% of all complaints received.

In the 2004/05 OIR conducted 11,000 workplace inspections targeting NSW award industries. In this campaign the employment records of 62,000 female workers (58% of all workers) were inspected.

The OIR also maintains a number of publications relating to women’s employment. They are:

- Maternity at Work – information on the maternity and paternity leave entitlements of NSW employees under the Industrial Relations Act 1996;
- Family Friendly Ideas for Small Business – information on family friendly employment practices for employers;
- A guidebook on rostering in aged care – information on work and family best practice in rostering.

The WEB also provides advice to the Minister for Industrial Relations on women’s employment issues and entitlements - particularly in the areas of equity and work and family. The Industrial Relations Act 1996 now provides 12 months unpaid parental leave to casual employees and 12 months unpaid adoption leave to employees adopting children who are under 18 years of age.

The WEB recently contributed to the development of the joint submissions of the Australian states and territories to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission in the Family Provisions Test Case. These submissions advocated improved access to family friendly conditions of employment under federal awards. The case is yet to be determined.

The WEB and the Office for Women recently cooperated to prepare a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Human Services’ Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family.

*4425 NATIONAL PACKAGING COVENANT COST—Ms Moore to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

(1) How will the proposed high recovery targets for a New Packaging Covenant be funded?
(2) How does the Minister propose removing the current unfair cost burden of recycling away from Local Government toward producers and consumers?

Answer—

Industry has pledged $15 million ($3 million per annum) to match funding from state jurisdictions and other parties to undertake focussed programs to achieve the targets. The NSW government allocates funding to the Department of Environment and Conservation from the Waste Fund to match industry contributions.
The focus of the New Covenant is on the 50% of packaging waste generated in away from home sources such as workplaces, recreational venues, institutions and industry. The cost of this will not be borne by local government. Consumers already meet part of the cost of their recycling through the payment of local government charges.

*4426 NATIONAL PACKAGING COVENANT—Ms Moore to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

With respect to the National Packaging Covenant, has the Minister determined material specific targets and what are these targets?

Answer—

On 1 July 2005, the Environment Protection and Heritage Council endorsed a new Packaging Covenant for 5 years, with a recycling target of 65% and separate materials contributing to the target as follows:

- paper and cardboard – 70-80%;
- glass – 50-60%;
- steel – 60-65%;
- aluminium – 70-75%;
- plastics – 30-35%.

*4427 SEXUAL ASSAULT CRIME STATISTICS—Ms Moore to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

(1) Is the Minister aware of the latest report of the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, which show that Sexual Assault, Indecent Assault, and Sexual Offences increased by 25% in Inner Sydney Statistical Division in 2003 and 2004, and by 35% in the City of Sydney?

(2) Are these incidents concentrated in any Police Commands or localities?

(3) Who are the perpetrators and victims of these crimes?

(4) Has the Government expanded sexual assault support services to respond to this dramatic increase in this category of reported crime?

(5) What action has the Government taken to prevent this type of crime in the inner city and to educate the local community about its impact?

Answer—

The Government is acutely aware of the problem of sexual assault in our community. There has been no increase in the recorded incidence of the crime of sexual assault, however there has been an increase in the recorded incidence of the crimes of indecent assault, act of indecency and “other sexual offences” in the locations mentioned. The Sydney Local Government Area was the only locality in the Inner Sydney Statistical Subdivision to show a significant increase in these categories.

The Government has established a number of sexual assault support services. For example, within the Attorney General’s portfolio, Victims Services provide access to compensation and free short term counselling including a 24 hour Victim Support Line. The Witness Assistance Service that operates through the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions provides information on the legal process, support during court and court preparation, crisis counselling and referral services.

Over recent years, the Government has amended the law to provide better protection to sexual offence complainants. These reforms include the establishment of a pilot specialist child sexual assault jurisdiction, permitting complainants to give evidence by way of CCTV from the safety of a remote room, prohibiting an unrepresented accused from directly cross-examining a complainant, and most recently, by permitting the original evidence of a complainant to be tendered in a retrial, relieving them from the need to go to court again to give evidence.

Importantly, the Government has established the Sexual Offences Taskforce which is examining alternative models for the prosecution of sexual assault offences, evaluating proposals for legislative and
procedural change in sexual assault prosecutions and identifying areas of possible reform in relation to
the provision of services for sexual assault victims. The Taskforce is comprised of various members of
the legal profession, Government agencies, academics and the Rape Crisis Centre. They have released
an online survey for victims and service providers aimed to achieve a better understanding of how we
can improve the system.

The Government has also established an Aboriginal Child Sexual Assault Taskforce to examine the
nature and extent of child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities and to make recommendations about
improving services and responses to child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities.

In addition, specialist crime prevention officers are employed by the Attorney General’s Department to
assist Local Councils to develop specific strategies within a local crime prevention plan.

The issues of sexual assault support services and prevention and education of sexual assault also fall
within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Health, the Minister for Police and the Minister for Community
Services.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research does not record specific information relating to the
perpetrators and victims of sexual assault related crimes.

23 JUNE 2005

(Paper No. 141)

*4428 NATIONAL PACKAGING COVENANT—Ms Moore to Attorney General, and Minister for the
Environment—

(1) If industry fails to meet the new recovery targets will the Minister introduce a mandatory scheme?
(2) Did the first National Packaging Covenant not achieve substantial outcomes?
(3) Is mandatory regulation considered to be a real option in the near future if voluntary schemes do not
produce outcomes?

Answer—

The new National Packaging Covenant will be reviewed at the end of 2008. If the review clearly
demonstrates that progress against the Covenant’s targets is unsatisfactory, Governments will consider
the development and implementation of alternative policy options.

The first Covenant was very successful in increasing awareness and driving change across the supply
chain to reduce packaging. There are excellent individual examples. However, there was no clear
baseline data, no consistent reporting requirements and shortcomings in communication and governance
processes.

