



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2003-06

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 164

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2006

(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. 154 (Including Question Nos 4887 to 4937)	13 December 2005
Q. & A. No. 155 (Including Question Nos 4938 to 4978)	14 December 2005
Q. & A. No. 156 (Including Question Nos 4979 to 5045)	15 December 2005
Q. & A. No. 157 (Including Question Nos 5046 to 5078)	20 December 2005
Q. & A. No. 158 (Including Question Nos 5079 to 5107)	21 December 2005
Q. & A. No. 159 (Including Question Nos 5108 to 5151)	22 December 2005
Q. & A. No. 160 (Including Question Nos 5152 to 5183)	3 January 2006
Q. & A. No. 161 (Including Question Nos 5184 to 5213)	4 January 2006
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Notice of Question given on the date shown

15 NOVEMBER 2005

(Paper No. 157)

*5046 WATER LEAKS—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) During the period 1 July 2004 through to 1 November 2005, how many water leaks has Sydney Water investigated in the following Local Government Areas:
 - (a) Lane Cove;
 - (b) Hunters Hill;
 - (c) Ryde?
- (2) How many of these leaks were from pipes owned by Sydney Water?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

- (1) The information provided is based on leaks reported to Sydney Water from 1 July 2004 to 31 October 2005.

	Lane Cove	Hunters Hill	Ryde
Total	386	140	1,130

- (2)

	Lane Cove	Hunters Hill	Ryde
Total	138	43	521

*5047 RECORDED INCIDENTS—Mr Roberts to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many incidents were recorded at:
 - (a) Artarmon Railway Station; and
 - (b) St Leonard's Railway Station, in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005?
- (2) How many people were arrested and charged with offences arising from incidents at:
 - (a) Artarmon Railway Station; and
 - (b) St Leonard's Railway Station, in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) RailCorp obtains statistics on recorded criminal incidents occurring on Rail Premises from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR).

*5048 CREMORNE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

How much is allocated in recurrent funding to operate the Cremorne Community Mental Health Service this financial year, ie 2005-06, and how much was allocated in each of the previous five years?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

The Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service advises that the allocation of recurrent funding for Cremorne Community Mental Health Centre for 2005/06 is \$993,962. This is a record allocation and builds on annual increases over the previous five years as indicated below:

Financial Year	Funding
2000/01	\$730,244
2001/02	\$739,778
2002/03	\$763,174
2003/04	\$879,314
2004/05	\$880,072

*5049 NEEDLE EXCHANGE—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

How many syringes were distributed as part of the needle exchange program each year for the last five years?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

Needle and syringe programs are the most effective means at our disposal to combat the spread of blood borne infections through injecting drug use.

I am advised that approximately 12.4 million units of injecting equipment were distributed in 2000/01; 10.3 million in 2001/02; 9.1 million in 2002/03; 9 million in 2003/04 and 8.9 million in 2004/05.

*5050 TAKE-HOME METHADONE—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What measures have you adopted to ensure people on methadone treatment do not stockpile take-home doses which then become a risk to children?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has advised:

Information regarding the Opioid Treatment Program, and controls on the provision of methadone takeaway doses is publicly available on the NSW Health website.

The address is www.health.nsw.gov.au.

*5051 NORTH-WEST RAIL LINK ROUTE—Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

When does the Minister expect that the exact route of the North-West Rail Line will be finalised?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to the press release issued by the former Premier on 9 June 2005 and my press release of 10 November 2005.

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*5052 ACT HEALTH SYSTEM—Mr Constance to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How much money is provided to the ACT health system to cater for NSW patients each year?
- (2) What was the cost for 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001?
- (3) How many NSW patients from the Bega electorate utilised hospitals in the ACT health system in 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001?
- (4) How many orthopedic operations took place in the ACT involving NSW patients?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) and (2) I am advised that the net cost applicable for the 5 financial years in question for NSW residents treated in the ACT is as follows:

	\$M
2000/01	44.1
2001/02	43.9
2002/03	46.3
2003/04	54.0
2004/05	55.8 (estimate only – final costs have yet to be determined)

- (3) The Greater Southern Area Health Service has advised that the number of Bega electorate residents with recorded admissions to ACT public hospitals, for the year in question, is as follows:
 - 2001 – 587 residents recorded 947 admissions;
 - 2002 – 612 residents recorded 995 admissions;
 - 2003 – 619 Bega residents recorded 979 admissions;
 - 2004 – 418 Bega residents recorded 604 admissions; and
 - 2005 (January to June) – 114 residents recorded 143 admissions.
- (4) I am advised that according to data supplied by the ACT, there were 1,176 orthopaedic operations (as defined by the Australian Refined Orthopedic Diagnostic Related groups) in the ACT involving NSW patients in 2003/04. The ACT will provide NSW Health with data for 2004/05 early in the new year.

*5053 FORSTERS BAY BOATSHED—Mr Constance to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

What is being done to rectify the problem facing Mrs Pat Holden who holds a lease on a boatshed at Forsters Bay, Narooma?

Answer—

I am advised that Mrs Holden does not hold a lease. Rather, she holds a licence under the Crown Lands Act 1989 that authorises her use of a boatshed and other structures, being a jetty and a slipway, which have been erected on Crown land. Mrs Holden has erected additional structures on Crown land without authorisation. She has been advised by the Department of Lands that these unauthorised structures could remain pending a review of the entire Forsters Bay foreshore. This review entails a statutory assessment of the affected Crown lands to identify suitable land uses and provide a basis for rational land allocation in accordance with the Principles of Crown Land Management as set out in the Crown Lands Act. The draft assessment is expected to be placed on public exhibition by February 2006.

*5054 PRINCES HIGHWAY—Mr Constance to Minister for Roads—

- (1) When will the overtaking lane be constructed at Victoria Creek on the Princes Highway?
- (2) What is the plan to build a new bridge at Batemans Bay on the Princes Highway?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that an overtaking lane at Mystery Bay, is programmed for the 2006/07 financial year.
- (2) A new bridge at Batemans Bay on the Princess Highway remains an option.

*5055 HARBOUR BRIDGE TOLL—Mr Stoner to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to the extension of the Harbour Bridge Toll:

- (1) How much revenue has been raised in:
 - (a) 2002-03
 - (b) 2003-04
 - (c) 2004-05
 - (d) 2005-06 to date?
- (2) What road projects have been funded and to what amounts, from this revenue?

Answer—

- (1) The revenue raised from the increase in the Harbour Bridge Toll announced in December 2001 was as follows:
 - (a) \$20.792 million in 2002-03
 - (b) \$19.828 million in 2003-04
 - (c) \$19.997 million in 2004-05
 - (d) \$6.704 million up to 31 October in 2005-06The amount raised is consistent with the announcement.
- (2) The above funds contributed to the cost of the following works undertaken and programmed for 2005-06:
 - 42 pavement reconstruction works totalling \$205.21 million
 - 2 bridge repainting works totalling \$26.08 million
 - 5 bridge widening works totalling \$5.65 million
 - 5 slope stabilisation works totalling \$11.62 million
 - 4 drainage replacement works totalling \$3.3 million
 - 1 bridge rehabilitation project totalling \$2 million.Should the Honourable Member require further information, the Minister for Roads would be pleased to arrange a brief for the Member.

*5056 KEMPSEY POLICE STATION—Mr Stoner to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

In relation to the Police Station at Kempsey:

- (1) Are you aware of Police Association and community concerns about the appalling state of the buildings and facilities?
- (2) Are you aware that juvenile offenders cannot be held overnight in the cells due to their outdated design and poor state?
- (3) What are your plans for a modern station for Kempsey's hardworking police?

Answer—

I am advised that a strategic facilities planning forum was recently held to identify priority locations for new policing facilities in the Mid North Coast and Coffs Clarence Local Area Commands.

*5058 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Roads—

- (1) When will the publication 'Road Traffic Crashes in NSW – 2004' be made available on the Roads and Traffic Authority Website?

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- (2) On what date was the publication 'Road Traffic Crashes in NSW – 2003' made available to the public on the website www.rta.nsw.gov.au?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the publication will be available on the RTA website shortly.
(2) The previous year's publication "Road Traffic Crashes in NSW – 2003" was made available on the website in October 2004.

*5059 BREAST SCREENING—SOUTH EAST REGION—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Are you aware that the Program Manager for BreastScreen ACT & SE NSW, Ms Helen Sutherland, has advised local doctors that BreastScreen ACT and SE NSW is only able to offer 'limited' breast screening appointments for NSW women in the south east area?
(2) Are you also aware that in the same letter Ms Sutherland informed local doctors that women who are due for a re-screen may be placed on a waiting list when they ring for an appointment and that well women aged between 50-69 who have not previously been screened will be placed on a waiting list?
(3) How many women in the southeast region are currently on the waiting list for breast screening?
(4) What is the reason that BreastScreen ACT and SE NSW is unable to meet its obligations to provide breast screening for women in the target group in this area?
(5) What action have you taken to rectify this problem?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) Local doctors were advised by Ms Helen Sutherland in August/September 2005 that BreastScreen ACT & SE NSW was only able to offer limited appointments for women in SE NSW due to radiographer staffing issues at Whistler Radiology as well as urgent necessary repairs to the mammogram machine required during this period.
Clients were advised about the potential delay in appointments in their area and were offered alternative appointments in other locations. BreastScreen ACT & SE NSW will be able to increase screening capacity as they have negotiated to increase screening from two days to three days, commencing in the New Year.
Waiting lists are not maintained for population-based screening as it is not an acute health service.

*5060 OBSTETRICIAN VISITING MEDICAL OFFICERS—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many Obstetricians are accredited as Visiting Medical Officers to Public Hospitals in NSW outside of the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong areas?
(2) At what hospitals are these Obstetricians accredited?
(3) How many Obstetricians are accredited as Visiting Medical Officers to Public Hospitals in the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong areas?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) to (3) I am advised that this data is not routinely collected by the Department of Health.

*5062 TICKET SALES—Mr O'Farrell to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What was the average value of weekly ticket sales for the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 at the following stations:

- (a) Roseville;
- (b) Lindfield;
- (c) Killara;
- (d) Gordon;
- (e) Pymble;
- (f) Turramurra;
- (g) Wahroonga; and
- (h) Warrawee?

Answer—

I am advised:

The average number of tickets sold at the named stations for 2004/05 and 2003/04 is contained in the table below. RailCorp does not publish the average revenue of CityRail stations as this would present a security issue.

