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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2003-05

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**No. 131**

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2005

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

Q. & A. No. 125 (Including Question Nos 3849 to 3883)	10 May 2005
Q. & A. No. 126 (Including Question Nos 3884 to 3912)	11 May 2005
Q. & A. No. 127 (Including Question Nos 3913 to 3975)	12 May 2005
Q. & A. No. 128 (Including Question Nos 3976 to 4014)	7 June 2005
Q. & A. No. 129 (Including Question Nos 4015 to 4043)	8 June 2005
Q. & A. No. 130 (Including Question Nos 4044 to 4106)	9 June 2005
Q. & A. No. 131 (Including Question Nos 4107 to 4140)	28 June 2005

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Notice of Question given on the date shown

6 APRIL 2005

(Paper No. 125)

\*3849 SPECIAL CONSTABLES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Police—

In relation to special constables:

- (1) As at 5 April 2005 what is the number of Special Constables in NSW and how many are on training courses, leave or sick leave?
- (2) What plans, if any, are there to increase the numbers of Special Constables?
- (3) As at 5 April 2005, where are Special Constables posted and what are their duties?
- (4) What training do Special Constables receive?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) to (4) Special constables in NSW are employed by a range of authorities. The Honourable Member needs to be more specific about the information he requires.

\*3851 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FUNDING—KEMPSEY SHIRE—  
Mr Stoner to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

In relation to Aboriginal Communities Development Program funding for aboriginal housing in the Kempsey Shire:

- (1) Has a house been purchased at John's Lane, near Kempsey, with funding allocated to replacement housing at Bellbrook?
- (2) What was the purchase price of this house?
- (3) What is the area of land and the number of bedrooms associated with this house?
- (4) What modifications are proposed for this house and at what cost?
- (5) Of the 8 new houses planned for Bellbrook, how many houses can now be built due to the cost of the John's Lane purchase?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The purchase price was approximately \$350,000.
- (3) The area of land is 1.012 hectares and there are 4 bedrooms.
- (4) The modification will cost approximately \$42,000 to bring the house up to NSW Government standard, convert garage and install an additional garage/shed.
- (5) Houses will be built according to need, there is no set number.

\*3852 FLUORIDE WATER SUPPLIES—MID NORTH COAST—Mr Stoner to Minister for Health—

With respect to representations by Clr L Intemann, of Hastings Shire Council in relation to the Government's proposal to introduce fluoride to water supplies on the Mid North Coast:

- (1) What action has the NSW Department of Health taken during the past 14 years to follow the safety standards and recommendations of the WHO and NHMRC by ascertaining the actual daily fluoride intake by NSW or Australian residents from all sources such as food and medication as well as water?

- (2) How did the Department of Health comply with the WHO and NHMRC standards of safety by determining the present daily fluoride intake of local individuals in Hastings and Kempsey before deciding that additional fluoride was needed to be consumed by those communities?
- (3) As the incidence of dental fluorosis is (i) rising and (ii) associated with a weakening of the tooth structure and (iii) due to an excessive consumption of fluoride then why is the Department of Health continuing to promote water fluoridation schemes as an effective dental health measure when actually fluoridation will increase children's fluoride consumption and therefore their chances of developing tooth decay due to dental fluorosis?
- (4) What action has the Department of Health taken to study alternative methods of decay prevention and compare them against fluoridation?
- (5) As the largely unfluoridated Mid North Coast Health Region already has lower rates of tooth decay in children's permanent teeth than three out of four 100% fluoridated Sydney regions will the Minister consider supporting a fluoride-free dental health trial for the Mid North Coast which focuses on children's basic good health and good practise of oral hygiene and dental care?
- (6) As symptoms of fluoride poisoning develop over time and generally start with vague aches pains and stiffness in the muscles and joints, can you provide the name of a peer-reviewed fluoridation safety study that used a method capable of detecting these fluoride-induced arthritic symptoms?
- (7) On what basis does the NSW Department of Health claim that fluoridation is safe for the community when the chemical most often used in fluoridation systems (silicofluoride Hydrofluorosilicic acid [H<sub>2</sub>SiF<sub>6</sub>] or Sodium silicofluoride [Na<sub>2</sub>SiF<sub>6</sub>]) has never been properly tested for its effects on human health?
- (8) What current studies is the NSW Department of Health undertaking to ascertain the possible adverse health effects of fluoride and silicofluoride consumption on individuals and groups in the community, including the name of the organisation undertaking these studies and the likely timeframe for publication of the research?
- (9) Given that Silicofluoride is a waste product from the manufacture of phosphate fertiliser and is delivered to water supply systems as an industrial-grade agent product containing contaminants including arsenic (a known 'carcinogen') and lead (a 'probable carcinogen') as well as other heavy metals, what is the legal basis for the intentional addition of arsenic and lead into people's drinking water supplies?
- (10) What are the safety standards regarding arsenic and lead in drinking water and what is the accepted optimal level of these chemicals in drinking water and what are the health benefits of adding arsenic and lead to the drinking water supply?
- (11) Has the NSW Department of Health or the NSW Government Printer acted to register fluoride and silicofluoride under the Therapeutic Goods Administration Act and therefore offered to provide evidence to substantiate the advertised claim that fluoridation produces a beneficial effect on people's health?
- (12) What kind of substance is 'fluoride' classified as – a 'food' or a 'medication' or a 'poison'?

Answer—

(1) to (12) On 11 January 2005 the Acting Minister for Health, the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, wrote in response to the Honourable Member's representations on behalf of Councillor Lisa Intemann, which sought a meeting with me as Minister for Health to discuss the fluoridation issue. The response to the Honourable Member provided contact details for NSW's Chief Dental Officer and invited contact with that Officer for the purpose of discussing any issues of concern. I understand that this invitation has not yet been taken up.

The issues raised in the Honourable Member's Question are both lengthy and complex. As such, it is appropriate that I reaffirm the invitation to Councillor Intemann, this time to contact the Chief Health Officer rather than the Chief Dental Officer, in order to clarify any issues the Councillor may have.

I can however advise that on 29 July 2004, the Australian Health Ministers endorsed the National Oral Health Plan and specifically endorsed the fluoridation of water supplies as an effective public

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health measure, and agreed to take this into account in the development of oral health services within their jurisdictions.

Water fluoridation is recommended by many national and international medical and scientific organisations including the World Health Organisation, the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Dental Association.

The NSW Health, Centre for Oral Health Strategy advise that there is a large body of peer-reviewed, scientific published research that has accumulated on the relationship between consumption of fluoridated water and possible adverse health affects. I am advised that there is no proven evidence to suggest that optimally fluoridated water is anything but a safe, effective and equitable means of helping to reduce dental decay for all age groups.

Further, I am advised that the National Health and Medical Research Council, in 1999, 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.

**\*3853 ROADWORKS—WRIGHTS CORNER—**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 roadworks on the blackspot known as Wright's Corner on the Pacific Highway north of Macksville:

- (1) What was the estimated and actual cost of these works?
- (2) What were the reasons for any variation in cost?
- (3) Why is the corner still signposted with an 80 km speed limit when road works have now been completed?

Answer—

I'm 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.

In May 2004 the Government announced a \$35 million package of road safety improvement works for the Pacific Highway.

As part of this package \$3 million was allocated for upgrade works at Wrights Corner including rebuilding the road and the installation of median wire rope safety barriers to improve safety.

The temporary 80km/hr speed limit was reinstated to 100km/hr after the works were completed in April 2005.

Additional landscaping works are currently being undertaken at the site.

**\*3854 COUNCIL PROCEDURES—**Mr Stoner 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—

In relation to Council procedures under the Local Government Act:

- (1) Must minutes of Council meetings include reference to significant points of debate and be signed by the Chair?
- (2) Are members of the public entitled to attend Council sub-committee meetings?
- (3) Can Council codes of conduct direct Councillors to not investigate ratepayers' complaints?
- (4) Are Councillors and/or council staff permitted corporate credit cards?
- (5) Can elections for positions on Council committees be conducted in a manner by which only the result of the ballot is made known and the votes of individual councillors are not made known?

Answer—

I am advised by the Minister for Local Government of the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) The Local Government Act requires that councils keep full and accurate minutes of proceedings of a meeting of a council. The Act and the Local Government (Meetings) Regulation 1999 require particular matters to be recorded in a council's minutes. Once the minutes have been confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the council the person presiding at that meeting (the Chair) is to sign the minutes.
- (2) The Local Government Act requires that councils give public notice of the times and places of its meetings including those of its committees of which all the members are councillors. Everyone is entitled to attend such meetings except any part of the meeting that is closed to the public under the provisions of the Act or where they are expelled from the meeting. The Act and Regulations do not address sub-committees of council as such.
- (3) The Local Government Act sets out the role of a councillor, which is, as an elected person, to represent the interests of the residents and ratepayers, to provide leadership and guidance to the community and to facilitate communication between the community and the council.

Within those bounds a council's code of conduct adopted under the Local Government Act should not prevent a councillor from receiving and examining a ratepayer's complaints unless the councillor was likely to bring the council or the councillor into disrepute or was in contravention of the Act or regulations or if his or her actions amounted to improper or unethical conduct or an abuse of power or other misconduct or amounted to intimidation, harassment, verbal abuse, or where it constituted an act of disorder at a council meeting.

A councillor, however, is not an investigator and there are other officials and agencies to perform that role.

The Act makes it clear that councillors are not to direct or influence, or attempt to direct or influence, a member of staff or delegate of the council in the exercise of their functions. For a councillor to do so is a breach of a council's code of conduct and the Act.

- (4) The Act requires a council to adopt a policy concerning the provision of facilities to councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office. If the adopted code of a council allows for councillors to be provided with credit cards and the code has been adopted in accordance with the Act then the provision of credit cards to councillors by the council is not a contravention of the Act. In practice, however, it would be seldom appropriate for councillors (other than the mayor) to be issued credit cards.

The Act does not prohibit a council providing its staff with corporate credit cards to discharge their functions. The General Manager is to have appropriate accountability mechanisms in place.

The Local Government (Meetings) Regulation 1999 sets out the means by which a council may vote, but that list is not exhaustive. The Regulation requires that voting at a council meeting be by open means. Open voting allows members of the public and other councillors to be clear about who or what each councillor voted for. Such voting is then reflected in the minutes of a council meeting, which allows greater accountability of councillors to the community. Voting procedures akin to a secret ballot should not be used.

\*3855 DEPARTMENT STAFF STATISTICS—Mr R.W. Turner to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) What was the total number of staff employed throughout the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in NSW at 30th June 1992?
- (2) How many of those staff were employed with the Head Office in Orange at this time?
- (3) What was the total number of staff employed throughout the Department of Agriculture in NSW at 30th June 1997?
- (4) How many of these staff were employed within the Head Office in Orange at this date?
- (5) What was the total number of staff employed throughout the Department of Agriculture in NSW at March 2005?

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(6) Of these employed at the Head Office in Orange, how many are a) full time employees and b) part time employees?

Answer—

- (1) NSW Agriculture's staff statistics as at 30 June 1992 incorporated 3141 equivalent full time staff.
- (2) These figures are not available as staff statistics in 1992 were not categorised as per locations.
- (3) NSW Agriculture's staff statistics as at 30 June 1997 incorporated 2366 equivalent full time staff.
- (4) These figures are not available as staff statistics in 1997 were not categorised as per locations.
- (5) As at 1 July 2004 the NSW Department of Agriculture ceased to exist. EFT numbers for NSW Department of Primary Industries totals 3718.78 as at 10 March 2005.
- (6) (a) 92.7%.  
 (b) 7.3%.

\*3857 MARINE AGGREGATE EXTRACTION—Mr Pringle to Minister for Mineral Resources—

Is the Minister considering a review of the sand resource alternatives including proposals such as Sydney Marine Sand Pty Ltd?

Answer—

No.

\*3858 DEAD TREES—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—

In view of at least two recent accidents due to trees falling on the road surface, will the Minister urgently arrange a safety audit and the removal of dead/ over hanging trees on Bells Line of Road between Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has an ongoing program to identify and remove dead and overhanging trees.

As part of this program, the RTA will remove any dead or dying branches hanging over the road surface on the Bells Line of Road between Bilpin and Kurrajong Heights.

Local roads are the responsibility of local councils. Accordingly, removal of dead and overhanging trees along local roads is the responsibility of local councils.

\*3859 SCHOOL LABORATORY ASSISTANTS—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

In view of the great responsibility placed upon school principals for occupational health and safety is it proposed to continue the practice of using school administration officers instead of trained laboratory assistants for advertised laboratory assistant positions?

Answer—

The school administrative officer is a multi-skilled classification which may perform a range of roles within a school including support to teachers and students in school science laboratories. Principals allocate school administrative officers within the school based on the school's needs and the knowledge and skills of the staff.

I am advised that training is provided to school administrative officers to support their work in science laboratories. This includes the Job Skills for School Administrative Officers working in Science course, which provides school administrative officers with the knowledge and skills they need to work in a safe and efficient manner in science. Staff are also supported by the Chemicals in Schools package.

\*3860 WOOLLOOWARE RAILWAY STATION—Mr Kerr to Minister for Transport—

What plans does the Government have to upgrade Woollooware Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

Woollooware station will be upgraded as part of the Cronulla Line Duplication project scheduled for completion in 2008.

\*3863 GOULBURN ROADS AND TRAFFIC LICENCE TESTING—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 as of 15 March 2005, all RTA Licence Testers at the Goulburn Motor Registry were on leave and the registry was not taking bookings for licence tests?
- (2) What action was taken by the RTA to inform the Goulburn public of this situation and to obtain the services of replacement Licence Testers?
- (3) Why was this situation, where the Goulburn Motor Registry was unable to carry out licence tests, allowed to occur?

Answer—

I refer the Hon Member to my answer to question 3806 which was asked by her on 24 March 2005.

\*3864 BREAST SCREENING—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Health—

- (1) Will you confirm reports from the Southern Slopes Area Health Council that women from Young, Boorowa, Harden and Yass are currently unable to access breast screening services at Young Hospital?
- (2) What is the reason for the cessation of this service?
- (3) Is the withdrawal of this service temporary or permanent?
- (4) What alternative arrangements have you made to ensure that breast screening services remain readily available to women from Young, Boorowa, Harden and Yass?

Answer—

(1) to (4) inclusive:

Women of any age who notice any unusual changes in their breasts are advised to see their doctor promptly and, if necessary, the doctor can refer them for a diagnostic mammogram.

The Greater Southern Area Health Service has advised that Young Hospital provides both mammography screening and diagnostic services to Young and surrounding districts under a contractual agreement with ACT Breastscreen. The Area has advised that access to diagnostic services at Young have continued uninterrupted, ensuring access to mammography services for patients in urgent need. I am advised that the provision of general population based screening services at Young Hospital was recently withdrawn on a temporary basis due to a number of factors, including the major redevelopment of Young Health Service and issues surrounding the Radiographer work force.



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I am advised ACT Breastscreen has been scheduling appointments for the service commencing Monday 18 April 2005 following relocation to new premises, and that arrangements have been made for an additional radiographer to assist over the coming months in completing any delayed breast screens.