The Government has made a strong commitment to support voluntary approaches by industry to reduce
the impact of their products, and has recognized that national approaches are desirable due to economic
and trade realities. NSW has also indicated that it will mandate extended producer responsibility (EPR)
where there is refusal to act, and has identified 16 wastes of concern for monitoring through the EPR
Priority Statement. I will be receiving the first report from the expert reference group appointed to
evaluate industry progress by August.

*4429 NORTHCOTT ESTATE—Ms Moore to Minister for Housing—

(1) For the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 how many tenants applied for a transfer from the Northcott
Estate? How many of these applications were for medical reasons? What is the average cost to the
Department of Housing for staff time to process transfer applications?
(2) For the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 how many of these applicants were re-housed away from
Northcott by the Department? What is the cost to the Surry Hills / Redfern Client Service Team to
re-house tenants?
(3) For the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 on the Northcott Estate, how many properties were abandoned?
What is the average cost of staff time to the Department to re-establish vacant possession of
abandoned properties? What is the average overall cost to the Department to establish vacant possession of abandoned properties?

(4) For the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 how many Consumer Tenancy and Trade Tribunal disputes with Northcott tenants was the Department involved in? How many of these disputes resulted in eviction? What is the average cost of staff time involved in CTTT disputes and subsequent evictions? What is the average overall cost to the Department of CTTT disputes?

(5) On average, how much does maintenance work preparing a vacant property for re-letting on the Northcott estate cost the Department?

(6) What are the average costs of staff time required to re-let a vacant property on the Northcott estate?

Answer—

(1) 202, 72 for medical reasons, see (6)
(2) 38, see (6)
(3) 7, see (6)
(4) 51 disputes resulting in 12 evictions are recorded for the period, see (6)
(5) The Department does not collect such data specifically for the Northcott Estate alone, a more holistic approach is taken.
(6) Department of Housing staff work on a variety of different activities, including processing applications for housing and transfers, re-housing tenants, dealing with maintenance issues and appearing at the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal, as well as performing many other duties. Recording the times taken for each individual to complete each of these tasks is not a cost-effective practice.

*4430 NEEDLE DISTRIBUTION—Mr O’Farrell to Minister for Health—

In relation to the needle distribution centre on Sydney Road, Manly:

(1) When was the centre established, and did Manly Council play a role in its establishment?
(2) How many clients were supplied needles for the 2004-05 financial year, and what was the rate of return of used needles?
(3) Are statistics collected by the centre on the type of drugs used by clients? If so, what is the most commonly used drug?
(4) Are statistics collected by the centre on rates of alcoholism among clients? If so, what percentage of clients have an alcohol problem?

Answer—

(1) I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question No. 1852 (2004)
(2) to (4) Data collected in July 2005 indicates that there were 4,198 client occasions of service for the past 12 months. This figure represents clients accessing needles and syringes, clients accessing counselling and other services such as educational services, brief interventions, counselling, safe sex information and advice. The return rate of needles and syringes to this Centre for the past 12 months was 71%.

*4431 WORKCOVER RATES—Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

Will he review WorkCover requirements and rates that deem single employee owner operators of companies formed purely to meet Local Council or Government contract provisions, so that more equitable charges are levied?
Any business in New South Wales that employs or hires workers on a regular, casual or contract basis must have a workers compensation insurance policy. When a sole trader establishes a proprietary limited company, that company must take out a policy to cover any workers, including the "working director" who was formerly a sole trader. Workers compensation insurance is not necessarily an extra cost for former sole traders. It is a highly advisable business practice for sole traders and partnerships to take out a personal accident and illness policy or income protection policy in case they are unable to work. A workers compensation policy gives the working director eligibility to claim a full range of benefits including weekly benefits, payments for medical, hospital and rehabilitation costs, legal costs and lump sum compensation for permanent impairment and pain and suffering. An employer's workers compensation premium is based on their WorkCover Industry Classification, reflecting the claims history of their particular industry. It would not be appropriate for the majority of businesses to subsidise single employee competitors, when the risks associated with the work being undertaken remain the same.

**4432 STUDENT TRANSFER POLICY**—Mr Stoner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

In circumstances where a student at primary school has been sexually molested by another student:

1. Is it Department of Education policy for Department of Community Services to be notified but for the parents of the molested student to not be notified?
2. Is it Department of Education policy for a transfer request to a neighbouring school to be facilitated for the molested student where continued attendance at the school where the incident/s occurred was adversely affecting that student’s education?

**Answer**—

1. Department of Education and Training policy reminds schools that officers of the Department of Community Services or the police generally advise parents or carers that a report has been made. This is part of their responsibility to investigate reports of risk of harm and is often part of this process. Department of Education and Training policy also reminds schools that processes for communication with parents or carers need to be managed sensitively in the context of advice from the Department of Community Services. In most circumstances where an immediate response from the Department of Community Services is not required the principal informs the parents of a student who has been abused of the incident and to arrange support for the student and the parents as appropriate.

2. It is the policy of the Department of Education and Training that school staff should support children and young people in ways that are responsive to their needs and are appropriate to staff roles. There is no expectation that, in circumstances such as those suggested in this question, an abused student would routinely transfer to another school. Transfer may be one option among many to be considered in consultation with the student’s parents, teachers and the student. If transfer is agreed to be the best option, steps will be taken to make sure it occurs as smoothly as possible.

**4433 GUIDE FOR REAL ESTATE**—Mr Page to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

1. Where there is a conflict between the new Implementation Guide for Real Estate and the relevant property sector Training Package, does the Government intend that the Guide will override the Training Package?
(2) Does the Government support training and licensing policies that set aside national property sector training packages which were developed by industry and signed off by the Department of Fair Training?

Answer—
(1) No.
(2) No.