Station	Average sales per week
Roseville	6477
Lindfield	7759
Killara	4972
Gordon	12095
Pymble	5326
Turramurra	8572
Wahroonga	4546
Warrawee	1554

*5063 SCHOOL MAINTENANCE —Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Education and Training—

How much did each of the following schools receive for maintenance grants for the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05:

- (a) Lindfield Public School;
- (b) Beaumont Road Public School;
- (c) Gordon West Public School;
- (d) Gordon East Public School;
- (e) Pymble West Public School;
- (f) Pymble Public School;
- (g) Warrawee Public School;
- (h) Turramurra Public School;
- (i) Turramurra North Public School;
- (j) Wahroonga Public School;
- (k) Turramurra High School;
- (l) Ku-ring-gai Creative Arts High School; and
- (m) Killara High School?

Answer—

Maintenance funds are provided both through Statewide maintenance contracts and global funding provided directly to individual schools.

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Ku-ring-gai schools will benefit from the Department's new \$600 million, four year maintenance contracts which commenced from July this year and provide for both preventive and programmed maintenance. The new contracts include an even greater number of repair items which are provided at no cost to schools.

Regular independent condition assessments are undertaken at each school and maintenance priorities are determined in consultation with the school principal.

The Department also allocates global funding to schools for a range of purposes including day-to-day maintenance. This would include minor repairs such as repairs to bathroom fittings and electrical appliances which are not covered by the maintenance contracts.

It should also be noted that \$1 million was spent on capital works at schools in the Ku-ring-gai electorate between 2003/04 and 2004/05.

*5064 DESALINATION CONSORTIUMS—Mr Kerr to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

Given your statement in Parliament on 1 November 2005 that Freshwater Alliance, Sydney AquaSolutions and PureSolutions have proven international experience in constructing and operating seawater desalination plants, what desalination plants have these three consortiums constructed and operated overseas?

Answer—

The international experience of each short-listed proponent in seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) design, construction and operation is shown below:

Proponent	Fresh Water Alliance	Pure Solutions	Sydney AquaSolutions
SWRO Design	Ashkelon SWRO, Israel Al Taweelah SWRO, United Arab Emirates Wadi Ma'in SWRO, Jordan Weir Techna SWRO, Bahrain	Tuas SWRO, Singapore Pt Lisas SWRO, Trinidad Sulaibiya ultra filtration reverse osmosis, Kuwait (water reclamation)	Fujairah SWRO, United Arab Emirates Perth SWRO, Australia Carboneras SWRO, Spain Bahia de Palma SWRO, Spain
SWRO construction	Ashkelon SWRO, Israel Al Taweelah SWRO, United Arab Emirates Weir Techna SWRO, Bahrain	Pt Lisas SWRO, Trinidad Tuas SWRO, Singapore	Fujairah SWRO, United Arab Emirates Perth SWRO (under construction) Carboneras SWRO, Spain Bahia de Palma SWRO, Spain
SWRO Operation and Maintenance	Ashkelon SWRO, Israel Weir Techna SWRO, Bahrain	Pt Lisas SWRO, Trinidad Maspalomas SWRO, Canary Islands Sulaibiya ultra filtration reverse osmosis, Kuwait (water reclamation) St Michael SWRO, Barbados	Fujairah SWRO, United Arab Emirates Perth SWRO (not yet constructed) Bahia de Palma SWRO, Spain

Sydney AquaSolutions formally withdrew from the project on 16 November 2005.

*5065 CARINGBAH LAND—Mr Kerr to Minister for Education and Training—

Are there any plans to sell land at Caringbah High School to pay for the consolidation and upgrade of facilities of the site?

Answer—

No part of the Caringbah High School site has been declared surplus to the school's requirements at this time and the Government has no immediate plan to sell any part of the school site.

*5068 CREDITOR PAYMENTS—Mr Aplin to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) In view of your assurance that systems are in place to enable the payment of local creditors within credit terms, why was it necessary for the proprietor of Albury Vital Air Pty Ltd to threaten to serve you with a summons in order to receive payment of outstanding accounts?
- (2) Is it a fact that notice of intention to serve a summons was sent by facsimile on the night of 8 November and that full payment of the outstanding account was made on 10 November?
- (3) Is this adversarial approach a preferred procedure for businesses seeking overdue payments?
- (4) What progress has been made in introducing systems which ensure payment to local creditors within set credit terms?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) to (4) Area Health Services are expected to make payments to suppliers within payment terms subject to the provision of an invoice and confirmation of satisfactory receipt of goods or performance of service.

As previously announced on 10 October 2005, an external advisor was engaged by the NSW Department of Health to direct the management and monitoring of Greater Southern Area Health Service's creditor payments, and to ensure that current outstanding creditors over 45 days were processed within the following 14 days. This action was completed.

An independent financial review has commenced, reporting to the Department, to ensure the Area Health Service is operating efficiently and to help develop effective financial management strategies. Greater Southern Area Health Service has also established an enquiry line to resolve creditors' concerns.

*5069 NOXIOUS WEEDS—Mr Aplin to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

In each of the following Local Government Areas what noxious weeds have been identified for weed control funding, how much State Government funding was allocated in 2004/05 and how much will be allocated in 2005-06:

- (a) Albury;
- (b) Corowa;
- (c) Greater Hume; and
- (d) Tumbarumba?

Answer—

I have been provided with the following response by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Mineral Resources:

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It must be remembered that under the Noxious Weeds Act, primary responsibility for weeds management lies with the landholder.

That notwithstanding, the NSW Government has already provided significant funding and conducted extensive research into weeds management. For example, the Department of Primary Industries has developed chemical, pasture management and grazing strategies that are effective in the spread of weeds. The State Government supports weed coordination and control efforts in a variety of ways including staff time, cash funding, on-ground control and other resources committed by a number of government agencies. In addition to which, the NSW Government supports a number of programs through the CMAs. These measures are supplemented by Noxious Weed Grants administered by my portfolio with priorities for this funding determined on the advice of the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee.

The Committee represents a wide range of stakeholders including NSW Farmers, the Conservation Council of NSW, Shires Association of NSW and Local Government Association of NSW.

- (a) The Albury City Council manages programs addressing 46 noxious weeds worst in its area and also to look for new weeds. These weeds are African boxthorn, Alligator weed, Bathurst, Noogoora, Californian and Cockle burrs; Black knapweed, Blackberry, Broomrape, Cabomba, Columbus grass, Devil's claw (purple-flower), Devil's claw (yellow-flower), Dodder, Harrisia cactus, Hawkweed, Horehound, Horsetail, Johnson grass, Karroo thorn, Kochia, Lagarosiphon, Mexican feather grass, Miconia, Pampas grass, Parthenium weed, Paterson's curse, Vipers and Italian bugloss; Prickly pears, Rhus tree, Salvinia, Scotch, Illyrian and Stemless thistles; Senegal tea plant, Siam weed, Silk forage sorghum, Spotted knapweed, St John's wort, Sweet briar, Tree of heaven, Water hyacinth, Water lettuce and Willows.
- (b) The Corowa Shire Council inspects for 45 noxious weeds. The weeds are African boxthorn, Alligator weed, Bathurst, Noogoora, Californian and Cockle burrs, Black knapweed, Blackberry, Broomrape, Buffalo burr, Cabomba, Columbus grass, Devil's claw (purple-flower), Devil's claw (yellow-flower), Dodder, Galvanized burr, Harrisia cactus, Hawkweed, Horehound, Horsetail, Johnson grass, Karroo thorn, Kochia, Lagarosiphon, Mexican feather grass, Miconia, Pampas grass, Parthenium weed, Prairie ground cherry, Prickly pears, Rhus tree, Salvinia, Senegal tea plant, Siam weed, Silk forage sorghum, Silverleaf nightshade, Spiny burrgrass, Spiny emex, Spotted knapweed, St Barnaby's thistle, St John's wort, Sweet briar, Water hyacinth, Water lettuce and Willows.
- (c) The Greater Hume Council manages one of the two outbreaks of Alligator weed in the Murray Darling Basin as well as inspecting for 54 other noxious weeds. The weeds are African boxthorn, Alligator weed, Bathurst, Noogoora, Californian and Cockle burrs, Black knapweed, Black willow, Blackberry, Broomrape, Cabomba, Columbus grass, Devil's claw (purple-flower), Devil's claw (yellow-flower), Dodder, Harrisia cactus, Hawkweed, Hemlock, Horehound, Horsetail, Johnson grass, Karroo thorn, Kochia, Lagarosiphon, Mexican feather grass, Miconia, Nodding thistle, Pampas grass, Parthenium weed, Paterson's curse, Vipers and Italian bugloss, Prickly pears, Rhus tree, Salvinia, Scotch or English broom, Scotch, Illyrian and Stemless thistles; Senegal tea plant, Serrated tussock, Siam weed, Silk forage sorghum, Silverleaf nightshade, Spiny burrgrass, Spotted knapweed, St Barnaby's thistle, St John's wort, Sweet briar, Tree of heaven, Water hyacinth, Water lettuce, Wild radish and Willows.
- (d) The Tumbarumba Shire Council inspects for 44 noxious weeds. The weeds are African boxthorn, Alligator weed, Bathurst, Noogoora, Californian and Cockle burrs; Black knapweed, Blackberry, Broomrape, Buffalo burr, Cabomba, Columbus grass, Devil's claw (purple-flower), Devil's claw (yellow-flower), Dodder, Galvanized burr, Harrisia cactus, Hawkweed, Horehound, Horsetail, Johnson grass, Karroo thorn, Kochia, Lagarosiphon, Mexican feather grass, Miconia, Pampas grass, Parthenium weed, Prairie ground cherry, Prickly pears, Rhus tree, Salvinia, Senegal tea plant, Siam weed, Silk forage sorghum, Silverleaf nightshade, Spiny burrgrass, Spiny emex, Spotted knapweed, St Barnaby's thistle, St John's wort, Sweet briar, Water hyacinth, Water lettuce and Willows.

In 2004/05, the NSW Government distributed \$7,377,000 in weeds grants.

In the 2005/06 budget, \$7,635,000 was allocated for weeds grants. This represents a 52.7% increase in weeds funding from 1995 levels.

These comments are relevant to answers (a) to (d).

*5070 MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS TEAM—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What are the qualifications and experience, number of staff and hours of work, of the members of the Mental Health Crisis team that operates out of the Mental Health Unit at Hornsby Hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

The Mental Health Crisis Team at Hornsby Hospital provides on site coverage between 8.00am and 11.00pm and operates an “on call” call back system between 11.00pm and 8.00am.

The Team has a staff complement of 16.6 full time equivalents (FTE), whose experience in the provision of a broad range of mental health services ranges between 2 years and 30 years.

The Team’s staff is comprised of 1 FTE Psychologist, 2 FTE social workers and 13.6 FTE Registered Nurses.