\*3865 MILLENNIUM MARCHING BAND—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Will you confirm advice, from the Department of Education, received from parents in Boorowa that there are no plans to continue support of the Millennium Marching Band past the performances at the 2005 Royal Easter Show?
- (2) If so what alternative arrangements have you made to ensure that country students, wanting to participate in similar activities, are not denied equal access and opportunity to that available to students in metropolitan areas?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Millennium Marching Band will continue to function in 2005. I am advised that rehearsals commenced on 21 April 2005 and that a full schedule of rehearsal and performance activities for Semester 1, 2005 has been finalised and planning for Semester 2, 2005 is progressing for activities in Semester 2, 2005.

\*3866 "E" TAGS—Mr Oakeshott 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 plans are being made for infrequent users, such as people based in regional and rural areas, for "E" tags on metropolitan roads such as the cross-city tunnel and the harbour tunnel?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Cross City Tunnel will be Sydney's first full electronic toll road. Motorists using the tunnel will have two toll payment options: an electronic tag as already accepted on other motorways or a new payment method called a 'pass'.

Motorists will continue to be able to use an alternate free route after the cross city tunnel opens.

Additional information about electronic tolling for the cross city tunnel is publicly available on the Cross City Tunnel Motorway website at [www.crosscity.com.au](http://www.crosscity.com.au). Information will also be included in registration renewals, at motor registries and on the Roads and Traffic Authority website [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

There are no current plans to make the Sydney Harbour Tunnel electronic tolling only.

\*3867 AMALGAMATION AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Health—

Following the amalgamation of Mid-North Coast and North Coast Area Health service, can the Minister confirm the current status of the following programs for the elderly on the Mid-North Coast:

- (1) What extra funding/resourcing has been provided for transitional care opportunities and additional aged care services?
- (2) What is the status, if any, of psychogeriatric specialist medical clinics?
- (3) What is the status, if any, of memory enhancement clinics?
- (4) What is the status, if any, of dementia care clinical nurse consultants?

Answer—

(1) to (4) inclusive:

I am advised that funding for transitional care places on the Mid North Coast is currently under negotiation between NSW Health and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

\$72,000 has been provided by Coffs Harbour Base Hospital to establish a new full time Aged Services Emergency Team post at the Hospital by May 2005.

The North Coast Area also received around \$500,000 under the Pathways Home program for 2004/05, to improve rehabilitation and step down services for the people of the mid north coast, including Kempsey, Macksville, Bellingen and Wauchope. Projects provided under this Program include the provision of furniture, aids and equipment, development costs for implementation of the Transitional Aged Care Program, and workforce training and development initiatives.

I am also advised by the North Coast Area Health Services that psychogeriatric specialist medical outpatient clinics on the Mid North Coast operate 2 days per month in the Coffs Harbour network and 3 days per month in the Hastings / Macleay network.

\*3868 TEETH FOR LIFE HEALTH PROMOTION—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Health—

- (1) Following the amalgamation of the Mid-North Coast and North Coast Area Health service, will the Minister guarantee the continuation of Teeth for Life health promotion?
- (2) What other public dental health initiatives have the department got happening on the Mid-North Coast?
- (3) What exact date will flouride be added to each of the water systems in the Mid-North Coast group of councils?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised by the NSW Health, Centre for Oral Health Strategy that funding has been made available to extend the Teeth for Life Project for a further two years.
- (2) The NSW Health, Centre for Oral Health Strategy have also advised that a number of health promotion measures are continuing on the Mid-North Coast. These measures are designed to reach groups at high risk of oral disease (infants, adolescents, Aborigines and the elderly). Besides water fluoridation, measures being implemented include free before school screening (infants), the Tiddalick Pre-school program (Aboriginal children) and the training of carers at institutions (for elderly and special needs). Training for clinicians in smoking cessation counselling (adolescents being a major target) has also been undertaken.
- (3) In accordance with the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957, the Director-General, NSW Health has directed that the Kempsey Shire Council, the Hastings Council and the Coffs Harbour City Council commence fluoridation of the appropriate water supplies by no later than 30 November 2005.

\*3869 QX VIRUS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) Is there a problem with QX virus in oysters grown on the Hawkesbury River?
- (2) Which sites are affected?
- (3) What is the reason for this?
- (4) What measures have been taken to manage the virus outbreak?

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Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The QX infection in Hawkesbury River is extensive. Affected sites include Marra Marra, Kimmerikong, Coba, Milsons Island, the Wreck (west Hawkesbury River), Mooney Mooney Creek, Mullet Creek, Brooklyn, Porto Bay and Patonga Creek (east Hawkesbury River)
- (3) QX disease is caused by a protozoan parasite (not a virus), *Marteilia sydneyi*. Previous outbreaks of QX disease have killed large numbers of Sydney rock oysters, and during the past 10 years QX has devastated the Sydney rock oyster industry in Georges, Tweed and Clarence Rivers, resulting in large economic losses. Once QX disease has caused mortalities in an estuary, it will periodically reoccur, preventing the traditional oyster industry from re-establishing. Recent surveys have shown that the QX organism is widespread in NSW estuaries, but in many estuaries no mortalities have been reported. The lifecycle of QX is poorly understood, as are the mechanisms that turn it from a benign parasite into a killer in some estuaries.
- (4) On Tuesday April 19 2005 the Premier announced stage one of an assistance plan that includes:
  - Providing 200,000 QX resistant Sydney Rock Oysters for growers;
  - Making available a \$200,000 grant to supply oysters to growers next year;
  - Continued research into QX disease;
  - Making available a range of free access to financial counselling services;
  - Creating a QX disease taskforce to identify short and long term support measures for farmers;
  - Making urgent application to the Federal Government to grant exceptional circumstances support to help affected growers.

This assistance is part of an ongoing plan to help growers in the wake of the QX disease to help rebuild the industry in the Hawkesbury.

\*3870 COMMITTEE MEMBERS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Health—

- (1) Who are the current members of the Health Claims and Consumer Protection Advisory Committee?
- (2) What were the selection criteria for the appointment of the committee members?
- (3) What are the terms of reference of the committee?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) inclusive:  
I am advised that the Health Claims and Consumer Protection Advisory Committee was disbanded following completion of its assigned tasks.

\*3871 WATER TANKS—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 many water tanks have been purchased and installed in the Hornsby electorate from January 2004 until present?
- (2) What is the total amount of rebate paid to residents over this time?

Answer—

- (1) Sydney Water has advised that its records are not maintained on an electorate basis. As at 15 April 2005, Sydney Water has paid 666 rebates to customers for the installation of rainwater tanks in the Hornsby Local Government Area since the program commenced in October 2002.
- (2) As at 15 April 2005, Sydney Water advised that since the program commenced in October 2002 the total amount of rebates paid in the Hornsby Local Government Area is \$228,800.

## \*3872 ORTHOPAEDIC WAITING LIST—Mr Aplin to Minister for Health—

What measures are being taken to reduce the list of patients awaiting orthopaedic procedures at Albury Base Hospital?

Answer—

In 2004/05 the NSW Government provided \$35 million to Area Health Services to treat patients who have been waiting longer than 12 months for surgery. This was part of a record NSW Health recurrent budget in 2004/05 of \$9.97 billion, which was a 7.6% increase on the previous year.

In April this year I announced a further \$10 million targeted at improving access to surgery for patients waiting longer than 12 months. This will fund around 2,000 additional procedures to be performed in public hospitals, and an invitation to the private hospital sector to perform a further 2,591 low-complexity procedures. In addition to this funding, work is also being undertaken on a State-wide plan to improve access for orthopaedic patients.

I am advised by the Greater Southern Area Health Services that a series of measures are being implemented to reduce the orthopaedic waiting list within Albury Base Hospital and Health Albury-Wodonga. These include:

- Additional lists being made available for orthopaedic surgeons.
- Improving equipment availability to enhance workflow in both emergency (trauma) and elective procedural work for orthopaedic surgeons.
- Establishment of a new Orthopaedic Ward Area (10 Beds) at Albury Base Hospital, which is expected to become operational by mid 2005.
- Continued negotiations with Orthopaedic Surgeons concerning contracts and improved service delivery.

## \*3873 COUNTRYLINK XPT SERVICE—Mr Aplin to Minister for Transport—

(1) What is the percentage on-time arrival of Countrylink XPT services in Albury from:

- (a) Sydney
- (b) Melbourne

by month over the past 12 months?

(2) What are the major causes of consistent delays?

(3) What steps are being taken to adhere to published timetables for this southern XPT service?

Answer—

RailCorp advises:

(1) to (3) In the last 12 months various factors contributed to delays to CountryLink's Sydney-Melbourne route. These included sick passengers, inclement weather such as severe storms and extremes in temperatures and delays on the CityRail metropolitan network.

In addition the Commonwealth Government owned Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) was responsible for 37% of the delays to CountryLink's Sydney-Melbourne route.

Measures which RailCorp is undertaking to improve the reliability of CountryLink services include liaison with the ARTC to ensure facilitation of such issues as the timing and impact of infrastructure works, reviewing procedures for luggage handling and ensuring adequate time is available in the 2005 CityRail timetable for CountryLink trains to enter and exit the metropolitan network.

## \*3874 ROLLING STOCK—Mr Slack-Smith to Minister for Transport—

(1) How many railway lines have not been used by rolling stock in the past 3 years?

(2) How many lines would not support the weight of existing rolling stock?

(3) How many kilometres of unused lines are there in New South Wales?

(4) What is the grade (lbs/foot) (kgs/metre) involved in the used sections?

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Answer—

RailCorp advises:

- (1) and (2) There are 35 disused railway lines on the Country Regional Network that are not available for rail operations.
- (3) At present, there are approximately 2,500km of lines in the Country Regional Network classified as disused.
- (4) The used section comprises rail sizes from 30kg/m (60lb/ft) to 60 kg/m (120lb/ft).

\*3875 SCIENCE TEST—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

When will details be made available about the mandatory Year 8 Science test announced by the Premier on 2 April 2005?

Answer—

Information regarding the pilot stage of the Essential Secondary Science Assessment will be made available in July.

The Essential Secondary Science Assessment was announced by the Premier on 2 April. The Premier indicated that it would be piloted in 2005 and further trialled in 2006 for full implementation in 2007. It will be mandatory for Year 8 government school students from 2007.

\*3876 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

For each Higher School Certificate (HSC) year since 1993:

- (1) How many enrolments were there in government schools in courses that were not UAI eligible (i.e. not category A or B)?
- (2) How many non-UAI eligible courses were offered each year?
- (3) How many non-UAI eligible courses were there that had total enrolments of fewer than 100 HSC students?

Answer—

(1) For each Higher School Certificate (HSC) year since 1993:

1993	8924
1994	12322
1995	14168
1996	15382
1997	16325
1998	17570
1999	18665
2000	19442
2001	9689
2002	8068
2003	7839
2004	7750

- (2) The number of non-UAI eligible courses offered can be accessed on the Board of Studies website at [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/ebos/static/ebos\\_stats.htm](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/ebos/static/ebos_stats.htm)
- (3) The number of non-UAI eligible courses with total enrolments of fewer than 100 HSC students can be accessed on the Board of Studies website at [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/ebos/static/ebos\\_stats.htm](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/ebos/static/ebos_stats.htm)

\*3877 TEACHERS SALARIES AND CONDITIONS—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

The Industrial Relations Commission's Crown Employees (Teachers in Schools and TAFE and Related Employees) Salaries and Conditions Award 2004 provides that teachers will be paid climatic allowances if they are appointed to a school or campus located:

2.1 'in the Western Division of New South Wales upon or to the west of a line starting from a point on the right bank of the Murray River opposite Swan Hill (Victoria), and thence by straight lines passing through the following towns or localities in the order stated, viz., Conargo, Coleambally, Hay, Rankins Springs, Marsden, Condobolin, Peak Hill, Nevertire, Gulargambone, Coonabarabran, Wee Waa, Moree, Warialda, Ashford and Bonshaw', and

2.2 'within a zone of New South Wales established by the 0 Degrees Celsius July Average Minimum Temperature Isotherm as contained in the Climatic Atlas of Australia, June 1974 as amended, and published by the Bureau of Meteorology'

With respect to this information:

- (1) What schools are included in the region covered by part 2.1?
- (2) What schools are included in the region covered by part 2.2?
- (3) What schools are not included in the region covered by part 2.1?
- (4) What schools are not included in the region covered by part 2.2?
- (5) Why are those schools not included?
- (6) What does the Government intend to do to correct any anomalies?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) I am advised there are 104 schools included in the region which are covered by part 2.1 of the Award and 112 schools included in the region covered by clause 2.2. Schools that do not satisfy the criteria of clauses 2.1 and 2.2 do not receive the relevant allowances. Discussions concerning allowances are the subject of an ongoing dialogue between the relevant industrial parties.

\*3878 ABERDEEN CITY RAIL STATION—Mr Souris to Minister for Transport—

- (1) When will road and walkway repairs and maintenance to the vehicle and pedestrian approaches to Aberdeen railway station be undertaken?
- (2) When will bitumen sealing of the vehicle approach and apron and the pedestrian way be undertaken at Aberdeen railway station?
- (3) When will sufficient lighting for the vehicle apron and the pedestrian way at Aberdeen railway station be installed to ensure the safety of patrons and the general public?

Answer—

RailCorp advises:

- (1) to (3) Aberdeen Station is a well lit, single side concrete platform with adequate facilities for the demand of approximately 40 CityRail and CountryLink passengers a week. It is located adjacent to the New England Highway and is accessible by vehicle along a formed gravel road.

\*3879 COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS—Mr Humpherson 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 investigation did you make into the contents of a Today Tonight show in relation to offenders serving community service orders (CSOs)?

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- (2) What action has been taken to ensure that offenders under CSOs are doing a reasonable amount of work as part of their punishment?
- (3) What level of supervision is applied for CSOs?
- (4) What is the maximum number of offenders a Department of Corrective Services officer can supervise?
- (5) How many hours of actual labour is an offender expected to do each day?
- (6) What breaks are they entitled to during this time?

Answer—

The Minister for Justice advises me:

- (1) The Senior Assistant Commissioner, Community Offender Services, conducted an investigation.
- (2) Offenders who fail to meet their obligations under Community Service Orders are dealt with in accordance with the law.
- (3) and (4) This varies depending on such factors as, the number and type offenders, site conditions, type of work, and resources of partner agencies.
- (5) Offenders usually work between 6 and 8 hours per day depending on the work that a partner agency can offer. Offenders sign an agreement that stipulates the hours to be worked. Except by specific agreement between the offender and the CSO organiser, an offender will not be directed to perform more than 8 hours community service work or court-ordered development program in any one day, or to participate in a development program involving group work targeting offending behaviour for more than 5 hours in any one day.
- (6) An offender is entitled to a 10 minute tea break in each three hours of work, and a meal break of 45 minutes after four hours continual work (which may include a 10 minute tea break).

\*3880 INTERSTATE PRISONER TRANSFERS—Mr Humpherson 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 prisoners had interstate transfers in 2003-04:
  - (a) from NSW to other States,
  - (b) from other States to NSW?