*4434 STAMP DUTY—Mr Amery to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

(1) How many applications have been processed for Stamp Duty concessions by first home buyers for the financial year ending the 30 June 2005, for the entire State of New South Wales?
(2) How many of these applications were from the following areas:
(a) Mount Druitt 2770 (and surrounding suburbs with same postcode)
(b) Rooty Hill 2766 (and surrounding areas with same postcode)
(c) Plumpton 2761 (and surrounding areas with same postcode)?
(3) What is the total value of the abovementioned concessions?
(4) What is the average value of the abovementioned concessions?

Answer—
(1) and (2) For the financial year ending 30 June 2005 there were over 36,000 applications processed for First Home Plus Transfer Duty Concessions.
Note: This is for both vacant land, and house and land. The results are for First Home Plus Transfer Duty concessions only and do not include concessions for mortgage duty.
(3) The total value for First Home Plus Transfer Duty Concessions granted was more than $350,000,000. This is for the entire state of NSW for the financial year ending 30 June 2005.
(4) The average value for First Home Plus Transfer Duty Concessions granted was approximately $9,800.

*4435 REVOCATIONS OF FIREARM LICENCES—Mr Amery to Minister for Police—

(1) How many security companies had their licences to use firearms revoked in the past three years to 30 May 2005?
(2) How many of these revocations took place following breaches of the firearms legislation?
(3) How many companies had their licence to use firearms revoked despite not having committed any offences for which they were prosecuted?

Answer—
NSW Police has advised me :
(1) to (3) 149 security companies had their licences to use firearms revoked in the past three years to 30 May 2005. All were revoked for breaches of the Firearms Act 1996 or the Firearms (General) Regulation 1997.

*4436 FIREARM LICENCES—Mr Amery to Minister for Police—

(1) How many persons currently hold a licence to own and use a firearm in New South Wales?
(2) How many persons are in each category of firearms/shooters licence?
(3) How do the current figures compare with each of the past five years?
NSW Police has advised me:
(1) Approximately 165,000 licences as at June 2005.
(2) A significant number of firearms owners hold more than one licence for the different categories of firearms they possess. As there is overlap, the figure for the number of licence holders by category does not correlate with the number of firearms owners.
(3) See above.

*4437 VENDOR TAX—Mr Amery to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

(1) For the financial year ending the 30 June 2005, how many persons had paid the ‘vendor tax’ on the sale of their investment property in the entire State of New South Wales?
(2) What was the total amount paid during the year for the State?
(3) From the abovementioned statistics, how many persons paid the vendor tax from the postcode areas 2770, 2766 and 2761?
(4) What was the average amount paid by the taxpayers in these postcodes areas?

Answer—

(1) For the financial year ending 30 June 2005 there were over 35,000 transactions assessed for Vendor Duty including commercial and residential properties.
(2) and (4) To provide responses to these questions would involve considerable time and diversion of resources, away from core responsibilities, which cannot be justified.

*4438 HORNSBY HOSPITAL KITCHEN—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Health—

(1) What is the future of the kitchen based at Hornsby Hospital?
(2) Are there plans to move part or all of the kitchen functions to another site?
(3) If so, which site?

Answer—

(1) To (3) I am advised by the Department of Health that food services throughout NSW Hospitals are being addressed under the NSW Health Food Strategy. This has been subject to consultation with the Unions and Area Health Services under the Shared Corporate Services Reform Program. The Government plans to ensure that safe, nutritious, quality meals continue to be provided to patients at Hornsby Hospital.

*4439 HAWKESBURY RIVER CLEAN UP—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

When will the $2.7 million announced on 23 June 2005 for the clean up of the Hawkesbury River sticks, trays and oyster shells be provided to commence the work?

Answer—

Mrs Hopwood’s question would be more appropriately directed to the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, Minister for Primary Industries.

*4440 HORNSBY STATION PLATFORM—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport—
What is the specific item breakdown of the $66 million allocated for the construction of the extra platform at Hornsby Railway Station?

Answer—

During my visit to Hornsby last week I issued the following Press Release:

“Minister for Transport John Watkins today visited Hornsby Station to announce three companies short-listed to manage the contract for two major rail projects worth almost $100 million.

Mr Watkins said the Platform 5 project, part of the Government’s $1 billion Clearways Plan, and a separate stabling project, would greatly improve reliability and services at Hornsby and across the CityRail network.

Together, they are worth at least $98 million.

“I am pleased to announce that Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd, Barclay Mowlem Construction Ltd and ClearTrack have been short listed for the work,” Mr Watkins said.

“They’ll be invited to submit tenders for the Managing Contractor role to oversee the design and construction of the projects. These tenders will close in September,” he said.

“Construction is scheduled to commence in late 2005, and will finish in 2008 in time for the opening of the new Epping to Chatswood Rail Line.”

A separate tender would be called later this week for the detailed design of the two projects.

The successful design tenderer will complete the detailed design of the engineering and rail systems and architectural and urban design. These tenders will close in late August.

The two projects will provide:

- New western platform (Platform 5);
- Extension of pedestrian concourse to cater for new platform;
- Changes to the bus interchange;
- Additional 1.7km track between Clarke Rd, Normanhurst, and Bridge Rd, Hornsby;
- Retaining walls and embankments widening to support the new track;
- Bridge alterations at Pretoria Rd and the Pacific Highway; and
- Construction of ‘stabling’ for six trains.

Mr Watkins said construction of the two projects would be combined to provide better value for taxpayers’ money and utilisation of resources, and reduced disruption to local residents.

“A new section of track and a fifth platform – worth $80 million – will play a critical role in improving services and reliability at Hornsby and right across the network,” Mr Watkins said.

“They’ll alleviate congestion at peak times by separating freight trains and inter-urban services from suburban trains,” he said.

“We’ll also spend $18 million on new train stabling yards to provide more ‘start’ and ‘stop’ services at Hornsby ahead of the opening Epping to Chatswood Rail Line in 2008.”

“I’m advised that the works will also result in an overall increase in parking spaces at Hornsby Station,” Mr Watkins said.

“The new stabling yard will free up land, which should allow extra car spaces to be added to the George St car park, compensating for any spaces lost in the High St facility,” he said.