*5071 NEW LINE ROAD—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Roads—

What are the details of the truck breakdown on 28 October 2005 at the roundabout adjacent to the Shopping Centre at Cherrybrook on New Line Road, in particular:

- (1) What time did this occur and when was it cleared?
- (2) Was there Police intervention?
- (3) What were the circumstances of the breakdown?
- (4) How long was traffic along New Line Road impacted?

Answer—

I’m advised that the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has no record of the incident.

*5072 STATION STAFFING—Mrs Hopwood to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

For the following railway stations in the Hornsby electorate, what are the hours covered by staff each day for each station, what are the start and finish times and how many staff are on each shift:

- (a) Normanhurst;
- (b) Hornsby;
- (c) Waitara;
- (d) Asquith;
- (e) Mount Colah;
- (f) Mount Ku-ring-gai;
- (g) Berowra;
- (h) Cowan;
- (i) Hawkesbury River; and
- (j) Thornleigh?

Answer—

I am advised:

The staffing levels for stations in the Hornsby electorate are as follows:

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Station	Mon to Fri		Saturday		Sunday	
	Total Staff employed per day	Hours that station is staffed	Total Staff employed per day	Hours that station is staffed	Total Staff employed per day	Hours station is staffed
Normanhurst	2	0535-1800	1	0600-1400	1	0600-1000
Hornsby	30	24 hours	21	24 hours	21	24 hours
Waitara	3	0615-2100	1	0630-1430	1	0800-1600
Asquith	3	0630-2000	2	0630-1430	0	Closed
Mount Colah	1	0545-1345	1	0800-1200	0	Closed
Mt Kuring-gai	1	0630-1430	0	Closed	0	Closed
Berowra	4	24 hours	3	24 hours	3	24 hours
Cowan	0	Unattended	0	Unattended	0	Unattended
Hawkesbury Rv	2	0600-2200	2	0600-2200	2	0600-2200
Thornleigh	3	0535-2100	1	0600-1400	1	0600-1400

*5073 SAFETY HOUSE SCHEMES—Mr Merton to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) When will the audit of the Safety House scheme in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area be released?
- (2) How many Safety House Schemes are in operation in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me :

- (1) The Annual Audit of the Safety House program is due for completion in mid December.
- (2) The audit is conducted by Local Area Command rather than local government area; however, I am advised there are currently four Safety House schemes operating in The Hills Local Area Command.

*5074 WINDSOR ROAD UPGRADE—Mr Merton to Minister for Roads—

What is the current intended date for the completion of the Windsor Road upgrade?

Answer—

The Windsor Road upgrade is due to be completed in 2007.

*5075 SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Merton to Minister for Roads—

What plans if any does the Government have for putting flashing lights at 40km school zones in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area?

Answer—

I am advised that the findings from the 18 month trial of flashing lights, in school zones, are being finalized by an independent research company. When the findings are complete, the results will be reviewed and a determination will be made in relation to the future use of the lights.

*5076 EPPING ROAD—Mr Roberts to Minister for Roads—

What is the most current information with respect to the number of vehicle movements per week/day along Epping Road where it is intersected by Longueville Road?

Answer—

I am advised:

A 5 working day count commencing on 14 September 2005 indicated the following average hourly volumes:

Epping Road (eastbound) west of Longueville Road:

- AM1 Peak 6.00 am - 8.00 am: 3336
- AM2 Peak 7.00 am - 9.00 am: 3253
- PM1 Peak 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm: 2345
- PM2 Peak 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm: 2347

Epping Road (westbound) west of Longueville Road:

- AM1 Peak 6.00 am - 8.00 am: 1821
- AM2 Peak 7.00 am - 9.00 am: 2362
- PM1 Peak 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm: 3481
- PM2 Peak 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm: 3370

*5077 CHATSWOOD STATION LIFTS—Ms Berejiklian to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What action have you taken to ensure the lifts at the temporary platform at Chatswood Railway Station and the lifts in the vicinity of the Chatswood Medical Centre adjoining the station will be operational given these lifts provide vital access to the disabled, the elderly and parents with prams?

Answer—

I am advised:

The lift to the temporary platform at Chatswood Railway Station has been operational since August 2005. This lift is maintained under a service agreement which provides strict timeframes for regular maintenance and emergency call-outs.

A new lift to the medical centre was installed in October 2005. Lift access to the medical centre will be operational as soon as the building owner allows the operation of this new lift to commence. Once operational, the new lift will also be maintained under the same service agreement.

*5078 NORTH SHORE LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

What has been the total number of (FTE) Police officers allocated to the North Shore Local Area Command for each year, as at October, between 2002-2005?

Answer—

Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Internet site, www.police.nsw.gov.au.

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*5080 COUNTRY TOWNS WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE PROGRAM—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) What is the reason for the Taralga Water Supply Augmentation Program being afforded a priority ranking of six?
- (2) Will this priority ranking allow the augmentation program to be funded out of the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme?
- (3) If not, what is the reason that this important water supply program in a small rural village, until recently subject to severe water restrictions, will not receive funding?
- (4) If this project is to be funded when will funding be made available?

Answer—

- (1) All projects that were in the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program at the commencement of 2004 were reviewed by the Inter-agency Prioritisation Committee. This committee comprised representatives from Local Government Association, Water Directorate, and the Departments of Health, Local Government, Environment and Conservation and Energy, Utilities and Sustainability. This Committee ranked all projects against defined criteria of public health, environment and security of supply. Taralga was given an interim rank of 6 by the Committee based on information available to it. The interim rank was advised to Council and it was asked to respond if it was not satisfied with the interim rank. Council did not make any such submission so the project was assigned a final rank of 6. The Committee will meet again in February 2006 to review the rank of all projects where the council seeks a reconsideration of the current rank. The Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability will write to each council before the end of the year advising councils of the next meeting and what they should do if they wish to have the rank of any project reconsidered by the Committee.
- (2) No
- (3) The Program has a current budget of \$910 million dollars. This is a significant funding commitment by the Government towards water supply and sewerage infrastructure in rural and regional areas of NSW. This level of funding is not able to fund all projects at this point in time. The availability of Government funds is always limited and priorities can only be addressed progressively on the basis of attending to the most critical items first. The Inter-agency Prioritisation Committee was established to assess the most critical projects to enable funds to be allocated to the most needy projects first.
- (4) The Taralga project has not been funded under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program, as answered in (2) above.

*5081 ULTRASOUND SERVICES—GOULBURN BASE HOSPITAL—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will you confirm that Goulburn Base Hospital is currently without ultrasound facilities because of the resignation of the only trained ultrasound operator?
- (2) What action has Greater Southern Area Health Service taken to replace the ultrasound operator?
- (3) Has this position been advertised, if so in what media and on what dates was this position advertised?
- (4) Why is this vacant position still not advertised on the Greater Southern Area Health Services' or the Department of Health's employment web site at least two weeks after the position became vacant?
- (5) Why has a locum not been appointed to fill this vacant position?

- (6) What interim measures are in place to provide ultrasound services to the Goulburn Base Hospital until this vacant position is filled?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) to (6) I am advised by the Greater Southern Area Health Service that interim arrangements with a private medical imaging practice in Goulburn are in place to ensure daily priority access to ultrasound imaging services pending recruitment to the Radiographer position at Goulburn Base Hospital.

*5082 FARMERS KITCHEN REST STOP—Mr Stoner to Minister for Roads—

In relation to the rest stop known as the Farmers Kitchen, on the Pacific Highway between Kempsey and Coffs Harbour:

- (1) Are you aware that Nambucca Shire Council has officially endorsed the site as a Highway Service Centre, including as part of the Kempsey to Eungai highway upgrade project?
- (2) Are you aware that trucking industry representatives have also given strong support to a rest stop at that location?
- (3) If so, why has the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) decided to route the upgraded highway straight through the existing rest stop?
- (4) Why has the RTA refused to consider minor amendments to provide for an upgraded highway service centre and also refused to offer reasonable compensation under hardship provisions?
- (5) Why have you failed to respond to my letters dated 22 August 2005 and 12 September 2005 regarding these matters?
- (6) Why have you failed to respond to requests for a meeting with proprietors of the Farmers Kitchen?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is aware that Nambucca Shire Council has expressed an interest in having a Highway Service Centre located in its Shire. Councillor Hicks, Mayor of Nambucca Shire Council, has recently written a letter supporting Nambucca Farmers Kitchen in this regard.
- (2) The RTA has not received any official information from the wider heavy vehicle industry in this regard, apart from the information presented by Mr Nelson, proprietor of Farmers Kitchen.
- (3) Nambucca Farmers Kitchen was originally developed as a “Rural Tourist Facility” operating as a retail outlet for local fruit and vegetables and as such is not recognized by the RTA as a rest stop.
- (4) The RTA is not aware of any Development Application (DA) to upgrade this facility to a rest stop or Highway Service Centre. The RTA is currently in discussions with the proprietors of Nambucca Farmers Kitchen, Mr P Nelson and Ms S Arrighi concerning the hardship purchase of that section of the property affected by the proposed Highway Upgrade. Discussions are ongoing. The RTA understands that Mr Nelson and Ms Arrighi are in the process of sub-dividing the section of the land affected by the project to assist in the resolution of this matter.
- (5) Your letters of 22 August 2005 and 12 September 2005 raised a variety of issues which are currently under investigation or discussion with the landowner. A response will be sent once the issues have been resolved.
- (6) The RTA has met with Mr Nelson, proprietor of Farmers Kitchen, many times, with the latest meeting taking place on Friday, 18 November. Further follow-up meetings are being planned to try and resolve the issues.

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*5084 DESALINATION COST—Mr Stoner to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

In relation to your answer to question 8 of Budget Estimates Questions taken on Notice regarding the cost of Country Energy producing the desalination document:

- (1) What was the total cost of construction of the plant?
- (2) Did NSW Treasury finance the construction of the plant? If so was it a condition of that funding, that the desalination plant was to be converted into a waste water recycling plant to treat waste water to drinkable water and the treated water then to be pumped back into the drinking water supplies of Broken Hill and surrounding areas?
- (3) When did the desalination plant at Broken Hill commence operations?
- (4) Has the desalination plant been operating every day since it commenced its operations? If not, why not and on what dates has it not been operating?
- (5) What is the total amount of water desalinated by the plant since it commenced operations?
- (6) How is the concentrated wastewater product of the desalination process disposed of? If it is disposed into a river or lake system has any environmental assessment of this process been conducted since this method of disposal commenced? If such an assessment has been done what is the title of the report and what were its findings?
- (7) Did any member of your Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability, or any member of Sydney Water request Country Energy to make their desalination fact sheet available at the watts 'n' drops exhibition?
- (8) Who at Country Energy decided to make the fact sheets available at the watts 'n' drops exhibition and what were the stated reasons for doing so?
- (9) Did you think it was appropriate that Country Energy made this desalination fact sheet available, given that neither the fact sheet nor Country Energy explain that they were produced in relation to a desalination plant operating at Broken Hill by Country Energy?