Answer—

The Minister for Justice advises me:

- (1) (a) 6.
- (b) 5.

\*3881 MOBILE COMMAND CENTRES—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

- (1) What was the cost of the recent refit of the two mobile command vehicles?
- (2) What is the size and what was the cost of the large plasma screen in each?
- (3) Which bushfire events have the vehicles been used in since this acquisition?
- (4) How many staff are allocated to the vehicles?
- (5) Who is responsible for the vehicles and their maintenance and disposition?
- (6) What is the annual budget for 2004-05 for these vehicles?

Answer—

- (1) The total cost of the recent refit of the two incident command vehicles operated by the New South Wales Fire Brigade (NSW) was \$250,000. This provided state-of-the-art communications and command and control equipment.
- (2) 50 inch screens that include SMART broad touch-screen overlay systems; approximately \$17,500 including installation.
- (3) No bushfires have occurred since the completion of their recent refit.
- (4) One Supervisor and one operator are rostered on one on-call vehicle at all times.
- (5) The Director State Operations is responsible for the vehicles. Their maintenance is the responsibility of the Fleet Management, Communications and FireCAD Systems Units. Their deployment is the responsibility of the Response Co-Ordinator.
- (6) Expenditure for maintenance and repairs to the command vehicles form part of the NSWFB fleet maintenance budget.

\*3882 TOM UGLY'S BRIDGE —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—

Regarding the Tom Ugly's Bridge refurbishment project:

- (1) Do you acknowledge that the bus stop at the point where Clare Street merges with the Princes Highway should be relocated for safety reasons?
- (2) Has the refurbishment cost seven car parking spaces with consequent loss of parking opportunities for local residents to access local businesses?
- (3) Will some or all of these lost car parking spaces be replaced by excavating an area south of the refurbishment for this purpose?
- (4) Given the number of illegal U-turns being made by motorists travelling south at the first set of traffic lights off the southern end of Tom Ugly's, will you arrange for a "No U-Turn" sign to be erected at the lights?
- (5) If not, will you consider making it safe to do a U-turn at these lights?
- (6) Was any social or economic impact statement done in relation to this refurbishment, especially the loss of seven car parking spaces?
- (7) If so, what did the report say?
- (8) If no report was done, why wasn't it done?
- (9) Why has time-limited parking in Clare Street still not been introduced almost a year after the seven car parking spaces were lost?

Answer—

I'm advised

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) consulted the local bus operator, Connex regarding the location of the bus stop opposite Clare Street. Connex advised the RTA they are satisfied with the location.

Following consultation with local business owners, an indented parking bay was installed on the Princes Highway, providing access to local businesses south of Tom Ugly's Bridge. In addition, the RTA offered to install signage directing patrons to off street parking behind the businesses.

RTA investigations found excavation further south would impact on high voltage power poles. It would also require adjustments to shop awnings and relocation of pedestrian steps in the footpath.

Timed parking was installed on the Pacific Highway south of Tom Ugly's bridge in early April 2005 following consultation with local businesses and agreement from the Local Traffic Committee.

U-turn movements are not permitted at intersections with traffic lights, as outlined in the Australian Road Rules and the RTA's Road Users' Handbook.



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\*3883 WELDON STREET BURWOOD—Ms Judge 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 section of Weldon Street Burwood, in the Burwood Municipal area between Liverpool Road Burwood and Railway Parade Burwood:

- (1) What is the classification of this section of road ?
- (2) Whose jurisdiction is it under?
- (3) Who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of this section of Weldon Street?
- (4) Has Burwood Council made any formal representation to your office regarding request for funds for traffic calming measures for this section of road?
- (5) Has Burwood Council forwarded any representations from residents with respect to their concerns about the volume and speed of traffic in this section of road since March 2003?

Answer—

I am advised:

Weldon Street is classified as a Local Road. As such, maintenance of Weldon Street is the responsibility of Burwood Council.

My office has no record of any correspondence from Burwood Council on this issue.

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\*3884 SHARK'S SITE DEVELOPMENT—Mr Kerr to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

When will a decision be made on the development of the Shark's site at Cronulla?

Answer—

I understand that Cronulla Sutherland (Sharks) Leagues Club wishes to redevelop part of its site at Woolooware Bay, for land uses that are not permissible under the Private Recreation zone that currently applies to the site. Redevelopment of the site is dependent on the site being rezoned. A draft local environmental plan is being prepared by Sutherland Shire Council.

The draft plan will require Ministerial determination if and when all issues have been resolved with Council.

\*3885 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT—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 is the service level agreement for Integral Energy concerning the maximum amount of time allowed for power supply interruptions?

Answer—

Electricity distributors strive to maintain supply at all times. However, the nature of the electrical network, system emergencies, maintenance and rearrangements will cause occasional interruptions to the supply of electricity. Electricity Distributors use all reasonable and practical endeavours to minimise the duration and frequency of supply interruptions to customers.

The Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2001 sets out the guaranteed customer service standards that must be incorporated into standard form customer supply contracts for all NSW electricity distributors. This Regulation currently does not contain a guaranteed standard for the maximum amount of time allowed for power supply interruptions.

\*3886 POWER SUPPLY TO COLO HEIGHTS—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—

Noting that from January – March 2005 residents of Colo Heights experienced eleven days with blackouts totaling 68 hrs (minimum 1.75 hours, maximum 27 hrs) will the Minister investigate providing an additional/alternative supply from Kurrajong, direct access to the adjacent Transgrid system through a substation or any other alternatives?

Answer—

Integral Energy uses all reasonable and practical endeavours to minimise the duration and frequency of supply interruptions to its customers.

In any given year, some customers will experience no interruptions and some will experience several interruptions. Geographic characteristics can also have a significant effect on both the likely number of interruptions and the restoration time.

Integral Energy has advised that customers in Colo Heights are supplied from the Cattai Zone Substation via the Sackville Road feeder. This feeder contains approximately 108 kilometres of overhead 11kV mains from the zone substation across rugged terrain to remote customers in the Upper Colo and Colo Heights areas. Because of the nature of the terrain it traverses, severe storms, bushfires, rain, wind and vegetation can adversely impact on the performance of this feeder.

Integral Energy has expended over \$700,000 since 2003/04 on a variety of projects to improve reliability to customers along this feeder. These works are aimed at reducing the number of customers affected by unplanned outages, reduce the time taken to locate faults and improve restoration times. These works include:

- development of an additional connection to the feeder towards Maroota in the Sackville area to improve switching flexibility and enhance back up supply for customers in the Cattai, Ebenezer and Sackville areas;
- the installation of additional auto reclosers (auto reclosers help to improve network performance under intermittent fault conditions such as when vegetation comes into contact with powerlines);
- linking the operation of auto reclosers to centralised system control to ensure they can be operated remotely;
- the installation and upgrade of 24 new line fault indicators (line fault indicators help to pinpoint fault locations and improve the response times to faults on long feeders); and
- vegetation management in the Sackville in September 2004 to manage the impact of vegetation on supply reliability.

Integral Energy is continuing to monitor and assess the performance of this feeder and will investigate further options to improve the reliability of supply to customers in Colo Heights and the Upper Colo.

\*3887 RECYCLING OF WASTE WATER—Mr Pringle to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

When will the Government make a decision as to the acceptance or otherwise of the innovative proposal to recycle black and grey water from the towns of Medlow Bath, Mt Victoria and Blackheath and contaminated mine water for use in the Mt Piper and Wallerawang Power Stations?

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Answer—

The proponent was advised in December 2004 that its bid was unsuccessful. The proposal was thoroughly assessed by an inter-agency Assessment Committee, which concluded that the Government's alternative plans for sewage treatment and water reuse provided far greater value for money. The committee also considered that the Government's plans provided better overall environmental outcomes in this world heritage area.

\*3888 PORT MACQUARIE AMBULANCE STATION—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Health—

What is the staff workload ratio at Port Macquarie Ambulance Station as compared to other stations with similar staffing levels?

Answer—

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ambulance Service of NSW advises that it is difficult to make accurate comparisons between Ambulance stations with similar staffing levels due to differences in demographic and geographic factors, workload distribution over any 24 hour period, and the type and complexity of work.

\*3889 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FUNDING—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Have there been any cutbacks in funding or resourcing for the environmental education programs for the Wingham Brush environmental learning resource centre?
- (2) If so, why?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Wingham Brush Environmental Learning Resource Centre is a community facility managed locally by Wingham Brush Public School and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Wingham Brush Public School and NPWS have agreed that the Centre should be managed in future as a community resource under the NPWS's Discovery Ranger Program. This will see the National Parks and Wildlife Service promote the Centre more broadly and will manage all tour groups, including school groups, on an overall cost recovery basis. This decision will bring a level of certainty to resourcing the Centre.

\*3890 OYSTER INDUSTRY FUNDING—Mr Oakeshott to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) Is the Treasurer aware of the campaign by the NSW oyster industry seeking a continuation of the \$900,000 funding assistance currently being provided to the NSW Shellfish Food Safety Program?
- (2) Does the Treasurer agree that a 25% cost-sharing partnership with industry is a fair deal in light of the "public interest" benefit achieved by the water testing done by the oyster industry in NSW?
- (3) Will the Treasurer also consider an independent review to assess future cost-sharing arrangements?

Answer—

- (1) Yes, I am aware that the NSW oyster industry is seeking continued funding for NSW Shellfish Program.
- (2) An interdepartmental working group has been formed to consult with the various stakeholders and develop a recommendation on future funding arrangements for the NSW Shellfish Program. It would

be premature to comment on any particular cost-sharing arrangement until that group has presented its report.

- (3) The working group will base its recommendations on the principles in the independent Kerin Funding Review of SafeFood NSW. SafeFood was the predecessor of the NSW Food Authority, which manages the NSW Shellfish Program.

\*3891 BOARD OF TICK CONTROL—Mr George to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) Have any producer members of the Board of Tick Control been given approval to write articles for any local media?  
(2) If yes, who is the member or members?

Answer—

- (1) The Board of Tick Control's primary responsibility is to make recommendations to the Minister. It is therefore a matter of courtesy that approval be sought prior to making any comment on these issues to the media in a private capacity. Such approval has only been sought and granted once.  
(2) Ms Trish Holt.

\*3892 VEHICLE CONFISCATION—Mr Debnam to Minister for Police—

In relation to confiscation of vehicles:

How many vehicles were confiscated as a result of a second offence under the Traffic Amendment (Street and Illegal Drag Racing) Act by month in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 to date?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his previous Question on Notice No. 3643 on this subject.

\*3893 SHARE PURCHASES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Police—

In relation to share purchases by Chief Superintendent John Hartley:

- (1) Was John Hartley appointed to act in the role of Superintendent Traffic Services in April 2003?  
(2) Did Chief Superintendent Hartley confirm he purchased shares in speed camera company Redflex Limited in June 2003?  
(3) In October 2004 did the Premier describe the share purchase allegations as "serious" and the need for an investigation as "urgent"?  
(4) Did NSW Police Internal Affairs begin an investigation in October or in November 2004?  
(5) Did the NSW Ombudsman Investigator Ruth Barlow oversee the NSW Police investigation?  
(6) Did the investigation confirm that Chief Superintendent Hartley was warned of his conflict of interest immediately before he purchased the Redflex shares?  
(7) Did the investigation confirm that a June 2003 meeting between Chief Superintendent Hartley and a friend discussed:  
(a) Redflex Limited;  
(b) Redflex cameras;  
(c) speed and redlight cameras;  
(d) related NSW Government contracts;  
(e) transfer of police cameras to the RTA;  
(f) Redflex's market positioning to eventually win subsequent RTA contracts; and  
(g) the warning of the conflict of interest; and preceded his purchase of Redflex Shares in June 2003?

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- (8) Did the investigation confirm that Chief Superintendent Hartley's discussion of the issues detailed in Question 7 above at a meeting in June 2003, directly contradicted Hartley's public claims that he only became aware of these issues in March 2004?
- (9) Did the investigation confirm that from June 2003 Hartley knew Redflex Limited would likely benefit from the NSW Government's increasing dependence on camera technology?
- (10) Did the investigation confirm that in October or November 2003, after his purchase of Redflex shares, Chief Superintendent Hartley met with Ms Sue Sinclair of the RTA to promote the transfer to the RTA of operating responsibility for NSW Police's red light and car cameras?
- (11) Did the investigation confirm that Hartley's meeting with Ms Sue Sinclair continued the implementation of Hartley's strategy to transfer police cameras to the RTA, as discussed in his June 2003 meeting with a friend?
- (12) Did the investigation confirm that Hartley's meeting with Ms Sue Sinclair was conducted without any declaration by Hartley of share ownership or conflict of interest?
- (13) Did the investigation confirm that Chief Superintendent Hartley sold the Redflex shares in March 2004 only after a friend gave a second warning of the conflict of interest?
- (14) Did the investigation find any documented evidence that Hartley reported his conflict of interest to senior officers before being approached by the Sun Herald newspaper in October 2004?
- (15) Has the NSW Police investigation been completed?
- (16) What was the result of the NSW Police investigation?
- (17) Has Chief Superintendent Hartley been advised the investigation has been completed and there was "no adverse finding"?
- (18) Will you publicly release the investigation findings and if so, when?
- (19) Will you release NSW Police conflict of interest registers for the years 2000 to 2005 and if so when?

Answer—

- (1) to (19) NSW Police has advised me:  
A full investigation under the oversight of the Ombudsman and the Police Integrity Commission has cleared Chief Superintendent Hartley of any wrongdoing in the purchase of the shares.

\*3894 VAUCLUSE HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

In relation to Vacluse High School:

- (1) What is the status of Government plans for Vacluse High School in Laguna Avenue?
- (2) What plans does the Government have for either the retention or disposal of the site?

Answer—

- (1) The Vacluse High School site is currently being utilised to accommodate students from Rose Bay Secondary College while capital works are being completed at the former Dover Heights High School site. Following the relocation of students to the refurbished Dover Heights High School for the commencement of classes in 2006, the Vacluse High School site will become surplus to the Department of Education and Training's requirements.
- (2) Following rezoning of the property, the site will be sold.

\*3895 ROSE BAY SECONDARY COLLEGE—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

In relation to Rose Bay Secondary College :

- (1) What is the status of plans for the construction of the new site of Rose Bay Secondary College?
- (2) What is the status of stage two of the construction process?
- (3) What funding will be made available for stage two and what is the date of completion for the site?

Answer—

- (1) Construction of Stage One has commenced and is currently on schedule. It is anticipated that the new facilities will be completed for occupation on day one, 2006.
- (2) and (3) Funding for future stages of capital works at Rose Bay Secondary College will be considered in the context of future statewide capital works priorities.

\*3896 PHOTOCARD DATABASE—Mr Maguire to Minister for Transport—

- (1) How much will it cost to implement a new database to maintain proof of identity cards by the Roads and Traffic Authority?
- (2) How much per year will it cost to maintain the database?
- (3) How are the costs and cost recovery of providing photo cards determined and by whom?

Answer—

- (1) and (3) I suggest the honourable member refer his question to the Minister for Roads within whose portfolio responsibility this matter lies.