“But car spaces will be in short supply throughout construction, so I’d appeal to commuters for continued patience until these important works are complete.”

Mr Watkins said construction was also scheduled to commence this year on the Berowra Station Clearways project, which would provide a new platform, pedestrian overbridge, and new lifts and stairs.

“Our northern suburbs Clearways projects will help improve reliability and on-time-running across the network,” Mr Watkins said.

“They’re part of the Carr Government’s $1 billion Clearways Plan to untangle the CityRail network’s 14 metropolitan rail routes into five independent Clearways,” he said.

*4441 HYDROLOGICAL STUDIES—Mr Hartcher to Minister for Mineral Resources—

(1) Will the Minister advise Parliament of the “best scientific evidence” he has received in relation to hydrological studies in Wyong Shire as referred to by him in Parliament on 3 May 2005?
(2) Will he table the advice?
(3) Who was the author or authors, and what are their qualifications?

Answer—

(1) A review of Hansard will reveal that I was clearly referring to petroleum exploration well approvals, not hydrological studies in Wyong Shire.

(2) In response to my request for advice, the Department of Primary Industries - Mineral Resources prepared an assessment of the Northern Geosciences hydrogeological report by Tim Jones. This report has been available on the Department's website for some time and strongly counters many of the assumptions and conclusions made by Tim Jones.

(3) The author of the assessment report was Mr Stephen Barry, Manager of Technical Services in the Department's Environmental Sustainability Branch. Mr Barry has a Bachelor of Science in Geology with first class Honours from the University of Wollongong and has extensive experience in the assessment of the environmental impacts of mining and petroleum exploration. Mr Barry received input and advice from other experienced scientists, both within and outside the Department.

*4442 S88 WASTE LEVIES—Mr Richardson to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

How much money was remitted to the Government by each of the following Councils by way of s.88 waste levies in 2004?

- Auburn
- Bankstown
- Baulkham Hills
- Botany
- Blacktown
- Burwood
- Camden
- Canada Bay
- Campbelltown
- Blue Mountains
- Fairfield
- Hawkesbury
- Hornsby
- Ku-Ring-Gai
- Liverpool
- Maitland
- Manly
- Gosford
- Newcastle
- Leichhardt
- North Sydney
- Kiama
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- Pittwater
- Randwick
- Strathfield
- Sutherland
- Warringah
- Waverley
- Willoughby
- Wollongong
- Wollondilly
Wyong
Lane Cove
Ryde
Hunters Hill
Marrickville?

Answer—

Budget Paper No. 2, page 3-13 of the 2005-06 Budget Statement states that $95 million was remitted to Government from the Waste Disposal Levy in the financial year 2003-04. Questions concerning the amount paid by individual councils should be directed to the Treasurer, the Hon Andrew Refshauge MP. The information sought by the Honourable Member is also published by councils in their annual reports.

*4443 RED LIGHT CAMERA—PENNANT HILLS ROAD—Mr Richardson to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) Is the red light camera on Pennant Hills Road at the intersection of Eaton Road, West Pennant Hills, currently operational and has it been operational for the last year?
(2) If so, how many motorists have been fined for failing to stop when the lights are red?

Answer—

I’m advised:
The operation and maintenance of red light cameras in NSW is conducted by NSW Police, which falls under the administration of the Minister for Police.

*4444 CLINICAL COMPUTERS—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Health—

(1) Does the Department of Health contract with a firm called Clinical Computers?
(2) If so, what work is performed by the firm for the Department of Health?
(3) If so, does such contract involve licence fees?
(4) If so, are licence fees payable for each computer owned by the Department of Health to Clinical Computers?
(5) If so, what is the individual licence fee for each individual computer or in the alternative, if licence fees vary from computer to computer, what is the total amount paid by the Department of Health to Clinical Computers for such licence fees?

Answer—

(1) to (5) The Department of Health, Health Technology Branch has advised that it has undertaken a search of the Department’s General Ledger and Accounts Payable registers and has found no reference to a firm called Clinical Computers.
If the Honourable Member has specific information that should be brought to my attention, I would appreciate receiving any appropriate advice.

*4445 HOME OWNER WARRANTY INSURANCE—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Are companies that undertake development or remedial work on buildings that are over three storeys in height required to take out Home Owners Warranty Insurance?
(2) If not, why not?
(3) If not, what protection do owners of properties over three storeys have from developers’ poor
workmanship?

Answer—

(1) To (3) I refer the Member to Regulation 74 of the Home Building Regulations and to the press
release of the Minister for Commerce dated 11 December 2003.

*4446 AUCTIONEER ACCREDITATION—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the
Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the
Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Has your department provided information that it is permissible for a real estate agent to employ an
auctioneer as a staff member even though the real estate agent does not have an auctioneer’s
accreditation?

(2) Has your department provided information that it is not permissible for a real estate agent to employ
an auctioneer as a staff member because the real estate agent does not have an auctioneer’s
accreditation?

(3) Which information is correct?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) No.

(2) and (3) I refer the member to section 14 (2) (d) and 31 (2) of the Property Stock and Business
Agents Act.

*4447 REGISTRATION FEES—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment,
representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for
Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Were registration fees payable by valuers recently increased?

(2) If so, what were the increases?

(3) If so, what justification was there for the increases?

(4) Is there a fixed component to the fee and a processing component?

(5) If so, what is the fixed component applied to?

(6) For what period of time do the fees apply?

(7) If they apply for more than one year, is there provision to pro rata the payment over any period in
excess of one year?

(8) If not, why not?

(9) Was a period of one week designated to make payment of the fees?

(10) If so, why was one week determined?

(11) Is there a penalty if payment is not made in one week?

(12) If so, what is that penalty?

(13) If so, how was such penalty amount determined?

(14) If so, what occurs where a person cannot renew in that week because of illness or absence from the
state?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) I refer the member to the answer to QON 4286.

(2) I refer the member to the answer to QON 4286.