Answer—

I am advised by Country Energy that:

- (1) \$3,576,756.61.
- (2) No.
- (3) The desalination plant was commissioned on 27 February 2004.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) 73.9 mega litres.
- (6) All of the waste material has been managed on site.
- (7) No.
- (8) General Manager Water, Brian Steffen. Country Energy, as a major sponsor of this exhibition, chose to highlight its water and electricity efficiency programs.
- (9) Yes.

*5085 SAFETY HOUSE—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) When will the audit of the Safety House scheme in the Sutherland Shire be released?
- (2) How many Safety House schemes are in operation in the Miranda and Sutherland Local Area Commands respectively?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me :

- (1) The Annual Audit of the Safety House program is due for completion in mid December.
- (2) There is currently one Safety House committee operating in Miranda Local Area Command and there are ten such committees operating in Sutherland Local Area Command.

*5086 SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Kerr to Minister for Roads—

When will the results of the trial of flashing lights at 40km school zones be released?

Answer—

I am advised that the findings from the 18 month trial of flashing lights, in school zones, are being finalized by an independent research company. When the findings are complete, the results will be reviewed and a determination will be made in relation to the future use of the lights.

*5087 LINE DUPLICATION—Mr Kerr to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) With reference to your advice that work has commenced on the duplication of the Cronulla Railway Line, (Question on Notice 4207) is it possible for work to have commenced without completion of the environmental assessment?
- (2) What construction work took place on the duplication of the Sutherland/Cronulla railway line in the months of August, September and October?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Design, planning and preliminary activities, including survey and geotechnical investigations, have commenced for the Cronulla Line Duplication project.
These activities have been undertaken as part of the design development and environmental assessment processes which are currently underway.
- (2) No major construction works for the project took place during the months of August, September and October 2005.
During this time preliminary design and planning activities continued. RailCorp also undertook works as part of its regular maintenance program.

*5088 DENTAL WAITING LIST—Mr Constance to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many people are on the public dental waiting list in the Bega electorate?
- (2) How many people are on the public dental waiting list at Pambula hospital, Moruya hospital, Bega hospital and Batemans Bay hospital?
- (3) How many public dentists work in the electorate of Bega and where do they work?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) to (3) I am advised by the Greater Southern Area Health Service that as at 1 December 2005 there were approximately 1714 people on the public dental assessment list and 524 on the treatment list in the Bega electorate. The Pambula Dental Clinic, which also maintains the Bega assessment and treatment lists, comprises 31.7% of the total people on the lists in the Bega electorate. The remaining 68.3% are at the Moruya Clinic. I am advised that there is no public dental clinic at Batemans Bay.
The Area Health Service has further advised that there are 3.4 full time equivalent positions for dental officers in the Bega electorate.

*5089 HOLIDAY RENTING—Mr Constance to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What regulations are in place for all year round holiday renting that is taking place in residential areas?

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Answer—

The Department of Planning does not have a statutory role in regulating holiday rentals in residential areas. The matter is an issue for Local Councils and may be controlled by Local Environmental Plans.

*5090 INDEPENDENT DISABILITY ADVOCATE—Mr Constance to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What is being done by the Government to provide an independent disability advocate to assist people in need in the Bega and Monaro electorate?
- (2) How much would it cost to provide?

Answer—

- (1) The Government invests over \$6 million to 61 services to provide advocacy services statewide. The Commonwealth Carer Respite Centre, located in Queanbeyan, provides an advocacy service to residents in the Bega and Monaro electorates. These communities are also encouraged to use statewide services such as Carers NSW. There is some funding shared between the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments that funds a small number of organisations to provide advocacy services in the Australian Capital Territory. Residents of New South Wales may be able to receive a service from these organisations depending on the eligibility criteria.
- (2) Question 2 is answered above.

*5091 NURSE NUMBERS—TWEED HOSPITAL—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What is the number of average EFT nurses, broken down by Assistants in Nursing (AINs), Enrolled Nurses (ENs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) employed at Tweed Hospital during the years ended:

- (a) 30 June 2005;
- (b) 30 June 2004;
- (c) 30 June 2003;
- (d) 30 June 2002;
- (e) 30 June 2001?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

The Government's support for nurses and midwives is well documented and is producing results. A range of recruitment initiatives already in place show that the total number of permanent nurses and midwives in employment in the NSW public health system has been steadily increasing.

I am advised Tweed Hospital does not employ Assistants in Nursing but is a participant in the Trainee Enrolled Nurse program. Under this Program Tweed Hospital takes a number of students each year who work at Assistant in Nursing level during the course of their program.

I am advised by the North Coast Area Health Service that the average number of full-time equivalent nurses employed under the award classifications of Trainee Enrolled Nurses (TENs), Enrolled Nurses (ENs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) at Tweed Hospital, for the periods in question, is as follows:

	30/06/2005	30/06/2004	30/06/2003	30/06/2002	30/06/2001
TENs	4	4	3	2	0
ENs	41.24	46.01	37.37	30.10	32.72
RNs	316.73	295.29	235.91	180.33	156.39

It is important to note that the above table does not include nurses employed under other award classifications such as Nurse Unit Managers, Educators, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Managers etc.

*5092 NURSE NUMBERS—BLUE MOUNTAINS—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What is the number of average EFT nurses, broken down by Assistants in Nursing (AINs), Enrolled Nurses (ENs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) employed at Nepean Hospital during the years ended:

- (a) 30 June 2005;
- (b) 30 June 2004;
- (c) 30 June 2003;
- (d) 30 June 2002;
- (e) 30 June 2001?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

Details of nurse numbers at Nepean Hospital have already been provided to the Honourable Member's previous question (No.4970) on this subject.

*5093 INTENSIVE CARE UNIT—ARMIDALE HOSPITAL—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What measures have you adopted to ensure the safety and security of patients and staff in NSW hospitals following the recent incident in the Intensive Care Unit at Armidale Hospital where a man allegedly ran amok and threatened nurses?

Answer—

The Minister for Health has advised:

I refer the Honourable Member to my response in the House on 10 November 2005.

*5094 VALENTIA STREET SERVICES—Mr Roberts to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What are the latest commuter numbers travelling from the Ferry Wharf at Valentia Street Hunters Hill by:

- (a) day (Monday – Sunday); and
- (b) particular ferry services?

Answer—

I am advised:

Sydney Ferries Corporation does not collect information on commuter numbers from the Valentia Street Wharf (Woolwich Wharf).

*5095 HUNTLEYS POINT SERVICES—Mr Roberts to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What are the latest commuter numbers travelling from the Ferry Wharf at Huntleys Point by:

- (a) day (Monday – Sunday)
- (b) particular ferry services?

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Answer—

I am advised:

Sydney Ferries Corporation does not collect information on commuter numbers from the Huntleys Point Wharf.

***5096 STUDENT NUMBERS—LANE COVE ELECTORATE—Mr Roberts to Minister for Education and Training—**

How many students are/were there in Government schools in the Lane Cove electorate in each of the following years: 2000; 2001; 2002; 2003; and 2004?

Answer—

Details of school enrolments are available in the Directory published annually by the NSW Department of Education and Training.

***5097 RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL—Mr George to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—**

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Richmond Valley Council has been forced to increase annual sewerage charges from \$418 per household to \$700 per annum, due to lack of State funding?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Is the Minister also aware that this charge will be raised to \$870 per annum next year, which is more than double the original cost, to cover Sewerage Infrastructure Costs?
- (4) How will the Minister address the concerns of regional taxpayers, who believe that their tax is being spent on projects such as the Cross City Tunnel, rather than resources for country NSW?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (4) Councils are required to adopt best practice management and charging policies when determining water and sewerage charges.

To ensure accountability, the Local Government Act 1993 (the “Act”) requires that each council prepare a draft management plan annually. This plan should disclose the council's activities for at least the next three years and the council's revenue policy for the next year.

The draft plan must include details of the rating structure for the year and how it will affect rates. The draft management plan must be available for public comment and council must consider any submissions by the public prior to adopting the plan.

The Act also provides pensioners with concessions on their ordinary rates and domestic waste management services up to a maximum of \$250 and concessions of up to \$87.50 each on water and sewerage rates and charges where councils provide those services.

Councils have the discretion to provide further concessions above the maximum levels fixed by the Act, however this cost must be met entirely by the Council.

There are also other provisions in the Act designed to assist pensioners. These include agreement by councils for pensioners to make periodic payments other than by quarterly instalments and to write off interest on unpaid rates.

Any residents and ratepayers who are concerned about their rate payments are encouraged to approach the Council to discuss what options may be available to them.

***5098 BELMONT GOLF COURSE—Mr Crittenden to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—**

- (1) In respect of aboriginal land claim 6577, have officers from your administration approached the members, management, and/or board of Belmont Golf Club to ascertain whether the public utilised

the land that is the subject of the aforementioned claim at the relevant time under the legislation, given that the subject land is clearly visible from the sixth and seventh holes at Belmont Golf Club? If not, why not?

- (2) With respect to aboriginal land claim 6577, have officers from your administration investigated the possibility that ornithologists utilise the land at various times of the year to view birdlife? For example, in respect of the relevant time under the legislation did officers investigate the possibility that members of the public used the land subject to claim for recreation to view “storm” birds which nest around September each year on the site of the former garbage tip which is part of the subject land claim? If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that Belmont Gold Club has not been contacted by the Department of Lands because, as at the date of the claim, the Club had no interest in the claimed land.
- (2) The manager of the claimed land, Lake Macquarie City Council, did not make the Department aware of the needs of ornithologists. However, since the claim is still under investigation, as Crown Lands Minister under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, I welcome any additional information that may be relevant to determining this claim.

*5099 NATIVE VEGETATION ACT—Ms Moore to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

In regard to the Native Vegetation Act under which regulations have recently been released:

- (1) When will the Minister make public the vegetation cover found in the recent satellite analysis of NSW lands?
- (2) Will the Minister ensure that vegetation is monitored regularly so that the effectiveness of the Act in slowing land clearing can be assessed?
- (3) Will the Minister publish regular data on land clearing across NSW, by region, catchment or local Council?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources of the following response:

- (1) The satellite data is still being analysed.
- (2) The NSW Government will continue to use high resolution satellite data in both property vegetation planning and compliance purposes.
- (3) A draft framework for the reporting of the State’s native vegetation activities has been developed.

*5101 LAND CLEARING—Mr Barr to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

With regard to the satellite sweep of New South Wales which took place in August to ascertain the extent of land clearing, when will the information obtained be made available to the public?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources of the following response:

The satellite data is still being analysed.