\*3897 NSW FIRE BRIGADE RESPONSE TIME—FRENCHS FOREST—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

- (1) In relation to a house fire in Bennabra Place Frenchs Forest last year, what time did the first responding brigade arrive at the scene?
- (2) What time did the brigade receive advice from the emergency call centre? How long did it take to respond to the call? How long did it take to travel to the fire?
- (3) At what time was the first call placed to “OOO” emergency?

Answer—

- (1) 3:13.46 am
- (2) (a) 3:02.58am  
(b) 2 minutes 32 seconds  
(c) 8 minutes 16 seconds
- (3) The call was answered by 000 at 03:02.06 am

\*3898 EAST LINDFIELD LAND—Mr Humpherson 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 Government planning to do with land formerly leased by the East Lindfield Womens Bowling Club?
- (2) Will you favourably consider application from the community to rezone the land as recreation-open space and placed in the control of Ku-ring-gai Council?
- (3) Has the Rural Fire Service advised that no development would be allowed on the land due to its topography aspect and proximity to a National Park?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) After receiving representations from the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council, I agreed to defer the marketing of the site to allow Council to consider compulsorily acquiring the land under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991, for open space purposes. Since Council did not

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take up my offer, it is intended to sell this Crown land by public auction in keeping with its current zoning.

- (3) Formal advice by the Rural Fire Service is generally provided in response to a development application that has been lodged with the local council. In respect of this land, the Department of Lands has not provided anyone with owner's consent to lodge a development application.

\*3899 NSW FIRE BRIGADE RESPONSE TIME—HUNTER VALLEY—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

- (1) At what time did 000 receive an emergency housefire call in the Hunter Valley in the week of 28 March 2005 which resulted in the loss of life?  
 (2) At what time did 000 advise New South Wales Fire Brigades of the fire?  
 (3) At what time was the first responding brigade advised of the fire?  
 (4) At what time did the brigade leave the station to attend the fire?  
 (5) At what time did the brigade attend the fire?

Answer—

- (1) The call was answered by 000 at 07:29.40 am  
 (2) 7:79.55 am  
 (3) 7:30 am  
 (4) 7:35 am  
 (5) 7:39 am

\*3900 COBAR 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—

In relation to Cobar's water supply, via the Albert Priest Channel, from the Macquarie River to the Bogan River at Nyngan:

- (1) What is the estimated loss of water entitlement due to evaporation, seepage and unmetered access to the supply?  
 (2) How does the Government propose to address concerns about the security and quality of Cobar's current and future water supply?  
 (3) When will the report of the Sinclair Knight Merz study into these issues be released?

Answer—

- (1) Water losses in the system due to evaporation, seepage and unmetered access to the supply do not result in a loss of water entitlement.  
 (2) The Government has provided financial assistance of \$75,000 (50% of \$150,000) to Bogan Shire Council to investigate options for improving the security of supply. A broad range of options have been developed including metering of all users, purchasing water on the water market through to infrastructure solutions to reduce evaporative and leakage losses.  
 (3) Sinclair Knight Merz has presented the outcomes of the draft Investigation Study to Bogan Shire Council and Cobar Water Board, and is waiting on their comments to finalise the report. The report is likely to be completed by May and should provide a clearer direction on the way forward. The NSW Government will consider its position once the report is finalised and Bogan Shire Council and the Cobar Water Board have adopted a preferred scheme.

\*3901 SALE OF PROPERTY—Mr Stoner 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—

In relation to Kempsey Shire Council:

- (1) What council property and other significant assets have been sold by the Council in the 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 financial years?
- (2) What was the realised value of each of these assets?
- (3) What were the reasons, if any, given for the sale of these assets?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) Councils do not report information to the Department of Local Government on the sale of property and other significant assets, except what is reported in Note 5 of the annual Financial Statements.
- (2) Note 5 of Kempsey Shire Council's Financial Statements reveals:

Financial Year	Asset Group	Proceeds	Gain or (Loss)
2003-04	Property	\$21,000	\$5,000
	Plant & Equipment	\$569,000	\$304,000
	Real Estate Assets	\$111,000	\$47,000
2002-03	Property	\$176,000	\$107,000
	Plant & Equipment	\$210,000	\$78,000
	Real Estate Assets	\$54,000	(\$5,000)
2001-02	Property	\$30,000	\$Nil
	Plant & Equipment	\$337,000	\$36,000
	Real Estate Assets	\$53,000	\$(1,000)
2000-01	Property	\$Nil	\$Nil
	Plant & Equipment	\$338,000	\$(2,000)
	Real Estate Assets	\$33,000	\$1,000

The Department has not yet received annual Financial Statements from councils with respect to the 2004-05 (current) financial year.

- (3) No reasons were given for the sale of assets.

\*3902 LAND RICH DUTY—Mr Stoner to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

In relation to "land rich duty":

- (1) To which category of taxpayer/s does this duty apply?
- (2) How is this duty calculated?
- (3) When was this duty introduced?
- (4) Have there been any recent changes to this tax?
- (5) How does this duty relate to the vendor duty introduced in last year's State Budget?

Answer—

- (1) Duty applies to certain acquisitions or disposal of shares in private companies (or units in private unit trust schemes or wholesale unit trust schemes) that are land rich.

A company or trust is land rich if:

- it has land holdings in New South Wales to the value of \$2,000,000 or more, and
- its landholdings in all places, whether within or outside Australia, comprise 60 percent or more of the value of all its property. This figure increases to 80 percent where the entity is a primary producer.



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- (2) Duty is calculated separately for the acquisition and disposal of specified interests in land rich entities.
- (3) and (4) Land rich duty on the acquisition of certain interests in a land rich entity began in 1986. Land rich duty on the disposal of certain interests in a land rich entity began in 2004.
- (5) Vendor duty applies to the disposal of direct interests in land related property. Without land rich disposal provisions, the disposal of indirect interests in land would be exempt from duty while the disposal of direct interests in land may attract vendor duty. This would create a significant anomaly in the taxation of the disposal of interest in property and provide a major incentive to dispose of land related property duty free through companies and trusts. To prevent tax avoidance, the Government introduced land rich disposal duty which applies to the disposal of indirect interest in land related property.

\*3903 ROAD UPGRADE—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—

What is the status of any planned upgrades of Old Northern Road, Dural and New Line Road, Dural/Cherrybrook?

Answer—

I am advised

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and Baulkham Hills Shire Council are investing \$2.47 million on a 5-year program to upgrade the Old Northern Road between Maroota and Glenorie. Works are scheduled for completion during 2006.

In addition, the RTA undertakes continuous maintenance works including shoulder maintenance, the removal of vegetation affecting drainage and overgrowth, litter collection, drainage maintenance and the replacement of line marking. General surface pavement defects are repaired as identified.

\*3904 ENDOSCOPY CLINIC—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Health—

- (1) How many staff work in the endoscopy clinic (procedures now performed in the operating theatres) at Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) What are their qualifications?
- (3) Is special training conducted to assist and update staff working in this specialised area?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Health Service has one full-time equivalent registered nurse position permanently rostered to the Endoscopy Unit. In addition, two nurses from the Day Surgery Unit rotate into the Endoscopy Unit, ensuring the Unit is appropriately staffed. The rotational process also allows for a wide range of staff to maintain their skills in this specialised area. An Anaesthetic Nurse is also assigned to the Endoscopy Unit to monitor patients.
- (2) The Endoscopy Unit has one Clinical Nurse Specialist in endoscopy that is a member of the Gastroenterology Endoscopic Nurses College of Australia (GENCA). All nursing staff are registered nurses and all anaesthetic nurses are trained in anaesthetic nursing procedures, with several holding post-graduate qualifications in this speciality.
- (3) I am advised that endoscopy nursing staff routinely provide one on one training to rotational nursing staff. Anaesthetic nurses attend routine anaesthetic nursing in-services and also provide educational in-services to endoscopy staff.

\*3905 HORNSBY BLACKOUT—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) What was the cause of the blackout affecting the Hornsby area on Friday 1 April commencing around 7.00pm?
- (2) How many businesses were affected?
- (3) How many residential homes were affected?
- (4) How long was the duration of the blackout?

Answer—

EnergyAustralia has advised:

- (1) A tree branch fell onto an overhead cable causing the network's protection mechanism to operate. The interruption occurred at 6.58pm.  
Environmental factors, such as tree branches falling onto powerlines, contribute to approximately 70% of interruptions on EnergyAustralia's network.
- (2) and (3) Approximately 1,640 customers were affected by the interruption, of which around 12% were business customers and 88% residential.
- (4) Supply was restored to approximately 30% of customers within 35 minutes, and the remaining customers had power restored within 95 minutes.

\*3906 LEASE PAYMENT—Ms Seaton to Minister for Health—

In relation to advice from the Minister that the details of the arrangements for lease or other payments from the Southern Highlands Private Hospital in Bowral are commercial in confidence (see Question on Notice 3621):

- (1) Why is the allocation, if not the amount, of any lease payment not able to be publicly disclosed?
- (2) On what authority was a determination made that these details may not be disclosed?
- (3) Will the Minister acknowledge the fact of an agreement made relating to the use of the public hospital land for the private hospital premises?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) In relation to the Southern Highlands Private Hospital, I can advise that a lease arrangement exists between the Sydney South West Area Health Service and Bowral Management Company Pty Ltd, who operate the Hospital.

I am advised that the actual amount of the annual lease is commercially sensitive information and cannot be disclosed without the prior consent of Ramsay Health Care (which controls Bowral Management Company Pty Ltd).

However, I am advised that under the current lease arrangements between the Sydney South West Area Health Service and the Bowral Management Company Pty Ltd, the Area Health Service receives 2.5 percent of transactions or \$175,000 annually (whichever is greater) from the Southern Highlands Private Hospital, located on the Bowral and District Hospital campus.

I can advise that initial payments under the lease, between 1996 and 1998, contributed towards the building of the Bowral Community Health Centre. Since 1998-99 the annual rent has been credited to the Wingecarribee Health Service. It is anticipated that this arrangement will continue.

\*3907 BREAST CANCER SCREENING—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Health—

- (1) When is the breast cancer screening unit due to be located in Taree and Forster/Tuncurry between now and the end of 2005?
- (2) Is there a waiting list for screening?
- (3) If so, how long is the waiting list?

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- (4) If so, why is there a waiting list?
- (5) If so, how do people that need to be screened, become screened?
- (6) When are the units taking appointments for each of the times that the units are in Taree and Forster/Tuncurry?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the breast cancer screening unit will be located on Taree and Forster/Tuncurry during the second half of the calendar year 2005.
- (2) to (4) inclusive. I am advised that a list was established so that the Breast screening service would be able to contact women to advise them when the mobile unit was next in their area. I am advised there are 145 women from the Taree area and 55 women from the Forster/Tuncurry area on the list.
- (5) Women in the target age group for screening (50-69 years) who are due for their screen will be sent a reminder letter. Women on the list will be advised by letter when appointments become available in their area.  
Women of any age who notice any unusual changes in their breasts are advised to see their doctor promptly and, if necessary, the doctor can refer them for a diagnostic mammogram.
- (6) I am advised that appointments will be opened three (3) weeks prior to commencement of each breast cancer unit visit.

\*3908 TOM UGLY'S BRIDGE UPGRADE—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—

When will work be completed on Tom Ugly's Bridge?

Answer—

I am advised:

Work on Tom Ugly's Bridge is scheduled for completion in 2007.

\*3909 WEA AND ACE COURSES—Ms Seaton to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

Regarding the funding of WEA and Adult and Community Education (ACE) courses in the Illawarra, Southern Highlands, Wollondilly, Camden, Campbelltown and Southern Tablelands, what is the level of reduction of NSW funding at each college in the above regions in the period 1 July 2004 – 30 June 2005?

Answer—

There has been no reduction of NSW funding at each college in the above regions, in fact both WEA Illawarra and Macarthur Community College Inc received overall increases in the period 1 July 2004 – 30 June 2005.

\*3910 FUTURE OF MENANGLE BRIDGE —Ms Seaton to Minister for Transport—

Regarding the meeting held on 24 March 2005 with the Minister, the Southern Highland Rail User Group (SHRUG) and the Member for Southern Highlands, when will questions taken on notice at that meeting be answered regarding (a) the future of the Menangle Bridge and (b) resolution of the question of whether or not buses will be provided to replace weekend rail services cut between Moss Vale and Goulburn?

Answer—

The Ministry of Transport advises:

A response to the issues raised at the meeting held on 24 March 2005 was forwarded to the Secretary of the Southern Highlands Rail Users Group on 10 May 2005.

\*3911 SERRATED TUSSOCK—Ms Seaton to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

- (1) In 2003-04, 2004-05, what efforts have been made in National Parks in the Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands to eradicate Serrated Tussock?
- (2) Which parks have been the subject of weed treatment?
- (3) What were the dates of treatment?
- (4) What was the cost of the treatment?
- (5) Has infestation been mapped in these parks?
- (6) What has been the effect of treatment, if any?

Answer—

Programs have been undertaken to control and if possible eradicate serrated tussock at known infestations in national parks, nature reserves and state conservation areas in the Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands over a number of years. Treatment has been undertaken in most affected areas in the 2003-04 and 2004-05 financial years.

Areas that have been subject to this weed treatment are:

Nattai National Park, Wollondilly River Nature Reserve, Deua National Park, South East Forests National Park, Morton National Park, Bungonia State Conservation Area, Nadgigomar Nature Reserve, Tinderry Nature Reserve, Yanunubeyan State Conservation Area, Tallaganda National Park, Burnt School Nature Reserve, Cuumbeun Nature Reserve, Mount Dowling Nature Reserve, Mundoonen Nature Reserve, Razorback Nature Reserve, Stony Creek Nature Reserve, Strike-a-light Nature Reserve, Turallo Nature Reserve, Queanbeyan Nature Reserve, Yerranderie State Recreation Area, Abercrombie River National Park and Evans Crown Nature Reserve.

The treatment has been continuous throughout 2003-04 and 2004-05 at a cost of \$230,194.

All areas treated were effectively brought under control, but require ongoing monitoring, follow-up, and periodic treatment due to the nature of the weed, seed in the soil, and the ongoing risk of re-infestation until infestations on neighbouring lands are brought under control.

\*3912 THE OAKS POLICE STATION—Ms Seaton to Minister for Police—

- (1) When did manning of The Oaks police station cease?
- (2) When has the police station been manned in the period 1 July to present date, and for what times?
- (3) What have been the hours of manning of Picton Police station in the period 1 January 2005 – to present date?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) to (3) Police positions are allocated to Local Area Commands, not individual police stations. Staffing allocations and operational hours within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

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\*3913 RESPITE SERVICES—SEABREEZES—Mr Oakeshott 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) Is the Minister aware of the change in circumstances to respite services at SeaBreezes in Port Macquarie? What is being done to minimise impacts from these changes?
- (2) Can the Minister give an assurance that the building currently delivering SeaBreezes services meets all occupational health and safety requirements? If not, what, in detail, needs to be improved to meet the required standards?
- (3) Can the Minister give an assurance that staff are adequately trained for the change in circumstances at SeaBreezes? If not, what training needs to be undertaken to protect the interests of both staff and clients?
- (4) Can the Minister give an assurance that the compatibility of the long-term residents at SeaBreezes has been thoroughly assessed, so that the interests of all involved are protected?
- (5) If not, what, if any, assessment (including any medical assessment) has been done on each of the four residents?
- (6) How much money is being saved from all Government programs, eg: "Life without Barriers", through the change of circumstances at SeaBreezes? In detail, which programs will have cost-savings and how much is expected to be saved from each of these programs?
- (7) Have there been any incidents of inadequate care or standards not being met from the individual clients or their families due to the change of circumstances at SeaBreezes? This includes any problems experienced by the 70 families seeking alternate short-term respite, and the four families now using SeaBreezes for longer-term respite needs? If so, what in detail, are the circumstances of this inadequate care?