(3) I refer the member to the answer to QON 4286.
(4) and (5) See s42 and s51 Licensing & Registration (Uniform Procedures) Act 2002 and clause 6 and Schedule 1 of the Valuers Regulation 2005.
(6) I refer the member to the answer to QON 4286.
(7) to (8) See s12 Valuers Act 2003 and s42 Licensing & Registration (Uniform Procedures) Act 2002 clause 6 and Schedule 1 of the Valuers Regulation 2005.
(9) No
(10) Not applicable
(11) and (12) See clause 6 and Schedule 1 of the Valuers Regulation 2005.
(13) The fee for application for restoration of registration was based on the equivalent fees for other licence holders in the property services industry, such as property agents.
(14) Registration certificates are issued for a fixed period, with the expiry date shown on the certificate. Every registered valuer is aware of the date of expiry of their registration and there is no reason why they should not be able to make arrangements to renew their registration prior to its expiry. If a renewal application is not lodged prior to the expiry date, an application for restoration of registration may be made up to three months after expiry.

*4448 JOHN LEACH/MODENA INVESTMENTS PTY LTD—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

(1) Did the Minister’s department take an action against John Leach and/or Modena Investments Pty Ltd?
(2) If so, what was the finding of the court?
(3) In the case, did the magistrate find that Mr Leach was never associated, responsible for or in any way connected with the company Camden Property Marketing Pty Ltd, which was the defaulting company?
(4) If it was found during the court case that Mr Leach and/or Modena Investments Pty Ltd were not liable, has any investigation occurred within the Department of Fair Trading to determine why the action was brought against Mr Leach and/or Modena Investments Pty Ltd?
(5) If so, what was the result of that investigation?
(6) If no investigation was carried out, why wasn’t it carried out?
(7) If an investigation has taken place, has any disciplinary action been taken against any Department of Fair Trading officers arising out of the case?
(8) If no disciplinary action was taken, why wasn’t it taken?
(9) If Mr Leach and/or Modena Investments Pty Ltd were not found liable, what action will you or your department take to compensate Mr Leach and/or Modena Investments Pty Ltd for the loss of his business during the period of the legal action and subsequently?
(10) Did the Department of Fair Trading make compensation payments to those people affected by Camden Property Marketing Pty Ltd?
(11) If so, was the company licensed at the time of the offence and when compensation payments were claimed?
(12) If not, on what basis was compensation paid?
(13) Did the Director-General of Fair Trading sign a document declaring Mr Leach not a fit and proper person to hold a real estate license?
(14) If so, when did he sign that document?
(15) If so, on what evidence was it signed?
(16) Who provided such evidence?

Answer—

(1) to (16) The issues raised in this matter were fully canvassed before the Administrative Decisions Tribunal and Legislative Council budget Estimates hearing on 15 September 2004. The proceedings before the Administrative Decisions Tribunal and the Legislative Council Budget Estimates Committee are matters of public record and the member is referred to them.
*4449 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—PAYMENTS TO CREDITORS—Mr Aplin to Minister for Health—

(1) Given your written commitment that Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) will “ensure that creditors are reimbursed on a scheduled payment basis and within 30 days”, how do you explain payment to Albury Vital Air Pty Ltd on 17 June 2005 of twenty-five accounts dating back to 31 December 2004?
(2) Further, are you aware that GSAHS still owes Albury Vital Air over $6,000, the bulk of which is in excess of 30 days?
(3) Is GSAHS' actual payment to local creditors consistent with policy and has access to the accounts department improved for creditors making telephone and email enquiries?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised by the Greater Southern Area Health Service that the accounts referred to had not been received by the former Southern Area Health Service’s Accounts Payable Department. Area Health Service staff contacted Albury Vital Air Pty Ltd and arranged for copies of the invoices to be supplied. I am advised that the accounts were then paid promptly, and that there are no invoices outstanding over 30 days for Albury Vital Air.
(3) The Chief Executive Southern Area Health Service, has advised systems are now in place to enable the payment of local creditors within credit terms with staff redeployed from within the Southern Area Health Service’s Finance Department to improve the responsiveness to creditor enquiries.

*4450 PROPOSED WOLGAN VALLEY TOURIST RESORT—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Women—

(1) Has the NSW Government provided any incentives, by direct financial assistance or through State tax or charges concessions to Emirates Airline to develop the proposed luxury tourist resort in the Wolgan Valley?
(2) If so what incentives or concessions have been offered?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Government has not offered any incentives to Emirates, nor has Emirates sought any financial assistance from the Government, to locate its proposed tourist facility in the Wolgan Valley.

*4451 SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS RAIL FACILITIES—Ms Seaton to Minister for Transport—

(1) What plans does the Government have regarding passenger shelter facilities at Penrose Station?
(2) Are any upgrade works planned for Yerrinbool Station?
(3) If so, when and exactly what projects?
(4) What plans does the Government have to increase rail passenger parking facilities at Moss Vale Station?
(5) How many car park places exist now?
(6) What facilities will be provided for passengers now forced to drive from Wingello, Penrose, Bundanoon and Exeter to Moss Vale Station as a result of axed services?
(7) When will Picton Station receive upgrade under the Easy Access program or any other capital program?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The passenger shelter at Penrose Station is being examined by RailCorp.
(2) and (3) The carpark at Yerrinbool Station will be resurfaced as part of RailCorp’s 2005-06 major periodical maintenance program.

(4) RailCorp will review carpark requirements across the network in the 2005-06 financial year.

(5) Moss Vale Station currently has parking spaces for 39 vehicles with an additional 15 Council owned spaces on the street.

(6) See question 4.

(7) Providing equitable access to public transport services is a key Government objective. To meet this objective, barriers to access are being progressively removed to meet the travelling needs of people with disabilities.

As part of that process of removing barriers, CityRail is progressively undertaking easy access upgrades of selected rail stations. Priority for easy access upgrading is based on a number of factors, including station patronage, access to educational and medical centres, parking, bus services, shopping, tourism and whether the station is a rail interchange.