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*5102 SHOPFRONT POLICE STATIONS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) How many shopfront police stations are there in shopping malls in Sydney?
- (2) Where are they located?
- (3) What is the measure of success for maintaining them?

Answer—

I am advised that the Ministry for Police is currently coordinating a series of strategic planning forums across the State. All NSW Police properties, including shopfront policing facilities, are included in this planning process.

*5103 BEROWRA CLEARWAYS PROJECTS—Mrs Hopwood to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) On what date will the Berowra Clearways Project commence?
- (2) What is the projected date of completion?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The construction contract for the Berowra Clearways Project was awarded to Leighton Contractors in October 2005. Following preliminary works during October-November, major construction commenced on 28 November 2005.
- (2) The Berowra Platform Project is scheduled for completion by September 2006.

*5107 STUDENT NUMBERS—BAULKHAM HILLS—Mr Merton to Minister for Education and Training—

How many students are/were there in Government schools in the Baulkham Hills electorate in each of the years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004?

Answer—

Details of school enrolments are available in the Directory published annually by the NSW Department of Education and Training.

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*5108 CROWN ROAD CLOSURE—Mr Stoner to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

In relation to your Department's proposal to close a Crown road adjoining Lot 1 on DP 876141 at Gumma, near Macksville:

- (1) Are you aware that reasons given to justify the proposed road closure are strongly disputed by residents and the local council?
- (2) Are you aware that closure of the road will extinguish long standing community access to the riverbank and boat ramp?
- (3) If the road is to be closed, will the land be offered for purchase to the adjoining land owner?
- (4) Has another party expressed interest in purchasing this land?
- (5) If so, whom?

- (6) Why have residents been asked to withdraw their objections to the closure and told that if they do not respond it will be automatically assumed that their objections have been withdrawn?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the reasons given for the proposed road closure are a matter of dispute by some stakeholders.
- (2) Whether the road adjacent to the boat ramp is closed or not, the Department of Lands intends to deny vehicular access to this area because of the potential to cause the riverbank to further erode into Warrell Creek.
- (3) The section of road adjacent to the boat ramp is not intended to be sold to the adjoining owner. However, the landlocked section of road near the northern boundary of lot 1 in Deposited Plan 876141 is intended to be offered for sale to the adjoining owner.
- (4) and (5) The only interested party is the registered proprietors of the adjoining lot 1 in Deposited Plan 876141.

***5109 MURDER INVESTIGATIONS—Mr Stoner to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—**

In relation to investigations into the murder of Mathew Adrian Makeham:

- (1) At what stage are investigations?
- (2) Is it intended to pursue prosecutions in relation to this murder?
- (3) If so, what is the likely timeframe?
- (4) If not, why not?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me :

- (1) to (4) This matter is currently in the hands of the State Coroner.

***5110 SYDNEY TO BRISBANE XPT TIMETABLE—Mr Stoner to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—**

Given the \$330 million Federal Government investment on the North Coast rail line, will you review the Brisbane to Sydney XPT timetable and if so, when?

Answer—

I am advised:

The appropriate time to review the Brisbane to Sydney XPT timetable will be once the \$330 million Federal Government-initiated upgrade of the North Coast rail line is completed.

CountryLink will be seeking advice from the Australian Rail Track Corporation to determine the extent of work to be carried out and to establish a timeframe for completion.

***5111 SYDNEY REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 17—Mr Kerr to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—**

When will the Review of Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 17 – Kurnell be released?

Answer—

The Coastal Protection State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) and the Major Projects SEPP have recently been applied to parts of the Kurnell Peninsula. The Department of Planning is currently considering how these planning instruments, as well as planning reform initiatives requiring Sutherland

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Council to prepare a Shire-wide local environmental plan, relate to any review of Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 17 for Kurnell Peninsula.

*5112 COMMUNITY UPDATES—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—
What is the area of locations of households in the Cronulla electorate that Community Updates of the Sydney Desalination Project are delivered to?

Answer—

Concerning the Cronulla electorate, community updates have been sent to all households.

*5113 PILOT PLANT TRIAL—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) Is the Government paying the full cost of the pilot plant trial of the Kurnell desalination plant?
- (2) What is the full cost of the trial?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that:

- (1) No.
- (2) The full cost of the trial is not known as a significant proportion of the costs will be incurred by the proponents as part of the tendering process. Sydney Water will spend approximately \$4.5 million to provide the base infrastructure which will allow the proponents to establish and conduct the pilot plant trials. This infrastructure includes the seawater intake, pipeline to the shore, pumping station, discharge pipeline and services to the site.

*5114 MORUYA HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Constance to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) What is being done to rectify the problems at Moruya High School?
- (2) When will the Department respond to the difficulties that have been outlined by the Teachers Federation?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Funding of \$336,295 to provide lift access, ramps and covered walkways was approved as part of the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program. These works are anticipated to be completed by day one, term one, 2006.

A project to upgrade the administration facilities at Moruya High School has been approved as part of the 2005/06 Minor Capital Works Program. This upgrade will include the provision of sick bay facilities. Planning is underway, and it is anticipated that tenders will be called in January 2006.

While planning and construction of the new administration facilities are underway, a demountable administration building will be provided. It will be installed on site by day one, term one, 2006 and it includes sick bay facilities.

The school has recently received an additional demountable classroom for projected enrolment increases in 2006. The Department of Education and Training's Specialist Demountable Committee will meet on 16 January 2006 to consider the school's request for a further demountable classroom and demountable staffroom.

*5115 DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW—Mr Constance to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

Are there any departmental reviews occurring of the Bega office of the Department of Community Services?

Answer—

There have been no departmental reviews conducted or currently occurring at the Bega office of the Department of Community Services.

***5116 MOBILE BLOOD BANK**—Mr Constance to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What is being done by the Greater Southern Area Health Service to arrange a mobile blood bank to the Far South Coast?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

The Australian Red Cross has lead responsibility for the provision of blood bank services; this is not a matter for Greater Southern Area Health Service.

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service operates a number of mobile collection units. Dates and locations of the collection units are regularly updated on the following internet site:

www.donateblood.com.au.

***5117 GRAFFITI CHARGES**—Mr Roberts to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

How many persons have been charged for offences relating to damaging property by spraying graffiti in the Lane Cove electorate over the past 12 months?

Answer—

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research does not classify crime according to electorate.

***5118 GRAFFITI DAMAGE**—Mr Roberts to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

How many incidents of damage by spraying graffiti on private and public property have occurred in the past 12 months in the Lane Cove electorate?

Answer—

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research does not classify crime according to electorate.

***5119 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE**—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) In the interests of transparency, open government and keeping the clients of the Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) fully informed about their health service will you publicly release the management letter sent by the Auditor General to the GSAHS regarding the other less significant concerns mentioned by the Auditor General in Volume 4 of his 2005 Report to Parliament?
- (2) If not, why will you not keep the clients of the Greater Southern Area Health Service fully informed?
- (3) Which of the Service's Special Purpose and Trust Funds were overdrawn as revealed by the Auditor General's Report?

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- (4) Were these funds, which are used for the safekeeping of patients' monies, deposits on hired items of equipment and Private Practice Trusts, used for any purpose or for any reason other than those for which they were intended?
- (5) If so, for what purpose were these funds used?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) and (2) Clients of the Greater Southern Area Health Service are provided with financial and performance information for their Area Health Service through the publication and release of the Area's Annual Report.
The audit of Greater Southern Area Health Service's financial report by the Auditor-General for the 6 months period ended 30 June 2005 resulted in an unqualified Independent Audit Report.
- (3) to (5) I am advised that the overdrawn accounts related to equipment and public contribution accounts. I am also advised the funds were used in the manner intended and were temporarily overdrawn until the reconciliation of accounts was completed. I understand that this occurred shortly after completion of the audit.

*5120 ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Education and Training—

What are the specific criteria, including enrolment numbers, that will be used to select the additional schools to be included in the Pilot Scheme to improve Aboriginal education outcomes to which you referred in your answer to my earlier question 4576?

Answer—

As noted in my previous answer, all NSW public schools will be considered for inclusion in the second phase of the Schools in Partnership initiative.

The criteria for the selection of schools in the second phase of the Schools in Partnership initiative commencing in 2007 are:

- the needs of students within the context of the local community;
- the number of Aboriginal students at the school;
- the percentage of Aboriginal students at the school; and
- data regarding student learning and attendance.

*5121 GUDAIR VACCINE—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Since the Gudair OJD Vaccine has been authorised for use in NSW, how many cases of accidental self-injection into humans have occurred?
- (2) How many of these accidents have required hospitalisation or surgical intervention?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) and (2) The NSW Department of Health advises that records of the incidence of accidental self-injection of Gudair vaccine are not collated within the Department of Health and as Gudair vaccine is a veterinary drug, this question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

*5122 SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Roberts to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

How many individuals have been issued with infringement notices for speeding in 40km/h school zones in the Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove Local Government Area during enforcement times for the periods 2003 to 2005 inclusive?

Answer—

The road speed limit and the vehicle recorded speed is not mandatory for “on the spot infringements”. As such the Infringement Processing Bureau (IPB) is unable to provide details for all infringements issued for speeding offences in 40km per hour school zones in the Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove Local Government Areas (LGA).

*5123 SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Merton to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

How many motorists have received infringement notices for exceeding 40km/h per hour speed restrictions applicable at school zones in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area?

Answer—

The road speed limit and the vehicle recorded speed is not mandatory for “on the spot infringements”. As such the Infringement Processing Bureau (IPB) is unable to provide details for all infringements issued for speeding offences in 40km per hour school zones in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Areas (LGA).

*5124 HARBOUR TUNNEL SPEEDING—Mr Merton to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

How many motorists have received infringement notices for exceeding the speed limit in the Harbour Tunnel during the period 2000 to 2004 inclusive?

Answer—

For the period of 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2004 inclusive a total of 16,903 infringement notices have been issued for exceeding the speed limit in the Harbour Tunnel.

*5125 DEMERIT POINTS—Mr Merton to Minister for Roads—

With respect to my representations dated 20 September 2005 on behalf of Mr Wesley Shimon regarding the allocation of demerit points in a situation where the Magistrate found the offence proven but dismissed the case, when will I receive a response to my representations?

Answer—

I am advised that a response was sent on 24 November 2005.

*5127 KU-RING-GAI LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

What is the total number of police officers allocated to Ku-ring-gai Local Area Command for each month in the years 2002, 2003 and 2004?

Answer—

Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Internet site, www.police.nsw.gov.au.

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*5128 HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the total of outstanding accounts to creditors of Hornsby Hospital as at 16 October 2005?
- (2) For Hornsby Hospital, what are the amounts due that have been outstanding longer than 30 days, 60 days, 90 days and 120 days or more as at 16 October?
- (3) Which businesses are affected by such overdue accounts?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

All businesses have creditors at any point in time. It is important to note that the level of outstanding creditors fluctuates daily based on the supply and payment of goods and services during the course of any given year.

The Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service has advised that the total amount payable to creditors of Hornsby Hospital as at 16 October 2005 was \$915,569.00. I am advised that approximately 50% of this amount relates to accounts outstanding longer than 30 days; 13% 60 days; 2.5% 90 days and 2.1% 120 days.

It is important to note that as at 30 November 2005 the above amount payable to creditors had been reduced to \$129,637.000.

The Area Health Service has advised that in some circumstances the target date of payment may be exceeded when invoices are in dispute due to such issues as quantity supplied, price or various other reasons.

It is NSW Health policy that Area Health Services are expected to manage their budgets and pay suppliers invoices within 45 days of invoice or as per the terms of the contract.

The 45 day benchmark compares favourably to the recent (June 2005) Australian industry average of 56 days of payment of creditors.

*5129 READYMIX DISTRIBUTION CENTRE—Mr Amery to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Has the Department of Planning received an application from Rinker Australia Pty Ltd to build a Readymix distribution centre at Rooty Hill North?
- (2) In considering this application will the Minister require a maximum noise level to be observed by the applicant?
- (3) What will be the maximum decibel level allowed at the point of the location of the nearest residential houses to this project?
- (4) How do these noise levels compare to that allowed by State Rail trains using the western line?
- (5) How will the noise levels being emitted from this proposed operation compare to the road noise from the M7 Motorway?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Planning is currently assessing the application, including its noise impacts, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Conservation. Once I have had an opportunity to consider the Department's assessment, I will determine whether the noise impacts of the development are acceptable and what noise-related conditions should be imposed on its operation.
- (3) Refer to (2) above.
- (4) Refer to (2) above.
- (5) Refer to (2) above.

*5130 GRAFFITI SPRAY DAMAGE—Mr Amery to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

In reference to the answer given by the Minister for Police (reference Question on Notice No. 4767 answered on 16 November 2005):

- (1) How many persons have been arrested for damaging property by spraying graffiti in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many of these incidents involved damage to private property?
- (3) How many of these incidents involved damage to public property?

Answer—

Between July 2004 and June 2005 police initiated criminal proceedings against 435 people for graffiti incidents of any type in NSW. A majority of these incidents involved damage to public property.

*5131 M7 MOTORWAY—Mr Amery to Minister for Roads—

- (1) What are the expected maximum decibel levels in residential homes along the Westlink M7 Motorway at Rooty Hill South, Rooty Hill North, Plumpton and Glendenning?
- (2) What noise barriers are in place to reduce traffic noise from the motorway?

Answer—

- (1) Predicted noise levels at houses closest to the motorway corridor, 10 years after the opening of the Westlink M7, range from less than 55 to 69 decibels during the day, and less than 50 to 64 decibels at night.
- (2) Noise barriers provided along the Westlink M7 through Rooty Hill, Plumpton, and Glendenning vary in height from 4.0 to 6.0 metres. Additionally, in areas where the construction of noise barriers or increasing the height of the noise barriers is not considered to be a reasonable and feasible form of noise attenuation, individual dwellings have been architecturally treated to reduce internal noise levels.

*5133 HOME CARE—Mr J.H. Turner to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Has the Manning Valley and Area Community Transport Group expressed to your Department a desire to expend part of a \$100,000 grant for general service growth in the Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens area upon the purchase of a bus for Hawks Nest area?
- (2) If so, has your Department refused that request?
- (3) If so, why?
- (4) If so, how will community transport needs be met in the Hawks Nest area?

Answer—

- (1) Yes, the organisation has expressed a desire to both the Ministry of Transport and the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care to utilise the \$100,000 recurrent growth allocation towards the purchase of a bus.
- (2) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care does not administer funding to Community Transport organisations. That is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport
- (3) As stated, the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care does not administer Community Transport services.

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- (4) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care allocated \$100,000 growth funding to the Ministry of Transport in order to provide flexible transport options, which respond to individual need.

*5135 HOSPITAL CREDITORS—Mr Souris to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What are the amounts, on an aged creditor basis (i.e. current, 45 days, over 45 days) owing for all creditors including contractors, suppliers, consultants, etc. at the following hospitals:

- (a) Rylstone Hospital;
- (b) Mudgee Hospital;
- (c) Gulgong Hospital;
- (d) Coolah Multi-Purpose Service;
- (e) Dunedoo Hospital;
- (f) Coonabarabran Hospital;
- (g) Merriwa Hospital;
- (h) Singleton Hospital;
- (i) Denman Multi-Purpose Service;
- (j) Murrurundi Hospital;
- (k) Quirindi Hospital;
- (l) Gunnedah Hospital;
- (m) Scone Hospital;
- (n) Muswellbrook Hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

I refer the Honourable Member to my previous response to Parliamentary question number 4648.

*5136 PROPOSED DESALINATION PLANT—Ms Seaton to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

With respect to the proposed desalination plant:

- (1) Has the Government made a final decision about the structure of the project?
- (2) How many times has the Government changed its mind about the funding/management configuration of the project?
- (3) Have any bidders withdrawn from the project?
- (4) If so, who and when?
- (5) Have any bidders expressed any concerns to Government regarding lack of certainty in Government directions and policy as to the structure of the project?
- (6) Have any bidders expressed concern about the nature of compensation arrangements relating to unsuccessful bidders?
- (7) Has the Government determined the output capacity of the proposed plant?
- (8) If so, when was this determined and communicated to bidders?
- (9) If not, when will it be determined?
- (10) Does the Minister have full confidence in Sydney Water's handling of the desalination plant project and negotiations with the private sector?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that:

- (1) and (2) Following consideration of alternative funding arrangements, the Government announced on 23 November 2005 that the Sydney desalination project would be a publicly funded infrastructure project. The project is being managed by Sydney Water and, as the project has progressed over time, appropriate management resources have been allocated to it.

- (3) and (4) One consortium has withdrawn from the project. The Sydney Water Board met on 7 November 2005 to formally consider Sydney AquaSolutions' request to modify its consortium membership. The Board took into consideration legal advice prepared by its external legal adviser and probity advice prepared by the independent Probity Adviser appointed to the desalination project and rejected the request. AquaSolutions formally withdrew on 16 November 2005.
- (5) and (6) Projects of this type are characterised by a ranged of implementation issues that are clarified during the tender process. Where consortia have sought clarification in relation to matters of this kind, Sydney Water has provided further information.
- (7) to (9) On 23 November 2005, the Government announced the construction of a 125ML/day plant, subject to planning approval. However, should the current drought continue and it becomes necessary to increase the size of the plant, it will be possible to upscale the plant to 500ML/day. Consortia have been notified of the Government's decision.
- (10) Sydney Water has robust procedures in place to safeguard the probity of the desalination tender process. Sydney Water has appointed a probity auditor (Deloitte) as well as a probity adviser (the Internal Audit Bureau, a division of the Audit Office of New South Wales) to provide day-to-day advice on probity-related issues.

*5137 POLICE SICK LEAVE—Mr Hartcher to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) How many police in (a) Brisbane Water Local Area Command (LAC) and (b) Tuggerah Lakes LAC were on sick leave on 31 October 2005?
- (2) How many police who were on sick leave on 31 October 2005 in (a) Brisbane Water LAC and (b) Tuggerah Lakes LAC were on leave for a stress-related condition?

Answer—

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

*5138 POLICE STRENGTH—Mr Hartcher to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) What are the operational hours for:
- (a) Terrigal Police Station;
 - (b) Kincumber Police Station;
 - (c) Woy Woy Police Station;
 - (d) Wyong Police Station;
 - (e) The Entrance Police Station?
- (2) How many public servants are stationed at each station?
- (3) How many sworn police officers are based at each station?

Answer—

- (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.

*5139 SCHOOL ZONE LIGHTS—Mr Pringle to Minister for Roads—

Now that the Local Government Association has called on the Government to provide flashing lights at all schools, when will flashing lights be provided to all Hawkesbury area schools?

Answer—

I am advised that the findings from the 18 month trial of flashing lights, in school zones, are being finalized by an independent research company. When the findings are complete, the results will be reviewed and a determination will be made in relation to the future use of the lights.

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*5140 STREETBEAT PROJECT—Mr Pringle to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

Noting that funding for the Youth Streetbeat Project (a joint project between Hawkesbury City Council and the NSW Government) is due to expire at the end of 2005, when can the service providers expect renewal of the funding agreement?

Answer—

Hawkesbury City Council's original crime prevention plan containing the youth project was endorsed in February 1999 and remained valid until February 2002. Council has since applied for and received two further one-year extensions.

Council cannot be granted further extensions as crime prevention planning must be informed by current crime data. Hawkesbury Council's Crime Prevention Plan is based on data from 1998/99.

Specialist staff from my Department have offered to work closely with Council to develop a new crime prevention plan. Council will be eligible to apply for funding once this plan is completed and endorsed.

*5141 GROSE VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Pringle to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) When will the Minister fund the minor electrical upgrade required at Grose View Public School so that when temperatures exceed 35 degrees C the electricity supply is not interrupted?
- (2) Does Grose View Public School depend on tank water and require electricity for drinking water, toilet flushing, airconditioning, learning aids etc?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training has noted the need to upgrade the electrical system at Grose View Public School and will continue to consider the project in the context of future regional and statewide capital works priorities.

In the meantime, the school has implemented measures to prevent tripping of the electrical supply.

*5143 CHILD PROTECTION REPORTS—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

How many child protective care reports were handled at Manly Community Service Centre in each year since 2000?

Answer—

The number of risk of harm reports referred to Manly Community Services Centre for further assessment are as follows: 525 in 2000/01; 816 in 2001/02; 967 in 2002/03; 1,084 in 2003/04 and 1,422 in 2004/05. During 2000/01 new legislation came into effect in NSW which expanded the categories of risk of harm. This extended the number of professionals and agencies mandated to report. The number of reports increased across the State during the years quoted.

Child protection reports formerly referred to Manly Community Services Centre are now being sent to the new Chatswood Community Services Centre. This new Centre brings together staff from the two former centres of Manly and St Leonards, as well as eight new caseworker and one new casework manager positions, to provide enhanced service delivery to the Northern Beaches and lower North Shore.

*5144 MANLY CASEWORKERS—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

How many child protection caseworkers were based at Manly Community Service Centre in each year since 2000?

Answer—

From December 2001 to December 2005, the number of caseworker positions at Manly Community Services Centre as at 30 June each year has been 11.5. Approximately 60 per cent of the caseworkers' allocated work time was child protection related.