Answer—

- (1) Of the four beds in SeaBreezes, three are blocked, though one person will take up another placement shortly, resulting in two blocked beds.  
The Department is working with the families to resolve their situation and assist other families to access alternate respite services on the mid-North Coast.  
Funding for respite care has doubled since 1996, with a total investment of over \$136 million this financial year. This includes a new allocation of \$3.2 million in 2004/05 for the provision of an additional 400 flexible care places for young people with a disability and their carers.
- (2) The building complies with all building code requirements. There are currently three Occupational Health and Safety issues being addressed; the provision of a new stove, replacement of floor coverings and improvements to the telephone system.
- (3) The Regional Behaviour Support Coordinator is overseeing the transition planning for the residents and intensive training and support have been provided to staff. Staff are closely supported by a behaviour intervention consultant, a senior psychologist, a senior speech pathologist and a behaviour support coordinator.
- (4) All residents have received a thorough range of assessments and have a comprehensive range of individual plans. Each resident has had a range of assessments including psychological, service needs, behaviour and response planning, nutrition and swallowing, home alone, and compatibility for joint accommodation assessments, as well as a recent full medical assessment.
- (5) As above.
- (6) There are no cost savings.
- (7) I am unaware of any incidents of inadequate care or standards not being met.

A respite liaison officer is working directly with families, especially those requiring high levels of support, to look at more flexible approaches to respite planning.

More than half the people utilising SeaBreezes came from outside the Hastings area and there are a range of other respite options that have been identified for them.

\*3914 SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING—Mr Oakeshott to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—

In regard to the Department's own flyer "Saltwater Recreational Fishing in NSW - Rules and Regulations Summary":

What, in practice, is the Department of Fisheries process for informing recreational oyster collectors (bag limit 50 per day), and prawners (10 litres per day) that a river has been closed at short notice due to water quality issues?

Answer—

The Department of Primary Industries advises that the means used to publicise urgent fishing closures are dependant on both the time available and risks presented. Practices may include informing recreational fishers through local newspapers, radio, television and by placing copies of the notification close to the closed waters. Local fisheries officers are advised of all closures and overview the situation. Furthermore all fishing closures are published on the Department's website [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au).

\*3915 RELIGIOUS STUDIES—Mr Stoner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

In relation to teaching of Religious Studies in Government Schools:

- (1) Are you aware of a proposal to remove religious education classes and replace them with 'Human Studies'?
- (2) If so, from where did this proposal originate?
- (3) If so, what is your response to this recommendation?

Answer—

There are no plans to make any changes to religious studies in government schools. The current arrangements are consistent with the Education Act 1990 which provides for both General Religious Education through the curriculum, and for Special Religious Education where authorised representatives of approved religions provide instruction to students whose parents have nominated that religion.

\*3916 DETERMINING CHILD DEPRESSION—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Health—

- (1) What are the diagnostic criteria that psychiatrists use to determine if a child under 5 has depression?
- (2) What are the circumstances under which the Government supports children under 5 getting anti-depressant drugs?
- (3) How many children are there in NSW diagnosed with depression and given anti-depressant drugs?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I am advised by NSW Health that most treatment for depression in children five years and under occurs outside the public mental health sector, through general practitioners, paediatricians and private psychiatrists. NSW Health does not generally determine diagnostic criteria for use by these groups and does not have access to their diagnostic conclusions in the diagnosis of depression or the prescription of antidepressants drugs.

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NSW Health's Chief Pharmacist has advised that most drugs used for depression are on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which falls solely within the responsibility of the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing.

\*3917 SURPLUS GOVERNMENT PERSONAL COMPUTERS—Mr Pringle 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—

Is the Minister aware of any superseded Departmental computers that may be available for low cost purchase to enable primary schools to enhance/establish computer laboratories?

Answer—

This matter falls outside the parameters of my portfolios.

\*3918 INTAKE PHONE SERVICE—Mr Page to Minister for Health—

- (1) How much does it cost to operate the Northern Rivers Mental Health Service Intake Phone Service?
- (2) What is the name of the company contracted to deliver this service?
- (3) Is it a US based company?
- (4) Does the Northern Rivers Mental Health Service Intake Phone Service deliver an intake and triage system that bypasses direct access to Crisis Teams?
- (5) What is the average waiting time on the telephone for a person to be answered by the Northern Rivers Mental Health Service Intake Phone Service?

Answer—

- (1) The North Coast Area Health Service has advised that the Mental Health Access Line (MHAL), a telephone based triage and risk assessment service which was originally commenced in the Northern Rivers during November 2004, was expanded to cover the entire North Coast Area Health Service in January this year.

I am advised that the cost of the service is based on the volume of inbound and outbound calls and on the type of call, for example clinical or non-clinical. As the service has only been active for a limited period and the fact that costs will vary according to the factors mentioned above, it is not possible to provide a definitive answer at this stage.

- (2) and (3) I am advised that McKesson Asia-Pacific Pty Ltd, an Australian based subsidiary of the US based McKesson Corporation, has been contracted for the provision of this service. This company is an approved service provider of NSW Health.
- (4) The Mental Health Access Line is consistent with the National Standards for Mental Health Services and provides a single access system for consumers of mental health services.

The North Coast Area Health Service has advised that the general community, who are not existing clients of mental health services, access Mental Health Acute Care Services via the Mental Health Access Line. This ensures that calls made by the general community receive a consistent triage and risk assessment leading to better clinical decision-making and improved consumer outcomes.

Emergency Departments, existing mental health clients, Mental Health Non-Government Organisations, General Practitioners, Medical Specialists, Community Health School Counsellors and the NSW Police are all being encouraged to access North Coast Area Health Service Mental Health Services, including the Acute Community Mental Health teams, directly.

- (5) The North Coast Area Health Service has advised that the average call response time, for the first two weeks of April 2005, was 60.3 seconds. During this period 73% of calls were answered within 30 seconds, 3% above the contracted level.

\*3919 HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICE—Mr Page to Minister for Health—

- (1) Are you aware of a request for funding of the Northern Rivers Mental Health Advocacy Service, set up to provide advocacy and outreach support for people with mental illness?
- (2) Why was funding declined?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The North Coast Area Health Service has advised that the Northern Rivers Mental Health Advocacy Service has previously been funded through two one-off grants funded by the Commonwealth Government, the National Mental Health Incentive Reform Funding (NMHIRF).

I am advised that the Advocacy Service received seed funding in 2001 and a further grant under the second NMHIRF in 2003. The second round of funding under this Commonwealth scheme ceased in June 2004. The Advocacy Service was advised when funded that future funding could not be guaranteed. At this stage no further funding has been identified to continue this service. I understand that Area's Mental Health Service will continue to assist the Northern Rivers Mental Health Advocacy Service to identify ways in which it may secure recurrent funding.

I am further advised that there are a number of pathways for consumers to make representation to the Mental Health Services in the Northern Rivers area. These include:

- Consumer input into Richmond Clinic at Lismore
- Health Care Complaints Commission patient support officer based in Lismore
- The Official Visitors to Mental Health Services
- The Mental Health Council based in former Northern Rivers Area Health Service
- The Complaints Department of former Northern Rivers Area Health Service
- Mental Health Advocacy Service – Legal Aid

\*3920 GOULBURN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Transport—

- (1) Has a definite decision been taken by the NSW Government to sell the Goulburn Railway Workshops?
- (2) Will you confirm that the NSW Government is currently in negotiations with two companies regarding the sale of the workshops?
- (3) What discussions have you had with staff at the Goulburn Railway Workshops regarding the future of their employment positions if the Workshops are sold?
- (4) What efforts have you made to ascertain whether the views represented to the RIC by the AMWU at the workshops are indicative of the views of the majority of the workshop employees?
- (5) What advice has the CEO of the RIC given to you with regard to the wishes of the staff of the Goulburn Railway Workshop about the sale of the facility and their future employment options?
- (6) Is the Goulburn Railway Workshop considered to be a core business to the new structure of railways in NSW?

Answer—

The Rail Infrastructure Corporation advises:

- (1) to (3) Staff were advised by the Chief Executive of RIC at a meeting held in early March 2005 that no decision has been made to sell the Goulburn Railway Workshops.
- (4) to (5) I have met with staff representatives to discuss their concerns directly.
- (6) The restructure of the Rail entities is ongoing and the future of Goulburn Workshop will continue to be considered as part of this process.



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\*3921 YASS HOSPITAL—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Health—

- (1) As a public meeting of 600 Yass residents on 7 September 2004 unanimously rejected the Greater Southern Area Health Service's plans to downgrade Yass Hospital and 1,472 Yass residents have also signed a petition opposing these cuts, will you now direct the CEO of the Southern Area Health Service to pay attention to the concerns of the Yass community and scrap plans to downgrade services at Yass Hospital?
- (2) If you will not so direct the CEO of the Greater Southern Area Health Service, why are you proposing to ignore the concerns of the Yass Community?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) inclusive:

I am assured by the Chief Executive of the Greater Southern Area Health Service that Yass Hospital has not been downgraded and that the services proposed for the hospital are in line with both the current and projected community needs and the provision of safe effective and sustainable services.

\*3922 CTTT HEARING 05/07956—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) Have you investigated the complaint that the Member hearing this case showed bias and made racial slurs during the hearing of this case on 2 March 2005 and 17 March 2005?
- (2) If so what was the result of this investigation?
- (3) Why was the hearing of this case on 24 March 2005 terminated without advice to, or the consent of the tenant?

Answer—

- (1) At my request, the Chairperson of the Tribunal has investigated the complaints.
- (2) The Chairperson advises me that the taped record of both these hearings shows that the two members who presided over the two hearings conducted themselves in a professional and respectful manner and there was no indication of bias on the part of either member nor were any racial slurs made against any party.
- (3) The Chairperson of the Tribunal further advises me that this matter was never scheduled for a hearing on 24 March 2005.

\*3923 BATLOW MPS—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Health—

- (1) In light of the admission by the Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Southern Area Health Service in the Tumut and Adelong Times of 1 April 2005 that Department of Health funding for the Batlow MPS, is not available, will you now confirm that your Department has failed to properly fund this important local project?
- (2) As the replacement of this fibro building, which was announced in March 2000 and originally promised to be opened in July 2003, is now two years overdue will you now give a commitment that the Batlow MPS will be fully funded in the 24 May Budget?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) inclusive:

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to her earlier Question on Notice concerning Batlow Multi Purpose Service (No. 3456).

\*3924 PREMIER TURF—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) Has the Office of Fair Trading received any complaints about the firm Premier Turf, trading in the Newcastle area, following the firm's undertaking to cease trading while unlicensed, as a result of a Supreme Court Order in November 2003?
- (2) Are you aware of concerns that before going into voluntary liquidation and disposing of assets the firm continued to trade while unlicensed?
- (3) Are you aware that the principal of Premier Turf, Mr Peter Garay, is now reportedly trading in the Newcastle area, again unlicensed, as Wallsend Turf Supplies?
- (4) What action have you taken to investigate this matter?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Office of Fair Trading received complaints in relation to Premier Turf Supplies Pty Ltd and its principal Peter Garay continuing to trade unlicensed in the Newcastle Region after the Supreme Court order on 24 November 2003. As a result, on 24 December 2003, the Commissioner for Fair Trading filed a Notice of Motion to have Mr Garay dealt with for contempt of the Supreme Court for breaching the orders.
- (2) Prior to Premier Turf Supplies Pty Ltd being placed into voluntary liquidation on 2 March 2004, the Office of Fair Trading continued to monitor the activities of Peter Garay and Premier Turf Supplies Pty Ltd and became aware that he was continuing to trade unlicensed. This resulted in further contempt proceedings in the Supreme Court.
- (3) The Office of Fair Trading is aware that Peter Garay is now involved with Wallsend Turf and Landscaping Supplies Pty Ltd. Currently this business is trading in turf and landscaping supplies only, which are not covered by the Home Building Act 1989. However Mr Garay's activities are being closely monitored.
- (4) Any complaints alleging that Mr Garay, or a company that he is involved with, may be breaching any legislation enforced by the Office of Fair Trading will be thoroughly investigated and legal action will be taken where appropriate.

\*3925 WOODLAWN MULWAREE TRUST—Ms Hodgkinson 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 reason for the delay, now more than 12 months, in the review of the legalities of the establishment of the Mulwaree Trust Fund by the Department of Local Government?
- (2) Has your Department, to date, found any indication of impropriety or illegality in the establishment of the Trust?
- (3) As the investigation of the Fund is delaying the disbursement of one million dollars earmarked for local community projects, will you specify a date by which the investigation is to be completed?

Answer—

The Minister for Local Government has provided the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) A detailed review of the Trust arrangements was conducted. Because of the complexity of the arrangements high level legal advice from counsel was sought on more than one occasion. Conferences were held with the existing trustees to negotiate mutually agreeable outcomes. Documents to amend the Trust deeds have been drawn up and forwarded to the trustees.
- (2) No. The considerable sum of public money held by the Trust has, however, necessitated changing the Trust arrangements to ensure greater accountability and transparency while still giving effect to the donor's intentions.

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- (3) No investigation is underway. The current position is that the trustees have been asked to execute documents. This, in turn, will require a second set of documents to be issued and executed. I expect this process to be finalised in the near future.

\*3929 BASIX ASSESSMENT—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

- (1) Has the Department of Planning and Natural Resources undertaken an assessment of the likely additional costs to consumers and builders of the BASIX requirement for energy and water conservation to be built into new homes?  
(2) If so what is the estimate or estimates?  
(3) Has an assessment been done on BASIX impact on the provision of low cost housing?  
(4) If so, who undertook the assessments, in what report/document are the assessments contained and what impact will it or is it having?

Answer—

- (1) Yes  
(2) The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resource's (DIPNR's) estimates of an additional \$3000 - \$9000 building cost per average dwelling have proven to be correct through feedback from parts of the industry. The consumer benefits through estimated energy and water savings are \$300 - \$600 per annum.  
(3) Yes  
(4) DIPNR engaged The Allen Consulting Group to prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA). The CBA looked at the impact of implementation of BASIX across the State and likely benefits to the State include:
- A cumulative reduction in water consumption of 287 billion litres over the first 10 years. This is the equivalent to 15% of Warragamba Dam.
  - A cumulative saving of 9.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over the first 10 years. This is the equivalent to removing 2.6 million cars off the road.
  - The combined water and energy savings for the average household are likely to be in the order of \$300 - \$600 per annum.
  - A summary of the CBA is available on the DIPNR website.