The cost involved in constructing new or extending existing station facilities can be substantial, and with many other projects across the rail network also needing funding, priorities must be directed to those areas where the need is greatest.

The Honourable Member can be assured when funding priorities are next being considered, her request for an upgrade of Picton Station will be taken into consideration, along with those of other rail commuters.

*4452 ROOKWOOD CEMETERY PROPOSAL—Ms Seaton to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

(1) Has the Minister, the Minister’s staff or Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources officers had any meetings with representatives of Rookwood Cemetery in respect of a proposal for a cemetery project in the Wingecarribee Shire?

(2) If so, what commitments have been made by the NSW Government on the issue?

(3) Would such a proposal be considered to be State significant?

Answer—

(1) No.

(2) N/A.

(3) A decision whether or not the proposal would be State significant would be made when it was submitted.

*4453 SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS ROADS—Ms Seaton to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Economic Reform, Minister for Ports and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) Has the Government made any changes to its existing policy in respect of priority for:

(a) a Picton bypass;

(b) responsibility for Bong Bong Street, Bowral?

(2) When does the Government expect a Picton bypass will be needed?

(3) What timetable, or other traffic criteria would be considered a threshold for the project to be commenced?

(4) Does the Government intend to consider proposals that RTA should transfer its responsibility for Bong Bong Street to another alternative through-route in Bowral?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) (a) and (2) to (3) Preliminary investigations into a bypass of Picton were carried out by a NSW Government workshop, in conjunction with Wollondilly Council in the early 1990’s. At that time,
large volumes of coal trucks were passing through the township of Picton, but following the closure of the Burragorang Valley mines, this no longer occurred.

(1) (b) and (4) A review of State and Regional Roads was announced by the former Minister for Roads in June 2003 following representations from Local Government.
An independent three person Panel was appointed in October 2003 to conduct the review.
The Independent Panel released an information paper to all councils in May 2004 inviting submissions on road reclassification. The Panel’s interim report was distributed to councils in April 2005 for comment and feedback.
The Panel is currently undertaking further consultation with councils, with a final report expected in late 2005 containing specific recommendations for road reclassifications.

*4454 MR QUINTANO SHOOTING—Mr Stoner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

In relation to a recent Supreme Court case involving the alleged unlawful shooting of a Mr Quintano:
(1) Are you aware that the person charged in relation to this matter is a risk in terms of fleeing Australia?
(2) Are you aware that the Supreme Court decided to release the accused on $250,000 bail?
(3) If so, what is the justification for this decision?
(4) Will you appeal this decision on the basis of the seriousness of the offence and the flight risk represented by the accused?

Answer—
I am advised that the DPP has sought a review of a bail decision by the Local Court and that the matter is listed in the Supreme Court on 18 July.

*4455 BREAST SCREENING IN THE SOUTH EAST REGION—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Health—

(1) Are you aware that the Program Manager for BreastScreen ACT and SE NSW, Ms Helen Sutherland, has advised local doctors that BreastScreen ACT and SE NSW is only able to offer “limited breast screening appointments for NSW women in the south east area”?
(2) Are you also aware that in the same letter Ms Sutherland informed local doctors that women who are due for a re-screen may be placed on a waiting list when they ring for an appointment and that well women aged between 50-69 who have not previously been screened will be placed on a waiting list?
(3) How many women in the south east region are currently on the waiting list for breast screening?
(4) What is the reason that BreastScreen ACT and SE NSW is unable to meet its obligations to provide breast screening for women in the target group in this area?
(5) What action have you taken to rectify this problem?

Answer—
Questions relating to Breastscreen should be directed to the Minister for Cancer.

*4456 NORTH WEST RAIL LINK ROUTE—Mr Richardson to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

(1) Is the route agreed to with Hornsby and Baulkham Hills Shire Council the final route for the proposed North-west rail link or is it still possible the Government will alter the route in the future?
(2) What parking arrangements are planned for the Hills Centre? Is it proposed to take land from Castle Hill showground and use it for this purpose?
(3) When is it anticipated the line from Epping to Castle Hill will be completed?
Answer—

(1) The route from Epping to Rouse Hill via Castle Hill is the proposed alignment, based on considerable investigations. Should an alternative emerge during the environmental impact assessment stage that minimises environmental impacts, then it is possible that the alignment could change.

(2) The relationship of any parking associated with the proposed Hills Centre Station and the Castle Hill Showground would be determined at the environmental impact assessment stage of the project.

(3) 2017.

*4457 WEED ERADICATION—Mr Richardson to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—


Answer—

Spending on weed and feral animal control programs is now at record levels. In the 2005/06 financial year, the NSW Government will spend around $18 million on pest management in national parks. This compares to the paltry $1 million allocated by the former Coalition Government in its final year in office. Indeed, after seven years of Coalition neglect, weeds in many NSW parks had become a serious problem. While, since 1995, the area of national park in NSW has increased by more than 50 percent, spending on pest and weed control has increased by a massive 1,800 percent.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) uses this funding to carry out more than 1500 pest control programs (including 600 that are specifically related to weeds). These include control programs in the parks identified by the Honourable Member in his question.

Many of these weed control programs also involve working with neighbours and other Government agencies. Each program has two main objectives: protecting wildlife and minimising the effects of pests on neighbouring properties.

DEC will of course prioritise the spending on weed control according to need to ensure the most efficient and effective allocation of resources. For example, significant additional resources have been made available to fight Bitou Bush in some of the State’s coastal reserves.
PROPOSED TABULAM CORRECTION CENTRE—Mr Cansdell to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

(1) Is there no all-weather access to the Plains Stations/Ewingar area near Tabulam where the proposed correction centre will be located?
(2) Does the bridge over the Timbarra River (which is an access road to the correction centre) go under water several times a year for up to seven days, as on at least three occasions witnessed by locals with up to 1.8 metres of water over the bridge?
(3) Is the Minister aware of the many accidents every year on these narrow access roads and also the dangers facing locals with any proposed extra traffic under existing conditions?
(4) Are there regular landslides at Frasers cutting on a winding section of the access road to the proposed correction centre?
(5) What upgrades will the Minister be undertaking to ensure safer roads for locals and correctional centre traffic?