Child protection cases formerly managed by Manly Community Services Centre are now being managed by staff at the new Chatswood Community Services Centre. This new Centre brings together staff from the two former centres of Manly and St Leonards, as well as eight new caseworker and one new casework manager positions, to provide enhanced service delivery to the Northern Beaches and lower North Shore.

*5145 OUT OF HOME CARE—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

How many Out of Home Care caseworkers were located at Manly Community Service Centre in each year since 2000?

Answer—

From December 2001 to December 2005, the number of caseworker positions at Manly Community Services Centre as at 30 June each year has been 11.5. Approximately 40 per cent of the caseworkers' allocated work time was Out-of-Home Care related.

Out of home care cases formerly managed by the Manly Community Services Centre are now being managed by staff at the new Chatswood Community Services Centre. This new Centre brings together staff from the two former centres of Manly and St Leonards, as well as eight new caseworker and one new casework manager positions, to provide enhanced service delivery to the Northern Beaches and lower North Shore.

*5146 MANLY CSC RELOCATION—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

- (1) What will be the total cost of relocation of the Manly Community Service Centre to Chatswood?
- (2) Will all staff at Manly Community Service Centre be relocated to Chatswood?

Answer—

In December 2005 staff moved into a new Community Services Centre in Chatswood.

The new location brings together staff from the smaller offices in Manly and St Leonards, as well as eight new caseworkers and a new Casework Manager. Up to 27 caseworkers will be accommodated in the one building. The estimated total cost of relocating Manly Community Services Centre to Chatswood is \$421,000.

DoCS is working to ensure that concerns raised by some members of the community about the relocation of the offices have been addressed.

As a result of these discussions, DoCS will also use a range of appropriate Northern Beaches venues for case and community meetings, and family contact for children in care, to minimise the amount of travel families have to do.

*5147 GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Have there been any studies into why there has been an increase in the number of students leaving the Government school system over the past 10 years?
- (2) If so, who conducted the study/studies and what were the outcomes?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) There have been numerous studies into “schooling choice” in the last decade which are readily available in the public domain.

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*5148 REDUCTION IN PROGRAM FUNDING—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Can the Minister explain why funding for literacy and numeracy in schools between 2003-04 was \$5 million less than was spent in 2002-03?
- (2) What was the basis for the reduction in funding?
- (3) Has there been any evaluation of the impact of the reduction of funding?
- (4) What program(s) or funding for schools or students was/were cut to permit the \$5 million reduction?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) There has been no reduction in total funding for literacy and numeracy initiatives in schools in 2003-04 compared to 2002-03.

I am advised that the apparent reduction in expenditure in 2003-04 compared to 2002-03, can be predominately attributed to decreases in some Commonwealth funded components for those literacy and numeracy initiatives included in the Auditor-General's Reports. However, it should also be recognised that the amounts quoted in the Reports do not incorporate expenditure on new literacy and numeracy initiatives such as the Priority Action Schools Program (PASP) introduced in 2003 and do not take account of the re-alignment of program structures to include a literacy and numeracy element in the expanded teacher professional development program.

When these factors are included in determining total expenditure on literacy and numeracy initiatives in schools, there has in fact been an increase of over \$5 million in actual expenditure in 2003-04, compared to the 2002-03 financial year.

This increase reflects the NSW Government's continuing strong commitment to improving student literacy and numeracy outcomes, through the introduction of new initiatives such as the PASP and increased support for teacher professional development.

*5149 SPECIAL EDUCATION—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Can the Minister provide a list of how many special education classes there are in primary schools by region?
- (2) Can the Minister provide a list of how many special education classes there are in secondary schools by region?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) There are 2191 special education classes across NSW in a variety of settings. The location of these classes fluctuates in response to changing need.

*5150 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FUNDING—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

With respect to the annual funding agreement between the Federal and State Governments in relation to Vocational Education and Training, for each of the past five years has that agreement contained provision for consumer price index increases?

Answer—

For each of the past five years, the Commonwealth has used Wage Cost Indices, rather than the Consumer Price Index (CPI), to provide indexation on Commonwealth funding for the vocational education and training sector. The Wage Cost Indices provide less indexation than if CPI alone is used.

*5151 DEPARTMENTAL AIRCONDITIONING—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

Which non-school-based departmental offices are not air-conditioned?

Answer—

The Department has a number of offices across NSW in owned and leased accommodation. The Department does not hold specific information relating to air cooling of all leased offices. The owned offices are mainly surplus classrooms converted to office space, and in some cases are former residences, in operating school and TAFE college grounds. The Department's Air Cooling Policy prioritises the air cooling of teaching spaces over non-school based departmental offices and premises.

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*5152 MID NORTH COAST LOCAL AREA COMMANDER—Mr Stoner to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

What is the timeframe for the appointment and commencement of duty of the new Mid North Coast Local Area Commander?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me that the interview stage of the selection process has been completed. Appointment and commencement of duty dates are unknown at this stage.

*5153 BOATMAN'S COTTAGES—Mr Stoner to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

In relation to the Boatman's cottages located on crown land at South West Rocks:

- (1) Are these cottages heritage listed?
- (2) Is the land on which the cottages are located heritage listed?
- (3) If not, is it possible for said land to be heritage listed?
- (4) Are these properties liable for land tax?
- (5) Given the community – leased use of these properties, will you approve minimum rent levels for the use of this crown land?

Answer—

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) Yes
- (4) This question should be directed to the Treasurer.
- (5) It is proposed that the sites currently occupied by the Maritime Museum and the Arts & Crafts Society will realise a minimal rental under arrangements that are being negotiated with Kempsey Shire Council and the current occupants.

*5154 LANE COVE TUNNEL PROJECT—Mr Stoner to Minister for Roads—

In relation to traffic arrangements associated with the Lane Cove Tunnel project:

- (1) Are you aware that the Director General of Planning Reports (November 2002) forecast traffic problems and amenity issues at Artarmon, including a 58% increase in traffic on Reserve Road, due in part to the lack of an exit ramp from the tunnel for eastbound traffic accessing the Pacific Highway?

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- (2) Has the Roads and Traffic Authority and the tunnel developer considered such an exit ramp in view of the issues identified by the Department of Planning, Lane Cove Council and the community?
- (3) If so, why has there been no provision for such an exit ramp?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) What effect, if any, does the recent collapse of one of the properties in the vicinity of the proposed exit ramp have upon its consideration?

Answer—

I am advised of the following:

- (1) to (4) An exit ramp from the tunnel for eastbound traffic accessing the Pacific Highway (southbound and northbound) is currently being constructed as part of the approved Lane Cove Tunnel project.
- (5) The ramp will be opened with the motorway as planned.

*5155 T2 LANES OFFENCES—Mr Roberts to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

How many individuals have been issued with infringement notices for travelling illegally in the T2 lane along Epping Road at Lane Cove, for the periods 2000 – 2004 inclusive?

Answer—

Since September 2002 to 31 December 2004, the number infringements that have been issued to drivers for illegally driving in the transit lane (T2 lane) on Epping Road at Lane Cove is 5,493. (see notes)

Notes

The information is supplied on the basis of infringements issued and not on the basis of the number of individuals issued with infringements.

To provide a response including data prior to September 2002 would involve considerable time and diversion of resources, away from core responsibilities of the Office of State Revenue, which cannot be justified. Data prior to September 2002 is managed by NSW Police.

*5156 STAFF SUSPENSION/LEAVE—Mr Constance to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

Has any member of staff at the Bega Department of Community Services office been suspended or taken leave for any period as a result of a review or court proceedings involving any case during 2005?

Answer—

There have been no formal suspensions under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002*, nor have any staff taken leave as a result of a review or court proceedings, during the specified period in that location.

*5157 BREASTSCREENING—Mr Constance to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What breast screening services have closed in the Bega electorate and where, and for what reason?
- (2) Will the Government arrange for the service to be reopened in Narooma?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Overall breast screening services in the Bega electorate have not been reduced.

In 2005, Whistler Radiology purchased a new mammogram machine and relocated its breast-imaging practice from Batemans Bay to Moruya.

This provided a fixed screening centre for women in the Moruya-Narooma district.

Mobile unit visiting schedules are determined on the basis of need and the distance to the nearest fixed screen centre. To the extent the Moruya service provides adequate screening facilities for the surrounding region, the mobile unit will be located elsewhere in Southeastern NSW, to an area of greater need.

*5158 CITYRAIL FARE REVENUE—Ms Seaton to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) What was the gross fare revenue received by CityRail in the latest available year?
- (2) What were the costs to CityRail of collecting and accounting this revenue?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on CityRail fare revenue is available from RailCorp annual reports. RailCorp does not separately allocate costs for collecting and accounting this revenue.

*5159 POLICE NUMBERS—LACHLAN LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Armstrong to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) At full strength how many police officers are employed in the Lachlan Local Area Command?
- (2) How many officers are currently employed in the Lachlan Area Command?
- (3) How many of those officers are available for active duty?
- (4) Are there vacant positions at the one-man police stations located at:
 - (a) Bogan Gate
 - (b) Tullibigeal?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) Information about police numbers is available on the NSW Police website:
www.police.nsw.gov.au. Staffing allocations within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

*5160 POLICE NUMBERS—COOTAMUNDRA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Armstrong to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) At full strength how many police officers are employed in the Cootamundra Local Area Command?
- (2) How many officers are currently employed in the Cootamundra Area Command?
- (3) How many of those officers are available for active duty?
- (4) Are there vacant positions at the one-man police stations located at:
 - (a) Quandialla
 - (b) Caragabal
 - (c) Wallendbeen
 - (d) Stockinbingal
 - (e) Bethungra?
- (5) If there are vacancies, can the Minister indicate when they will be filled?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) Information about police numbers is available on the NSW Police website:
www.police.nsw.gov.au. Staffing allocations within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

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*5161 POLICE NUMBERS—GRIFFITH LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Armstrong to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) At full strength how many police officers are employed in the Griffith Local Area Command?
- (2) How many officers are currently employed in the Griffith Area Command?
- (3) How many of those officers are available for active duty?
- (4) Are there vacant positions at the one-man police stations located at:
 - (a) Tallimba
 - (b) Ungarie
 - (c) Weethalle
 - (d) Barmedman?
- (5) If there are vacancies, can the Minister indicate when they will be filled?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) Information about police numbers is available on the NSW Police website: www.police.nsw.gov.au. Staffing allocations within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

*5162 ROCK EISTEDDFOD CHALLENGE—Mr George to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the NSW Health Department has withdrawn its \$150,000 sponsorship for the 2006 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Is the Minister also aware that participants in this competition have been shown, through world leading research conducted by the University of Sydney, to be less likely to smoke, binge drink or take other drugs?
- (4) How will the Minister address the concerns of those who fear that the 26 year old competition will fail financially because of the proposed withdrawal of State Government funding?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) to (4) Having reviewed the Government's position on this event, I can advise that in 2006 the Cancer Institute NSW will be taking responsibility for the administration and funding of that component of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge, previously managed through NSW Health.