\*3930 SYDNEY WATER SUPPLY—Mr Hazzard to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

- (1) What assessment has been done by the Sydney Catchment Authority as to the extra energy that will be required as a result of pumping extra water from the Shoalhaven to supplement Sydney's water supply?  
(2) What is the forecast annual increase in energy expected to be in each of the next five years?  
(3) What assessment has been done by the Sydney Catchment Authority as to the extra greenhouse gases that will be produced as a result of pumping extra water from the Shoalhaven to supplement Sydney's water supply?  
(4) What is the forecast annual increase in greenhouse gases expected to be in each of the next five years?

Answer—

The Sydney Catchment Authority only pumps from the Shoalhaven to supplement Sydney's drinking water supply during times of drought. This is what happened during previous droughts, including in the early 1990s when the Coalition Government was in office. The extra energy required to pump water from the Shoalhaven will depend entirely on the duration of the current drought.

\*3931 HIGH WATER FLOW PERIODS—Mr Hazzard to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

- (1) Are you aware that there is a level of concern in the Shoalhaven about proposals to take water out of the Shoalhaven during high flow periods?
- (2) What are your views of these concerns and what are you or your Department doing to alleviate these concerns?
- (3) What studies/advice has been provided to Sydney Catchment Authority to ensure the health of the Shoalhaven will be protected? What advice/studies have been received?
- (4) Has Sydney Catchment Authority received any studies/advice that pumping from the Shoalhaven would be detrimental to the health of the Shoalhaven? What advice/studies have been received?

Answer—

Representations setting out a range of views have been made to the Government, and government agencies have attended forums in the Shoalhaven region to discuss the plans to change the way in which water is transferred from the Shoalhaven River to Sydney. There will be extensive community consultations and environmental assessments before any final decisions are made.

\*3932 BONDI SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT—Mr Hazzard 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 was the amount of sludge that was collected by Sydney Water from Bondi sewerage treatment plant in:
  - (a) 2002-03
  - (b) 2003-04
  - (c) 2004 to present?
- (2) How many truck movements were made away from the sewage treatment plant to transport sludge in each of the above years?
- (3) In what quantities and to what destinations was the sludge transported in each of the above years?
- (4) What was the total cost to Sydney Water of the sludge transportation in each of the above years?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) Sydney Water collects and treats more than 1.3 billion litres of wastewater each day. Around 75 per cent of this is processed at Sydney Water's three biggest sewage treatment plants at Malabar, North Head and Bondi. The liquid and solids are separated during treatment and further processed. The treated solids become biosolids, a nutrient rich and valuable resource that is transported from the plant for beneficial use in agriculture, composting and land rehabilitation. The table below relates to biosolids from Bondi Sewage Treatment Plant.

Year	Product tonnes	No. of truck movements	Destinations	Transport cost(\$)
2002-03	6,573	286	Bathurst, Canowindra, Forbes, Grenfell, Gulgong, Parkes, Sydney, Trundle, Yeoval	327,797
2003-04	5,526	236	Canowindra, Cassilis, Dubbo, Dunedoo, Forbes, Grenfell, Gulgong, Parkes, Sydney, Trundle, Yeoval	257,483
2004-March 2005	4,328	158	Canowindra, Cassilis, Cudal, Dunedoo, Forbes, Grenfell, Gulgong, Parkes, Yeoval	219,653

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\*3933 MALABAR SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT—Mr Hazzard 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 was the amount of sludge that was collected by Sydney Water from Malabar sewerage treatment plant in:
  - (a) 2002-03
  - (b) 2003-04
  - (c) 2004 to present?
- (2) How many truck movements were made away from the sewage treatment plant to transport sludge in each of the above years?
- (3) In what quantities and to what destinations was the sludge transported in each of the above years?
- (4) What was the total cost to Sydney Water of the sludge transportation in each of the above years?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised it collects and treats more than 1.3 billion litres of wastewater each day. Around 75 per cent of this is processed at Sydney Water's three biggest sewage treatment plants at Malabar, North Head and Bondi. The liquid and solids are separated during treatment and further processed. The treated solids become biosolids, a nutrient rich and valuable resource that is transported from the plant for beneficial use in agriculture, composting and land rehabilitation.

The table below relates to biosolids from Malabar Sewage Treatment Plant.

Year	Product tonnes	No. of truck movements	Destinations	Transport cost(\$)
2002-03	34,662	1,289	Bathurst, Canowindra, Forbes, Grenfell, Gulgong, Parkes, Sydney, Trundle, Yeoval	1,214,907
2003-04	27,045	1,019	Canowindra, Cassilis, Dubbo, Dunedoo, Forbes, Grenfell, Gulgong, Parkes, Trundle, Yeoval	902,224
2004-March 2005	20,195	737	Canowindra, Cassilis, Cudal, Dunedoo, Forbes, Grenfell, Gulgong, Parkes, Yeoval	813,294

\*3934 NORTH HEAD SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT—Mr Hazzard 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 was the amount of sludge that was collected by Sydney Water from North Head sewerage treatment plant in:
  - (a) 2002-03
  - (b) 2003-04
  - (c) 2004 to present?
- (2) How many truck movements were made away from the sewage treatment plant to transport sludge in each of the above years?
- (3) In what quantities and to what destinations was the sludge transported in each of the above years?
- (4) What was the total cost to Sydney Water of the sludge transportation in each of the above years?

Answer—

- (1) – (4) Sydney Water has advised it collects and treats more than 1.3 billion litres of wastewater each day. Around 75 percent of this is processed at Sydney Water's three biggest sewage treatment plants

at Malabar, North Head and Bondi. The liquid and solids are separated during treatment and further processed. The treated solids become biosolids, a nutrient rich and valuable resource that is transported from the plant for beneficial use in agriculture, composting and land rehabilitation. The table below relates to biosolids from North Head Sewage Treatment Plant.

Year	Product tonnes	No. of truck movements	Destinations	Transport cost*(\$)
2002-03	42,125	1,316	Ariah Park, Oberon, Cowra, Canowindra, Orange, Forbes, Grenfell, Bathurst, Goulburn, Picton, Maitland, Kemps Creek.	1,471,217
2003-04	42,035	1,313	Oberon, Cowra, Canowindra, Orange, Woodstock, Meadow flat, Forbes, Goulburn, Picton, Maitland, Kemps Creek.	2,016,798
2004-March 2005	32,270	1,008	Oberon, Goulburn, Cowra, Bathurst, Maitland, Meadow Flat, Cumnock, Taralga, Mudgee.	1,653,414

\*This includes transport and application costs as biosolids management at North Head is carried out by contract.

\*3935 UNPLANNED SEWAGE RELEASE—NORTH HEAD—Mr Hazzard 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—

How many unplanned sewage releases (by-passes) involving untreated sewage were released into the Pacific Ocean at North Head sewerage treatment plant in:

- (a) 2002-03
- (b) 2003-04
- (c) 2004 to present?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

- (a) Nil
- (b) Nil
- (c) Nil

\*3936 UNPLANNED SEWAGE RELEASE—MALABAR—Mr Hazzard 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—

How many unplanned sewage releases (by-passes) involving untreated sewage were released into the Pacific Ocean at Malabar sewerage treatment plant in:

- (a) 2002-03
- (b) 2003-04
- (c) 2004 to present?

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Answer—

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) One.

\*3937 UNPLANNED SEWAGE RELEASE—BONDI—Mr Hazzard 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—

How many unplanned sewage releases (by-passes) involving untreated sewage were released into the Pacific Ocean at Bondi sewerage treatment plant in:

- (a) 2002-03
- (b) 2003-04
- (c) 2004 to present?

Answer—

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Nil.

\*3938 NARDY HOUSE—Mr Constance 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 will the Minister respond to the Committee of Nardy House's invitation to open the purpose built respite facility that has been constructed and fitted out with the assistance of Government funding?
- (2) Will the Minister assure the Nardy House Committee that they will be presented with a contract for the recurrent funding of the Nardy House Respite facility that reflects the purpose built nature of the facility, the high level support needs of their clients (profoundly disabled) and the original intent of their successful and Government funded project?
- (3) Will a budgetary consideration be made in the coming budget to fund the new level of service required by the Nardy House Respite facility on a twenty-four hour seven day a week basis?
- (4) Will the Minister explain the absence of NSW models, such as Cram House and Mount View, that address the care needs of people with profound disabilities and people requiring congregate care, and the inclusion of interstate and inappropriate models unrelated to present housing modes as experienced by people with disabilities in NSW from the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care's recently published (December 2004) Models of supported accommodation for people with disabilities?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care is in discussions with the Nardy House Committee about a suitable opening date for the facility.
- (2) The Department continues to work closely with the Nardy House Committee to reach agreement on the most effective use of the facility.  
The Regional Director is in discussions with the Nardy House Committee about resourcing the operation of the facility. The Committee has constructed the facility with the intention of providing a respite service exclusively for people with severe and profound disabilities. While this is a group that does require respite services in Bega Valley and elsewhere, the level of need for respite services in Bega Valley extends beyond this relatively narrow group to those with more moderate disabilities.

The Department wants to ensure that the facility contributes as effectively as possible to the mix of services in Bega Valley, and that the Nardy House Committee works with the local service system to develop its respite service model.

- (3) Should funds be available for additional respite services in 2005/06 they will be allocated through an open and fair process to communities with the highest need. While the Nardy House request would be considered in that process, it is not possible at this stage to predict the allocation of such funds were they available.
- (4) The Department currently funds a range of models of accommodation and support for people with a disability, including those with profound disabilities.

The discussion paper recently issued by the Department enabled people with a disability, their families, service providers, advocacy groups, and other interested stakeholders to express their views on how supported accommodation options should be further developed. The paper provided some examples of supported accommodation models currently in use for a range of people, not only for people with a disability.

\*3939 LONG BAY CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Mr Humpherson 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 scope of works for the high temperature hot water conversion contract awarded at Long Bay Correctional Centre?
- (2) How many tender applications were received?
- (3) What were the values of the tenders received?
- (4) Has the successful tenderer, Grateholt Pty Ltd, conducted any previous work for the Department of Corrective Services?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The tender was managed by the Department of Commerce. The tender process provides for the confidentiality of unsuccessful tenders. Information regarding the tender and successful tender may be found on the Department of Commerce website.

\*3940 MENTAL HEALTH CENTRES—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Health—

In relation to community based mental health facilities:

- (1) What is the future of Bridgeway House?
- (2) When will you be making an announcement about the future of Chatswood and Cremorne mental health centres?
- (3) When was the Glebe mental health centre closed?

Answer—

- (1) The rehabilitation activities of Bridgeway House will be relocated to the Pavillion, a larger facility 150m from its current location and also on the grounds of Cumberland Hospital. The current staff of Bridgeway House will continue to provide the same level of service and activities.
- (2) The medium-long term future of community mental health services on the lower North Shore will be made later this year.
- (3) All clinical services provided from the Glebe Community Centre, including mental health services, were relocated to the Camperdown Health Centre including:
  - mental health services (including acute, adolescent and aboriginal mental health);
  - child and family services;
  - aged care services;
  - sexual health; and
  - population health services.



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\*3941 CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

What is the planned public consultation program in relation to the proposed construction of three additional towers in the Chatswood Central Business District?

Answer—

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources has not yet received an application for the construction of three residential flat buildings in the Chatswood Central Business District.

Once an application has been lodged, the Department will commence the statutory public participation process as prescribed under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the EP&A Regulation 2000.

\*3942 RAILWAY TICKET SALES—Mr Amery to Minister for Transport—

What is the annual number of tickets sold from the

- (a) Rooty Hill Railway Station
- (b) Mount Druitt Railway Station?

How do these figures compare with each of the last ten years?

Answer—

RailCorp advises:

RailCorp's methodology for calculating ticket sales changed in the 1998-99 financial year, with the implementation of a new, automated ticketing system.

The annual number of tickets sold at Mount Druitt and Rooty Hill stations for the last financial year is:

	Mt Druitt	Rooty Hill
2003-04	925,852	282,155

\*3943 NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE BUDGET —Mr Armstrong to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—

- (1) Can the Minister indicate when the NSW Rural Fire Service Budget for 2005-06 will be finalised?
- (2) Will the Riverina Zone Budget for 2005-06 be cut by \$1 million from an original budget of \$3 million?
- (3) Will the result of this funding shortfall be that five fire-fighting tanks from a total of 11 will be removed from the 2005-06 budget to meet the shortfall in funding?
- (4) Will any reduction in funding for fire-fighting tanks make it impossible for the Riverina Zone to meet the Rural Fire Service Standard requested by the RFS Commissioner, that the average age of primary tankers shall not be more than 15 years of age?
- (5) Will a reduction in funding force RFS brigades to retain tankers that normally would have been replaced because of the age criteria?
- (6) Will a reduction in the level of fire fighting equipment available to brigades and volunteers seriously compromise fire-fighting safety?
- (7) Will the Government commit to maintaining or increasing funding for the upgrade of the tanker fleet to ensure that frontline operational fire fighting vehicles are effective, reliable, safe and late models?

Answer—

- (1) July 2005.
- (2) The budget is not determined at this stage; however, the 2005-2006 allocation to the Riverina Zone for equipment and reimbursements will not be reduced.
- (3) Refer to answer (2)
- (4) Refer to answer (2)
- (5) Refer to answer (2)
- (6) Refer to answer (2)
- (7) Yes.

\*3944 AIDS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE—Mr Kerr to Minister for Health—

- (1) How many clients does the Program of Aids for Disabled People and Sutherland Hospital assist each year?
- (2) How many people are on the waiting list for the Program of Aids for Disabled People at Sutherland Hospital?
- (3) How many people on this waiting list have been waiting more than twelve months for aids?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the Program of Appliances for Disabled People (PADP) and The Sutherland Hospital assisted 9,316 clients from July 2003 to June 2004 through the provision of aids and equipment.
- (2) and (3) inclusive:  
I am advised that there are currently only 28 people on the waiting list for PADP at The Sutherland Hospital and that no clients have been on the list for more than twelve months.

\*3945 AMBULANCE SERVICE ACCOUNT—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Health—

- (1) Why was eight month old baby James Moffat who nearly died from suffocation issued with an account by the NSW Ambulance service for services provided by the NSW Ambulance Service?
- (2) How was it intended by the NSW Ambulance Service to enforce such an account?

Answer—

- (1) It is usual procedure for the Ambulance Service to invoice the patient, based on information collected at the time of the transport. When the Ambulance Service is called to an emergency involving a minor, if the treating Ambulance Officers stopped to collect information about the parent or guardian, it may compromise the care being provided to the patient. The Ambulance Officers' priority is to treat the patient and provide transport to the nearest appropriate hospital, not collect billing information. If the patient's family has private health insurance the Ambulance invoice can be referred to their insurer. In addition, if the patient's parents are recipients of social security benefits the patient is entitled to free transport and will not be charged.
- (2) Taking into account the individual circumstances of the patient, the Ambulance Service may follow up an outstanding account in accordance with its standard procedures. The Ambulance Service is not in a position to know if a person is the parent, or who the legal guardian might be. In the case of a minor, it would be expected that the parent/guardian would honour the account.