PRINCES HIGHWAY SPEED LIMIT—Mr Constance to Minister for Roads—

(1) Will the Minister agree to lower the speed limit to 80km/h between Mogo and Batemans Bay on the Princes Highway?
(2) How many accidents have occurred on this stretch of highway over the last five years?

ENDANGERED SPECIES UNIT—Mr George to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

(1) Is the Endangered Species Unit applying for the Federal precautionary principle to include the exotic and toxic camphor laurel tree; if not, why not?
(2) Is he aware that the introduced tree is invasive in five states and there is increasing evidence of its toxicity to native birds and animals?

INTEREST ON WORKCOVER PREMIUMS—Mr Fraser to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

Is interest still being charged on WorkCover Premiums contrary to your public statements in February 2005?
BUSINESS CLOSURES—Mr Fraser to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

How many businesses have been wound up by WorkCover or by insurers in:

(a) 2003
(b) 2004
(c) 2005?

WORKCOVER AUDITS—Mr Fraser to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

(1) How many WorkCover audits have been conducted since March 2003?
(2) How many have resulted in the wind-up of businesses or increase in premiums?
(3) How much extra premium has been collected as a result of these audits?

RENEWAL OF CONTRACTOR LICENCE—Mr Page to Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

With the regards to Renewal of Contractor Licence (Carpenter and Joiner, Minor Maintenance/Cleaning (Minor Building Maintence Non-structural – Contract Less than $5000):
(1) What was the renewal fee for the above Contractor Licence in 2004 and 2005?
(2) Has the Government given consideration to offering a 5-year licence at a reduced fee (similar to the RTA’s drivers licence fee structure)?
(3) If not, why not?

HEAVY VEHICLES—Mr Page to Minister for Roads—

(1) How many heavy vehicles used the Pacific Highway per week to the end of June in 2005?
(2) How many heavy vehicles used the New England Highway per week to the end of June in 2005?

NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY UPGRADES—Mr Page to Minister for Roads—

Notwithstanding the New England Highway is a Federal responsibility, is the Minister aware of estimated costs for upgrading the New England Highway to accommodate the expected doubling in freight over the next fifteen years?

GARFIELD ROAD RIVERSTONE—Mr Pringle to Minister for Roads—

When does the Minister propose to replace the Garfield Road Riverstone Railway Level Crossing with an over or underpass?
LAND TAX THRESHOLD FOR TRUSTS—Mr Pringle to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

Why do trusts not have a land tax threshold as individuals and companies do?

WATER ACCESS ONLY PROPERTIES—Mr Pringle to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

Is there available with regard to water access only properties:
(1) A list of all water only access precincts in the Greater Sydney area nominating all such properties?
(2) What is the current square metre charge being applied in each precinct?
(3) What is the licence number of each tenure with the old charge, the current charge levied, and the total area of occupation?

BRANCH LINES—Mr Armstrong to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

(1) Is the Minister aware that train passenger services are no longer permitted on the following branch lines:
- Koorawatha to Greenthorpe;
- West Wyalong to Ungarie;
- Barmedman to Lake Cargelligo;
- West Wyalong to Burcher;
- Ungarie to Naradhan?
(2) Will the Minister explain what is going to happen to these lines in the medium to long term?
(3) Has the Government shifted the transport of wheat and people from rail to road?
(4) Will the Minister sell these lines off?
(5) Will the Minister give some undertaking to re-open these lines?
(6) Are these lines deemed to be unsafe?
(7) If so, what is the definition of unsafe within the rail safety accreditation framework?
(8) If the lines are now unsafe what caused them to become unsafe?
(9) Have these lines been adequately maintained over the past 10 years?
(10) If the lines have been adequately maintained why are they now unsafe?
(11) If the lines have not been adequately maintained why have they been allowed to deteriorate and be closed to the transport of rail passengers as well as grain?
(12) Do some of these lines have the potential to deliver significant benefits to the State’s tourism industry?
(13) Will the closure of these lines to passengers have a detrimental impact on tourist train activities promoted by such groups as the Lachlan Valley Rail Network at Cowra?
(14) Have groups such as the Lachlan Valley Rail Network made a significant investment in the restoration and preservation of the State’s rail history and its engines/passenger carriages?
(15) In view of this painstaking restoration work by volunteers and their contribution to tourism is the Minister prepared to consider re-opening these lines?
(16) In what set of circumstances would the Minister re-examine the future of these lines for tourist passenger activities?
(17) Once a line closed and not operational what processes are in place to allow for the line to be removed?
(18) Is the owner (the government) under any obligation to maintain these lines?
(19) Is the Minister obliged to observe any legislative or regulatory processes prior to announcing the closure of rail lines in the State?
4471  DENTAL waits—Mr O’Farrell to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), representing the Minister for Health—

(1) How many people were on the waiting lists for dental treatment in:
(a) Northern Sydney/Central Coast Area Health Service;
(b) South Eastern Sydney/Ilawarra Health Service;
(c) Sydney South West Area Health Service;
(d) Sydney West Area Health Service;
(e) Greater Southern Area Health Service;
(f) Greater Western Area Health Service;
(g) Hunter/New England Area Health Service, as at 30 June 2005?

(2) How many people were on the waiting lists for dental treatment in:
(a) Central Coast Area Health Service;
(b) Central Sydney Area Health Service;
(c) Hunter Area Health Service;
(d) Northern Sydney Area Health Service;
(e) South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service;
(f) South Western Area Health Service;
(g) Western Sydney Area Health Service;
(h) Far West Area Health Service;
(i) Greater Murray Area Health Service;
(j) Macquarie Area Health Service;
(k) Mid North Coast Area Health Service;
(l) Mid Western Area Health Service;
(m) New England Area Health Service;
(n) Northern Rivers Area Health Service;
(o) Southern Area Health Service, as at 30 June 2003 and 2004?

4472  TRUCK DRIVER FATIGUE—Mr Hartcher to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

(1) In relation to the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Long Distance Truck Driver Fatigue) Regulation 2005, why does the regulation place no obligations on truck drivers?
(2) Is the Minister aware that all drivers, especially those driving long distances, can present as being alert and feel alert at the start of their journey, yet feel fatigued during their journey?
(3) If so, how in these circumstances can an employer, head carrier, principal contractor, consignor or consignee evaluate the risk of driver fatigue?
(4) Is the Minister confident that the number of fatalities involving long distance truck drivers will fall even though the regulation imposes no responsibilities on truck drivers?
(5) If so, why?
(6) In light of WorkCover CEO Jon Blackwell’s media release of 13 June 2005 in which Mr Blackwell claimed to have had extensive consultation with the Transport Workers Union, the Road Transport Association and employer groups, can the Minister advise which employer groups were consulted following the release of the draft regulation for comment?
(7) Is Mr Blackwell’s claim that “more than 71 truck drivers are killed on the road each year” correct?
(8) What is the source of his advice?

4473 CARDIAC CATHETERISATION LABORATORY—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), representing the Minister for Health—

(1) What is the progress of the previous Minister’s commitment to examine options for the establishment of a cardiac catheterisation laboratory in Port Macquarie?
(2) Has a report been done, and if so, is it available for comment?

4474 WESTPORT TECHNOLOGY HIGH SUPPORT UNIT—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

(1) Is the Minister aware of the cramped conditions at the Westport Technology High Support Unit?
(2) If so, what is being planned to address these conditions?

4475 FUNDING WITHDRAWAL—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), representing the Minister for Health—

(1) Is it correct that the NSW Department of Health is considering withdrawal of funding for Rural Medical Specialist Training Positions?
(2) If so, why?

4476 CARE FACILITIES—Mr Maguire to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

(1) What facilities are available in Wagga Wagga for young people aged 18 – 40 with disabilities?
(2) What facilities are available in Wagga Wagga for young people needing 24-hour care?
(3) Do you have any plans to provide 24-hour care facilities in the near future?
(4) How many young people with dependants under 24-hour care are in public facilities?
(5) How many are being cared for by families out of public facilities?

4477 TENANCY TRIBUNAL HEARINGS—Mr Aplin to Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

(1) Has the Tenancy Tribunal ceased conducting weekly hearings in Albury?
(2) What is the justification for introducing fortnightly hearings?
(3) Were real estate agents and property managers in Albury notified of the change in the scheduling of hearings?
(4) Why are there now delays of up to two months to have matters heard, resulting in rent defaulting tenants being up to ten weeks in arrears by the date of hearing?

4478 ROADWORKS MULLENGANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Aplin to Minister for Roads—

(1) When will the storage lane on the Hume Highway near Mullengandra Public School be completed?
(2) Why has previous work resulted in the lane being closed, posing a traffic hazard?
(3) From what source will additional funds be obtained to rectify the works undertaken to date?
ALBURY LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Aplin to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

(1) As at 1 September 2005, how many members of the Albury Local Area Command were on:
   (a) sick leave;
   (b) annual leave;
   (c) long service leave;
   (d) other forms of leave;
   (e) secondment to other LACs;
   (f) assignments rendering them unavailable for normal duty?

(2) As at 1 September 2005, how many civilian members of staff in the Albury Local Area Command were on sick leave or other forms of leave?

HORNSBY HOSPITAL VACANCIES—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), representing the Minister for Health—

(1) In the months of June, July and August 2005, how many staff positions were vacant at Hornsby Hospital?

(2) In what areas of the hospital do these staff vacancies exist?

SANDMINING ROYALTIES—Mr Kerr to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

(1) Does the State Government receive royalties for sand mining on the Kurnell Peninsula?

(2) If so, what was the amount received for the financial years 2003 and 2004?

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS STRATEGY—Mr Kerr to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

When will the Sydney Construction Materials Strategy, to identify sources of construction sand for the Greater Sydney region, be available for public comment?

WEED ERADICATION—Mr Kerr to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

How much money did the Government spend on eradicating weeds in Botany Bay National Park for the financial years 2004 and 2005?

FINE INCREASES AND NON-COMPLIANCE—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

(1) Is it an intention to increase fines under the Property, Stock and Business Agents Act from a maximum of $22,000 to $55,000?

(2) If so, why?

(3) Has there been any significant increase in incidences of non-compliance with the Act where a penalty of $22,000 would be imposed?

(4) If so, what numbers of incidences of non-compliance have occurred in the following years: 2000; 2001; 2002; 2003; 2004; 2005 to date?
DP 34356—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

(1) Has your department granted a development consent for development application number 173-7-2004 for property Lot 1 DP 34356?
(2) If so, when?
(3) If so, how many objections were received from the private sector?
(4) If so, were any objections received from any government department?
(5) If so, what government department?
(6) If the consent was granted, on what criteria was it granted?

OXLEY HIGHWAY UPGRADE—Mr Stoner to Minister for Roads—

In relation to the planned upgrade of the Oxley Highway between the Pacific Highway and Wrights Road, Port Macquarie:
(1) Why was there only $400,000 allocated in the 2005-06 State Budget toward this work?
(2) When will work commence on the construction of the upgraded road?
(3) What is the planned completion date of work on the Oxley Highway?

IPART RECOMMENDATIONS—Mr Stoner to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), representing the Minister for Health—

(1) Does the Minister plan to implement the recommendations of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal made in December 2002 regarding Health Resource Distribution formulae?
(2) If so, when?
(3) If not, why not?

FISHING LICENCE EXEMPTIONS—Mr Stoner to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

Given the conservation work undertaken by Landcare groups, including work on fish breeding habitats, will the Minister provide an exemption from the Recreational Fishing Licence fee for Landcare members?