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\*3946 PACIFIC PALMS SEWERAGE—Mr J.H. Turner to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) Did the then Minister for Land and Water Conservation, the Hon. Kim Yeadon agree in 1996 that the Pacific Palms Sewerage Scheme be split into two stages with the second stage being the construction of the treatment plant?
- (2) Was an undertaking given by the Minister to Great Lakes Council, the then auspicing body for water and sewerage works in the Great Lakes area, to fund stage two?
- (3) Did the Minister for Land and Water Conservation in December 1997, the Hon Richard Amery, state by letter to MidCoast Water, who had taken over the auspicing of water and sewerage works in the Great Lakes area, that “I again confirm that I am prepared to give a firm commitment that government financial assistance will be provided for stage two works under the same conditions that are set out in the current agreement for Pacific Palms sewerage scheme”?
- (4) Has the current Minister for Energy and Utilities refused to honour these commitments of the former Ministers?
- (5) Will the Premier instruct the Minister for Energy and Utilities to honour the undertaking by the former Ministers to provide funds for stage two of the Pacific Palms sewerage scheme?
- (6) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) to (6) I am advised that:

The Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program provides financial assistance to local water utilities for water supply and sewerage backlog works to areas of most need in regional NSW.

An independent review of the Program was undertaken in 2003-2004 which recommended new rules to streamline the funding process and ensure funds are distributed in an equitable manner on the basis of greatest need.

Stage 1 of the Pacific Palms Sewerage Scheme was completed in 1998 and received \$14.5 million in financial assistance under the Program. The Council has yet to formally apply for funding for the second stage of the works.

\*3947 REPORTED CRIME STATISTICS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police—

- (1) What system is used to determine occurrences of crime in Local Area Commands?
- (2) Are all crimes reported to local Neighbourhood Watch Committees?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me :

- (1) A combination of intelligence data, reported incidents and recorded criminal charges.
- (2) and (3) Under current Neighbourhood Watch guidelines, police provide information on local crime trends and advice on how the community can minimise exposure to those types of crime of particular local concern.

\*3948 DETERMINING CHILD DEPRESSION —Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Health—

What is the diagnostic criteria that psychiatrists and other medical professionals use to determine if a child, 5 years and under, has depression?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question No. 3916 asked by the Honourable Member for Davidson.

\*3949 OVERHEAD HIGH WIRES—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—

How many overhead high tension electricity wires are protected against high winds and foliage drops in the electorate of Hornsby and the Galston/Dural area?

When will uncovered wires be covered to protect them and reduce blackouts etc?

Is any delay in covering high tension wires due to lack of funding for this purpose?

Answer—

I am advised by EnergyAustralia that in the Hornsby electorate and the Galston/Dural area, 21 kms of high voltage overhead cables are covered conductors.

While covered conductors may improve the reliability of the power supply under certain conditions, it cannot protect electricity cables from interruptions caused by high winds, falling trees and other environmental factors. The conversion of bare high voltage mains to covered conductors is, in most cases, targeted specifically to heavily treed areas where overhead cables are particularly vulnerable to environmental factors.

Funding for targeted covered conductor conversion work is available and allocated appropriately following regular reviews of reliability in specific areas. The covered conductor projects in the Hornsby area are programmed for completion by 30 July 2005 and will include an additional 2.5km of covered conductors.

EnergyAustralia undertakes an annual tree trimming program to reduce interference from environmental factors such as trees affecting the supply of electricity.

\*3950 BORE PROCEDURES—Mr Piccoli to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

- (1) What procedures does the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) have in place to inspect new bores in NSW?
- (2) What procedures does DIPNR have in place for on-going monitoring of bore condition and operational status?
- (3) What procedures does DIPNR have in place to ensure bores are decommissioned properly at the end of their operational life?
- (4) What measures are in place to ensure that the contamination of aquifers and contamination between aquifers does not occur as a result of new and existing bores?

Answer—

- (1) In locations where irrigation, commercial or industrial groundwater licences are still being issued, DIPNR officers may inspect the property before the bore is drilled and before issuing a licence. Conditions are then placed on the licence to protect both the environment and other users.

New water bores are required to be constructed by a licensed driller with an appropriate class of licence for the work undertaken. DIPNR manages drillers' licensing in NSW and there are penalties for non compliance with the Water Act, 1912, as amended.

- (2) DIPNR does not directly monitor individual bore condition or operational status in private bores. Rather, it uses a network of government monitoring bores across major aquifers for the purpose of measuring changes in groundwater conditions. This network is currently being expanded. Inspections or regulatory action for bores that may present problems to the aquifer or to other users are undertaken on a priority basis.
- (3) For aquifers that have had a Water Sharing Plan developed, mandatory conditions are in place to ensure decommissioning procedures comply with applicable standards. DIPNR also uses education opportunities to inform both the groundwater pumping community and water drillers about the importance of proper decommissioning and abandonment of bores. This issue has been discussed

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extensively at meetings with groundwater user associations, in the areas of the State that changing groundwater quality is an issue.

- (4) See answer to question 1. Water drillers are required to construct bores to the 'Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia, Edition 2, 2003'. Cross contamination between aquifers should not occur in new bores if these minimum construction standards are followed. DIPNR compliance officers visit drill sites randomly to ensure that good drilling practices are being followed. Further, to ensure drillers are operating to a good standard, there is also a Drillers licensing scheme and follow-up inspections or compliance actions where there has been problems with the bore(s) drilled.

Where inappropriate bore construction or corroded older bores cause cross contamination of aquifers to occur, DIPNR deals with this on a case by case basis.

- \*3951 CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS—PORT STEPHENS ELECTORATE—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

How many requests have been received from schools in the Port Stephens electorate for capital works projects over the past three years, what are they and when will they be carried out?

Answer—

All requests for capital works projects from schools are examined by the Department of Education and Training in the context of future capital works and prioritised for consideration within the context of the competing needs of all schools across the State.

It is not possible to provide an indication of the timing for the inclusion of any capital works project in a forward program, as this is dependent on the deliberations of the Budget Committee in the formulation of the annual State Budget.

- \*3952 CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS—TAMWORTH—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

How many schools in the Tamworth electorate have submitted requests for capital work projects in the last three years, what are they and when will they be carried out?

Answer—

All requests for capital works projects from schools are examined by the Department of Education and Training in the context of future capital works and prioritised for consideration within the context of the competing needs of all schools across the State.

It is not possible to provide an indication of the timing for the inclusion of any capital works project in a forward program, as this is dependent on the deliberations of the Budget Committee in the formulation of the annual State Budget.

- \*3953 RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL AIR-CONDITIONING—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

When will Richmond High School's hall and the 1950's building be air-conditioned?

Answer—

I am unable to provide an indication of the timing for this project in a future capital works program. However, funding for the provision of air cooling will continue to be considered in the context of future capital works priorities.

A project to replace the existing evaporative air cooling system with a reverse cycle system in Block 7 (library and laboratory block) at Richmond High School was completed during January 2004 at an estimated total cost of \$346,640.

The school currently has two demountable classrooms on site both of which are air cooled as part of the Air Cooling Program.

\*3954 NSW ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW—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—

Regarding the NSW Road Classification Review which states on page 2 “there are roads for which the State Government may take responsibility because the road serves a special purpose or function rather than because of its general arterial function eg: major tourist access road within an National Park”:

- (1) Can you advise how many roads the State Government has taken responsibility for because the road serves a special function?
- (2) Which roads are they?
- (3) How much money has been allocated to these types of roads in the past five years?

Answer—

I am advised:

The State Government has taken responsibility for eleven roads between 1928 and 2004, including for example Jenolan Caves Road, as these roads serve a special purpose or function rather than a general arterial function.

Most of these roads are within National Parks and as they are all publicly available in the Government Gazette. The Roads and Traffic Authority provides sufficient funding to ensure they appropriately maintained.

\*3956 POLICE NUMBER INCREASE—Mr Merton to Minister for Police—

What plans if any has the Government to increase Police numbers in the Hills Local Area Command?

Answer—

Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Internet site, [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au).

\*3957 AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIME—Mr Roberts to Minister for Health—

What is the mean response time for ambulance attendance to call outs in the following Local Government Areas: Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde?

Answer—

I am advised that the Ambulance Service does not record response times by Local Government Area.

\*3958 PARRAMATTA FERRY SERVICES—Mr Roberts to Minister for Transport—

- (1) Will ferry services on the Parramatta River alter in the near future?
- (2) Has a submission been made by the Department to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to increase ferry fares?
- (3) If so, by how much?

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Answer—

Sydney Ferries Corporation advises:

- (1) Sydney Ferries Corporation currently has no plans to alter its Parramatta River services.
- (2) and (3) No.

\*3959 DRUG ARRESTS—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police—

How many drug related arrests were made in the North Shore Area Command for the years 1995-2005 inclusive?

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.

\*3960 ASSAULT ARRESTS—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police—

How many arrests for assault related matters were made in the North Shore Area Command for the years 1995-2005 inclusive?

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.

\*3961 BURGLARY ARRESTS—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police—

How many arrests on burglary related matters were made in the North Shore Area Command for the years 1995-2005 inclusive?

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.

\*3962 INCREASING POLICE RESOURCES—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police—

What are the Government's plans for increasing support and resources for the police men and women serving in the North Shore Area Command?

Answer—

Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Internet site, [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au).

\*3963 DA APPROVAL —Ms Judge 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) How many section 96 Development Applications have been approved by Burwood Council and under delegation since March 2003?
- (2) Is it legal for Local Councils to abolish the procedure of “questions without notice to the mayor” as a part of council public meetings?
- (3) Is it a requirement of the Local Government Act and regulations for local councils to table all correspondence to the Mayor at council meetings including invitations, letters from local residents and petitions, for all councillors to view?
- (4) Is it a requirement for councils to table pecuniary interests returns with a report after the statutory time according to the Local Government Act as amended? Should these reports be made available to residents to view at no cost if they so desire?
- (5) Why has the Strathfield by-election, to replace the two councillors who resigned, been delayed?
- (6) Did the Mayor of Strathfield write to the Minister requesting a reduction in the number of councillors from nine to seven?
- (7) When was this letter sent?
- (8) Was there a letter from the General Manager on the same issue?
- (9) What was the date this letter was sent to the Minister?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Section 96 modifications are dealt with under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and as such are a matter for the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.
- (2) The Local Government (Meetings) Regulation 1999 forms part of a council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice. On this aspect, clause 22(1) states that a councillor may, through the chairperson, put a question to another councillor, and may, through the general manager, put a question to a council employee. Sub clause (2) states that a councillor or council employee to whom a question is put is entitled to be given reasonable notice of the question and, in particular, sufficient notice to enable reference to be made to other persons or to documents.

If a council proposed to abolish a formal part of its proceedings previously set aside for dealing with councillors questions then it would require an amendment of its Meetings Code (assuming that the Code deals with it now). Sections 362 and 363 of the Local Government Act 1993 set out the procedure by which a Code is amended. Importantly, however, a Code must always include the minimum right of councillors to ask questions of which notice has been given per clause 22 of the Regulation. It is for the council to ensure that its meeting procedures continue to reasonably permit the exercise of this right.

There is no legislative requirement that questions from councillors be included in the agenda or business papers - a council's Meetings Code could cover this.

- (3) There is no legislative requirement that correspondence to the mayor (or any other councillor or staff) be tabled at a council meeting. However a council has the discretion to follow this procedure and could provide so in their Meetings Code.
- (4) Section 450A requires that the General Manager table returns at the first meeting after the last date for tabling, or the date of lodgment where returns are updated.

Generally, there would be a very short report attaching the returns. It would be expected that the report would appear in the council's business papers, which are publicly available documents. Section 450A also states that the General Manager must keep the returns in a register of returns on receipt, so that at reporting time, the returns should already be publicly available in the Pecuniary Interest Register maintained by council. Section 12 makes it clear the register is a publicly available document. As returns are public documents, anyone is entitled to view these under the authority of sec. 12(1).



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(5) The Strathfield by-election has been delayed under section 318(b) of the Local Government Act 1993 pending the outcome of the Independent Commission Against Corruption inquiry into Strathfield Council.

(6) No.

(7) to (9) Not Applicable.

\*3964 FAIR TRADING OFFICE—Ms Berejikian 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 there any plans to open a Fair Trading office north of the Harbour Bridge?

(2) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) No.

(2) There are six Fair Trading Centres that operate in Greater Sydney. These centres are currently meeting customer demand, including the demand of customers located north of the Harbour Bridge. Fair Trading services are also available online or by post.

\*3966 RAILWAY INSTITUTE BUILDING—Ms Moore to Minister for Transport—

Will the funds from the sale of the Railway Institute Building be used towards transport infrastructure?

Answer—

I refer the Member for Bligh to the answer to Question on Notice 3719.

\*3967 CENTRAL DATABASE—Ms Moore to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—

When will the Government set up a central database to record information from all council run and privately owned pounds to make it easier to find lost companion animals and provide better statistical information?

Answer—

Administration of companion animal matters falls primarily to the Department of Local Government. The question is best referred to the Hon Tony Kelly, MLC, Minister for Local Government.

\*3968 EMPLOYEE CAR PARK SPACES—Ms Moore to Minister for Transport—

What is the proportion of employee car spaces to those allocated for Country Rail passengers on the Western side of Central Station, near the Pitt St entrance ramp?

Answer—

The Ministry of Transport advises:

There are 126 car spaces available for public parking on the western side of Central Station.

\*3969 GAY AND LESBIAN LIAISON OFFICERS—Ms Moore to Minister for Police—

- (1) Is there now no trained Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO) on active duty at Surry Hills Command to help individual gay and lesbian victims of crime or work with community organisations to address systemic problems?
- (2) How many trained GLLOs are available at Surry Hills Command?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) No.
- (2) 5.

\*3970 TENANCY RIGHTS—Ms Moore 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—

What action will the Government take to protect and compensate tenants who are evicted without notice as a result of mortgagee repossession; as occurred to two Darlinghurst constituents, who signed a lease, paid bond and rent in advance, and then found themselves locked out, forced to beg for access to their possessions, and then had to search for another home?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the answer given in Question 3819.

\*3971 311 BUS SERVICE—Ms Moore to Minister for Transport—

- (1) How many complaints were received about 311 bus services in 2004?
- (2) How many of these complaints related to 311 buses that were cancelled?
- (3) How many of these complaints related to 311 buses that were late?
- (4) How many of these complaints related to 311 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 311 bus?
- (6) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 45 minutes for a 311 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 311 bus service is reliable and meets demand?

Answer—

The State Transit Authority advises:

- (1) 334.
- (2) 30.
- (3) 112.
- (4) 16.
- (5) 21.
- (6) 20.
- (7) N/A.
- (8) The Route 311 service travels between Elizabeth Bay and Circular Quay via Central Railway Station. Delays have been found to be caused by illegally parked vehicles that prevent the free passage of buses and traffic congestion.

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- (9) and (10) Services identified as unreliable have been rescheduled. The level of service will continue to be monitored by State Transit.

\*3972 300 SERIES BUS SERVICE—Ms Moore to Minister for Transport—

- (1) How many complaints were received about 300 bus services in 2004?
- (2) How many of these complaints related to 300 buses that were fully loaded and could not stop in inner city locations such as Redfern and Surry Hills?
- (3) How many complainants stated that they had waited for more than 30 minutes for a bus?
- (4) How many complainants stated that this problem was an ongoing concern, with buses regularly late or full?
- (5) What action was taken in response to these complaints?
- (6) What action has the Government taken to expand the 300 series bus service at peak travel periods?
- (7) How does the Minister ensure that he is aware of the number and nature of complaints by bus passengers?

Answer—

The Ministry of Transport advises:

- (1) 370
- (2) 22
- (3) 65
- (4) N/A
- (5) and (6) In 2003/04 a total of four extra services were introduced during the morning peak and two extra services during the afternoon peak. Services identified as unreliable may be rescheduled to improve reliability. The service will continue to be monitored by State Transit.
- (7) As Minister, I meet regularly with the Acting Chief Executive Officer of State Transit Authority and discuss such issues with the travelling public.

\*3973 HOMOPHOBIC CRIME—Ms Moore to Minister for Police—

- (1) How will the Government prevent homophobic crime in Surry Hills and ensure effective policing without skilled and experienced Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers GLLOs?
- (2) What advice did the Government receive from gay and lesbian community organisations that have worked with police to overcome entrenched homophobia within the NSW Police Service and poor policing, particularly in response to gay hate crimes?

Answer—

- (1) I refer the Honourable Member to my previous answer to her Question on Notice No. 3969 on this subject.
- (2) I am advised that NSW Police has made working with the gay and lesbian community a priority since 1985 when it employed its first fulltime civilian Gay/Lesbian Liaison Officer at Police Headquarters.

\*3974 BUS AND TRUCK MUSEUM—Ms Moore to Minister for Transport—

In terms of the Bus and Truck Museum situated at the former Tempe Tram Depot in Tempe:

- (1) Why has the State Transit Authority applied for rezoning of the site from industrial to residential?
- (2) Has this rezoning been approved?
- (3) Are there plans for residential development?
- (4) What are the relocation plans for the Museum collection and the dedicated volunteer staff?

- (5) What strategic assessment has been done about the Museum sale in terms of community needs including public land, heritage and history?  
 (6) What investigation into alternative public uses of the site has been done?

Answer—

The State Transit Authority advises:

- (1) to (6) I refer the Honourable Member to the answer to Question on Notice 3620.

\*3975 SCHOOL BUS SEAT BELTS—Mr Stoner to Minister for Transport—

In relation to the recently released ITSRR report “Deliberations of the School Bus Safety Working Group”:

- (1) Why were parents’ groups recommendations concerning the elimination of standing and the introduction of lap/sash seat belts for new and replacement buses overlooked in the final report?  
 (2) Given that the Australian Transport Safety Council discussed seat belt implementation in 2002 and recommended that each State jurisdiction implement their own safety reforms, why are you referring this matter back to the Australian Transport Safety Council?  
 (3) Given that Australian Design Rule 68/00 has provided for installation of seat belts in rural school buses since 1 July 1994 and is being used by the Queensland Government for this purpose why are you seeking a new Australian Design Rule?

Answer—

The Ministry of Transport advises:

- (1) to (3) On 2 March 2005 the School Bus Safety Working Group’s final report was released. The Working Group was made up of parent and community organisations, as well as representatives of the bus industry and relevant government agencies.

The Report recommends any plan to fit seatbelts to school buses should be progressed by the Australian Transport Council (ATC) through the Australian Design Rule (ADR) process and, in the development of the ADR, consideration be given to seating of 3 restrained children in a seat designed for 2 adults.

I will take this recommendation to the ATC in June, where I'll seek the support of other jurisdictions for a national approach on this important issue.

I have recently met with parents’ organisations to discuss this report and will be meeting with these groups again prior to the Australian Transport Council meeting in June.

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(Paper No. 128)

3976 COUNTRYLINK STAFFING—Mr Stoner to Minister for Transport—

3977 SECURE STAFF PARKING—Mr Stoner to Minister for Health—

3978 SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE POSITIONS—Mr Stoner to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

3979 ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS—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—

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3980 KURRAJONG EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL SANITARY FACILITIES—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

3981 LAND ACCOUNTS NOTICES—Ms Hodgkinson 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—

\*3982 TUMUT RIVER—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Women—

- (1) What is the estimated annual value, to the economy of the Tumut Shire, of the recreational tourist fishing industry and the riverside tourist accommodation industry located along the Tumut River?
- (2) As Minister for Tourism, did the Minister or the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources consult you about the effect on the local tourism industry of the work to increase irrigation flows in the Tumut River?

Answer—

- (1) Limitations imposed by the National Visitor Survey (NVS) data collection do not allow an estimation of the economic benefits attributable to tourist fishing and accommodation along the Tumut River. The NVS is produced by Tourism Research Australia, part of Tourism Australia.
- (2) Yes.

3983 MILLENNIUM MARCHING BAND—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

3984 ILLNESS RESEARCH—Mr Amery to Minister for Health—

3985 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT—Mr Tink to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

3986 OFFICE CLOSURE—Mr Souris to Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for the Central Coast—

3987 CONFLICT OF INTEREST—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

3988 TRAIN DRIVERS' STRESS—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

3989 RAIL PASSENGER JOURNEYS—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—

3990 BEACH ACCESS—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

3991 MATERNITY UNIT BATH—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Health—

- 3992 ASSAULT ARRESTS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police—
- 3993 DRUG ARRESTS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police—
- 3994 LOCAL INVESTIGATION BUDGET—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—
- 3995 TICKET SALES—Mr Merton to Minister for Transport—
- 3996 PARRAMATTA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Merton to Minister for Police—
- 3997 BLACKTOWN LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Merton to Minister for Police—
- 3998 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL FOOD SERVICES—Mr Kerr to Minister for Health—
- 3999 ANNUAL TICKET SALES—Mr Kerr to Minister for Transport—
- 4000 MIRANDA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police—
- 4001 RYDE LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police—
- 4002 NORTH SHORE LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police—
- 4003 GLADESVILLE LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police—
- 4004 WAITING LIST—ALBURY BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Aplin to Minister for Health—
- 4005 JOHN FOORD BRIDGE—COROWA—Mr Aplin 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—
- 4006 WIDE LOAD PERMITS—Mr Aplin 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—

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- 4007 COMMUNITY FIRE UNITS—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—
- 4008 BRIGADE STRENGTHS—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—
- 4009 RURAL FIRE SERVICE EXPENDITURE—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—
- 4010 COMPENSATION PAYMENTS—Mr Armstrong 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—
- 4011 DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDING —Mr Armstrong to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—
- 4012 DRIVERS LICENCE RENEWAL—Mr Armstrong 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—
- 4013 PACIFIC OYSTER FARMING—Mr Pringle to Minister for Mineral Resources, representing the Minister for Primary Industries—
- 4014 TENANT INFORMATION—Mr Pringle to Minister for Housing—
- 4 MAY 2005  
(Paper No. 129)
- 4015 'WHOOPIING COUGH' CASES—Mr Amery to Minister for Health—
- 4016 T-CARD TRIAL—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport—
- 4017 ALLOTMENT SIZE—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—
- 4018 PATIENT BED AVAILABILITY—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Health—
- 4019 SPECIALISED STROKE UNIT—Mr Maguire to Minister for Health—

- 4020 COURT ESCORT DUTY—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—
- 4021 WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC—Mr Maguire to Minister for Health—
- 4022 HEATER INSTALLATION LICENCE—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—
- 4023 NEWCASTLE SYNAGOGUE—Mr Debnam to Minister for Police—
- 4024 TRANSPORT SAFETY AND RELIABILITY REGULATOR (ITSRR)—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—
- 4025 TICKET PRICES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—
- 4026 SAND MINING—KURNELL—Mr Kerr to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—
- 4027 F6 CORRIDOR—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—
- 4028 COUNTRY PASSENGER RAIL SERVICES—Mr Aplin to Minister for Transport—
- 4029 DILLWYNIA PRISON SECURITY—Mr Humpherson 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—
- 4030 RURAL FIRE SERVICE STAFFING—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—
- 4031 INCORRECT RELEASE DATES—Mr Humpherson 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—
- 4032 WINDSOR ROAD WIDENING—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—



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- 4033 FORMER MAROOTA STATE FOREST—Mr Pringle to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—
- 4034 CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—
- 4035 FLUORIDATION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES—Mr Stoner to Minister for Health—
- 4036 PUBLIC HOSPITAL ROSTERS—Mr Stoner to Minister for Health—
- 4037 POINT PLOMER ROAD—Mr Stoner to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—
- 4038 ASBESTOS ON SCHOOL SITES—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—
- 4039 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AND KARUAH BYPASS UPGRADE—Mr J.H. Turner 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—
- 4040 GRADE SEPARATION INTERSECTION—MEMBERS CORRESPONDENCE—Mr J.H. Turner 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—
- 4041 GRADE SEPARATION INTERSECTION—TASK FORCE CORRESPONDENCE—Mr J.H. Turner 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—
- 4042 HOSPITAL STAFFING NUMBERS—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Health—
- 4043 DENTIST NUMBERS—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Health—
- 5 MAY 2005  
(Paper No. 130)
- 4044 DIALYSIS SPECIALISTS—MID NORTH COAST—Mr Stoner to Minister for Health—
- 4045 KEMPSEY CHARGES —Mr Stoner to Minister for Police—

- 4046 HUNTER GAS USERS GROUP—Mr Pringle to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business—
- 4047 EDUCATION HOSPITALITY KITCHENS—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—
- 4048 ROUSE HILL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—
- 4049 POLICE LEAVE—Ms Seaton to Minister for Police—
- 4050 BUS SERVICE REPLACING TRAINS—Ms Seaton to Minister for Transport—
- 4051 BOWRAL DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—Ms Seaton to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—
- 4052 DARCY ROAD INTERSECTION—Ms Allan 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—
- 4053 ROADS AND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY INTERSECTION PLANS—Ms Allan 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—
- 4054 ABORIGINAL LAND CLAIMS —Mr Crittenden 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—
- 4055 TERRACE TOWER GROUP—Mr Crittenden 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—
- 4056 BELMONT GOLF CLUB SITE—Mr Crittenden to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—
- 4057 ACCESS/ACQUISITION OF LAND/FACILITIES —Mr Crittenden 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—

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- 4058 ACCESS/ACQUISITION OF LAND/FACILITIES—Mr Crittenden 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—
- 4059 BELMONT GOLF CLUB ASSETS—Mr Crittenden 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—
- 4060 REGISTERED CLUB INDUSTRY—Mr Crittenden to Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- 4061 LOCKED TRAIN DOORS—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—
- 4062 WATERFALL RECOMMENDATIONS—Mr Debnam to Minister for Transport—
- 4063 BUS LANES—Mr Debnam to Minister for Police—
- 4064 TICKET PRICES—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport—
- 4065 TRAIN FREQUENCY—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Transport—
- 4066 RURAL FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEER—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—
- 4067 POLICE NUMBERS —Mr Constance to Minister for Police—
- 4068 TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT PLAN—Mr Constance to Minister for Transport—
- 4069 HOSPITAL BED ALLOCATION—Mr Constance to Minister for Health—
- 4070 CLOSED CASES—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—
- 4071 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES CASEWORKERS—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—
- 4072 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES HELPLINE—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

- 4073 OUT OF HOME CARE BUDGET—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—
- 4074 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES HELPLINE—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—
- 4075 CHILD PROTECTION BUDGET—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—
- 4076 EARLY INTERVENTION BUDGET—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—
- 4077 TOTAL BUDGET ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—
- 4078 CASEWORKERS BUDGET—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—
- 4079 GRADE INTERSECTION RALLY—Mr J.H. Turner 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—
- 4080 XPT SERVICES—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Transport—
- 4081 INTERSECTION REPRESENTATIONS—Mr J.H. Turner 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—
- 4082 RATE PAYMENTS BY INSTALMENTS—Mr Amery 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—
- 4083 PRE-NATAL CLASSES—SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Kerr to Minister for Health—
- 4084 AGED CARE FACILITY—Mr Kerr 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—
- 4085 ROCLA MINING—Mr Kerr to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

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- 4086 F6 ROADWAY—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—
- 4087 CLOSURE OF REFERN COURT—Ms Moore to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—
- 4088 OPEN SPACE NETWORK—Ms Moore to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—
- 4089 LAW REFORM COMMISSION REPORT 92—Ms Moore to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—
- 4090 LAWSON STREET HEALTH FACILITY—Ms Moore to Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—
- 4091 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION PROGRAM FUNDS—Ms Moore to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—
- 4092 CROWN STREET RESERVOIR—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—
- 4093 ARTESIAN WATER SURVEY—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—
- 4094 TUMUT SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING—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—
- 4095 CITYRAIL SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS TIMETABLE—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Transport—
- 4096 GAMING MACHINE TAX—Mr Aplin to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 4097 NEW FIRE STATION FOR LAVINGTON—Mr Aplin to Minister for Police, representing the Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Lands—
- 4098 FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK—Mr Aplin to Minister for Health—
- 4099 HOSPITAL FUNDING—ALBURY ELECTORATE—Mr Aplin to Minister for Health—

- 4100 RTA NUMBER 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—
- 4101 LANE COVE TUNNEL—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—
- 4102 SPEED CAMERA REVENUE—Mr Roberts to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 4103 JAMES RUSE DRIVE CAMERA—Mr Merton to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 4104 RED LIGHT CAMERA—Mr Merton to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 4105 BUS LANE ONLY—Mr Merton to Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 4106 QUINTANO—Mr Stoner to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

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?

- 4108 CORONIAL INQUEST—MEMBER'S 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 Willetts 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?

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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?

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 the 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?

4111 FITTED INTERLOCK DEVICES—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 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?

4112 EVELEIGH WORKSHOP ACCOMMODATION—Mr Pringle to Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources—

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?

4113 AIR COOLING INSTALLATION—Mr Pringle to Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Education and Training—

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?

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?

4115 CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM—Mr Tink to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

With reference to your advice (Question on Notice Number 3091) about the case management project commenced by the Attorneys General’s Department in 1995:

- (1) Why was the case management system project which was approved by the Capital Works Committee in January 1995 placed on hold?
- (2) How much was spent on the case management system between 1995 and July 2001?
- (3) What work had been completed on the case management system project when it was placed on hold in 2001?
- (4) Did any part of the case management system project carry over to the new Courtlink system?

4116 PLEA BARGAINS—Mr Tink to Attorney General, and Minister for the Environment—

In each of the years, 2000; 2001; 2002; 2003 and 2004, how many people originally committed to stand trial for murder have instead been sentenced for manslaughter following a plea-bargain?

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?

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) Woollooware?
- (3) Cronulla?

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?



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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 during the prolonged drought?
- (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?

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?

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?

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
  - (e) 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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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- (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?

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?

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 received 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?

4132 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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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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?