*5163 NEW LINE ROAD—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Roads—

- (1) What is the condition of the road at the roundabout in New Line Road at Shepherd's Drive, Cherrybrook?
- (2) What is being done to improve this?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the road surface is considered to be structurally sound and is in a safe and serviceable condition for traffic.
- (2) I am advised that normal routine maintenance will be undertaken.

*5164 HORNSBY MALL—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

What was the outcome of a fight (involving a baby) in Hornsby Mall between 2.30 – 3.15 pm on Friday 21 October where police intervention was called for?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me that records indicate police were neither called to, nor attended, the alleged incident.

*5165 HUNTER LANE HORNSBY—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

What police actions are being undertaken in relation to drug deals in Hunter Lane, Hornsby?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

Kuring-gai Local Area Command, which includes the Hornsby area, has in place a range of measures targeting illegal drug activity. These include:

- discussions with local shopkeepers and Chamber of Commerce to identify issues that need addressing
- requests to Council to provide CCTV and improve lighting
- high visibility police patrols
- police performing covert duties to gather intelligence and arrest offenders
- conducted Operation Mall - using 10 plain clothes operatives
- ongoing Operation Exodus
- regular Operations Tenke and Vikings
- Operation Kickstart, which targets a number of young females in the area
- Operation Westfield, targeting both shoplifters and drug suppliers
- regular truancy sweeps in conjunction with Department of Education and Training
- regular patrols in conjunction with other duties

*5166 CHATSWOOD RAILWAY STATION—Ms Berejiklian to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What is the time line for completion of major milestones in relation to the Chatswood Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

Major construction for the redevelopment of Chatswood Railway Station commenced in September 2005.

Chatswood Railway Station is scheduled to be completed by late 2007.

*5167 SURGICAL DELAYS—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the average wait for patients needing a peritonectomy in NSW?
- (2) How many people are currently waiting for this surgery?
- (3) Does the State Government have a specific program to prevent deaths of people suffering peritoneal mesothelioma awaiting this vital surgery?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) to (3) Public patients requiring peritonectomy generally receive their treatment at St George Hospital. Patients suffering from peritoneal mesothelioma who require the specialised management offered by St George Hospital have access to cancer and other medical specialists for non-surgical management, including chemotherapy, as well as surgery.

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There are currently 10 patients on the St George Hospital Waiting List awaiting a peritonectomy. Each of these patients is reviewed by a team of specialists to determine the best options for their management. Once a decision is made by the team of specialists to implement the surgery option, the surgeon schedules the operating theatre list according to the Clinical Priority category assigned by the surgeon and the specialist team for the individual patient.

The figures for the waiting lists for the past 12 months period at St George Hospital indicate that Clinical Urgency Priority 1 peritonectomy patients have an average wait of 3.5 days.

*5168 KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

What is the cost of the radio advertising campaign for the Kurnell desalination plant?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Advertising for Sydney's Desalination Plant is continuing, and takes a number of forms, and therefore an accurate cost calculation at this point in time is not available, due to the ongoing nature of the advertising.

*5169 KURNELL SITE CONSULTATION—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) Did Sydney Water admit at a meeting on 22 August 2005 at Sutherland Council to discuss the desalination plant that only a desktop assessment of aboriginal cultural and heritage values was undertaken of the site of the Kurnell desalination plant?
- (2) What consultation took place with the Dharawal Elders Group, the original landholders of the site before the proposal was announced?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that:

- (1) and (2) Aboriginal archaeological field investigations for the desalination plant failed to locate any items of potential significance to the Aboriginal community and this confirms the results of the previous field investigations on the site. Field investigations were undertaken in the presence of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council.

*5170 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

Why does Sydney Water state in Metropolitan Water Plan Seawater Desalination Fact Sheet 4 that it is committed to offsetting only 50% of greenhouse gas emissions from the Kurnell desalination plant instead of the full 100%?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that the offsetting of 50 per cent greenhouse gas emissions from the Kurnell desalination plant brings the plant into line with the energy requirements of the next best alternative water supply option.

*5171 CAREEL BAY INFESTATION—Mr Richardson to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) When was caulerpa taxifolia first discovered in Careel Bay, Pittwater?
- (2) What measures have been taken since then to control and/or eradicate the plant?
- (3) How much money has been spent on tackling the problem in Careel Bay?

- (4) What area of Pittwater is infested with the plant?
- (5) Has it spread into the Hawkesbury River and, if so, where to; when was this infestation first noted; and what measures is the Government taking to eliminate the infestation?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Mineral Resources of the following response:

- (1) December 2000.
- (2) Fishing closures banning the use of nets (except landing nets) in Caulerpa affected areas (including Careel Bay) were introduced in 2001. Within Careel Bay, 17 field trips to the bay to trial treatment methods, map the distribution of Caulerpa and undertake control work (application of 390 tonnes of salt).
More information about the measures DPI has undertaken to control Caulerpa can be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
- (3) Approximately \$161, 000
- (4) Approximately 40 ha.
- (5) No.

*5172 JOHN WILLIAMS CENTRE—Mr Tink to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) How much money was realised from the sale of the John Williams respite care centre in Wahroonga?
- (2) What promises were made by the New South Wales Government concerning the use of money realised by the sale of the centre?
- (3) Where is the money from the sale of the centre now being held?
- (4) How much of that money has been spent and on what?
- (5) What plans are there now for the expenditure of any amount remaining from the sale of the centre and over what time frame?

Answer—

- (1) \$9.08 million.
- (2) The John Williams Trust retains the funds from the sale.
- (3) Monies are held in a separate bank account with Westpac called the John Williams Memorial Charitable Trust.
- (4) None of the sale proceeds have been spent.
- (5) It is proposed to spend the funds over time in accordance with the conditions of the Trust. New properties will be progressively purchased for the Trust commencing this financial year. Each of the new facilities will bear the name of the Trust.

*5173 POLICE RADIO—Mr Souris to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) With what system, band, frequency and equipment are police vehicles fitted in rural areas?
- (2) Are there black spots for police radio coverage in rural areas?
- (3) Do these black spots pose operational inefficiency, lack of co-ordination with back-up resources and occupational health and safety problems?
- (4) What is being done to overcome these black spots?
- (5) What is being done to overcome frequent black spots in police radio coverage in the Mudgee Local Area Command in places such as Wollar, Gulgong, Bylong etc?

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Answer—

NSW Police has advised me :

- (1) to (5) Vehicles in rural areas are primarily fitted with either VHF analogue or UHF analogue radios, or both. These systems are supplemented by HF facilities and mobile satellite services in sparsely populated areas of western New South Wales.

In 2004, NSW Police completed a 3 year, \$20.5M Country Capital Works Program which primarily targeted black spot eradication and upgrading of equipment. A UHF radio system is currently being installed across the Mudgee Local Area Command to address reception problems in Gulgong and surrounding areas.

*5174 TRUCK SPEEDING —Mr Souris to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the practice whereby long distance trucks, equipped with high frequency radio and/or CDMA mobile telephone, are able to warn other truck drivers of the presence of highway patrol policing?
- (2) What is your knowledge about as to the extent of this practice?
- (3) What measures are you contemplating or implementing that would either outlaw this practice or provide police with the ability to overcome the problem?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me:

- (1) to (3) Police will continue to investigate technology based solutions to target heavy vehicle offences.

*5175 RETIREMENT VILLAGE BUDGETS—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Is it correct accounting procedure, in the preparation of retirement village budgets, to include the following items:
 - (a) Owners contribution to maintenance?
 - (b) Owners contribution to council rates?
- (2) If not, what remedy do the residents of retirement homes have in regard to such matters?
- (3) Are there any other remedies available other than an application to the Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal?
- (4) If so, what are those remedies?

Answer—

- (1) There is no requirement in the Retirement Villages Act 1999 for the statement of proposed expenditure to include the operator's contribution, if any, to maintenance and council rates.
- (2) If the residents of a retirement village refuse consent to items in the statement of proposed expenditure, the operator (or a resident) may apply to the Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal for an order in relation to the expenditure proposed for the financial year concerned.
- (3) and (4) Residents may also contact the Office of Fair Trading for advice about the options available if a dispute arises. Fair Trading can also offer mediation for certain matters if both parties agree. The residents committee might also be of assistance in engaging in negotiations with the operator on behalf of the residents.

*5177 STATEWIDE PROGRAM CHARGES—Mr J.H. Turner to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) What are the total Statewide Program charges for the Rural Fire Service?
- (2) What do these charges specifically refer to?
- (3) How are they apportioned between council areas?
- (4) With respect to the 33% increase in the Statewide Program charges for Greater Taree City Council in the 2004-05 financial year and the further 21.5% increase in the 2005-06 financial year over the last year, why have there been such increases in charges to the Greater Taree City Council?
- (5) What is the number of personnel to which the charge might be applied in the 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06 financial years?
- (6) If there has been an increase in personnel in those periods, why has there been an increase?
- (7) If there has not been an increase of personnel, what has caused the increase in the Statewide Program charges?

Answer—

Statewide program charges for 2005-06 have not increased and remained at \$46.773 million. Among other things, program charges provide for: Workers' Compensation and public liability insurance for our 70,000 Rural Fire Service volunteers, training programs, community education programs, contracted fire fighting aircraft, emergency funding, chaplaincy services and family support, fire investigation capabilities and critical incident support programs.

The level of program charges apportioned to a council is largely assessed on the base allocation to a council (this excludes district staff and associated costs). In other words, if a council receives more funding in this area, its program charges increase accordingly. Similarly, if council received a lower base allocation, this would be reflected in a decrease in its program charges.

Only a small portion of the overall program charges, which relates to Workers' Compensation and public liability insurance, is apportioned on the basis of the district's volunteer numbers.

It is important to note that councils' 13.3% contribution towards program charges (excluding that portion for volunteer insurances) is reimbursed annually.

*5178 ALBURY COURTHOUSE—Mr Aplin to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Given that you advised the Member for Albury in June 2004 that \$150,000 had been allocated to upgrade Albury Courthouse for disabled access and that completion was expected in March 2005, why have no works been undertaken?
- (2) When will the facilities upgrade commence?

Answer—

The Attorney General's Department is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have access to Albury Courthouse. The \$150,000 allocated in the 2004/2005 capital works budget was to provide access throughout the court for jurors with a disability.

In 2004 the Department identified a need for a number of other additions and alterations to the courthouse including relocating the Sheriff's officers from the old courthouse building in Dean Street and consolidating court operations into the newer building in Olive Street. These works involved structural alterations to the courthouse and required thorough consultation with court users, detailed design work, council approvals and additional funding.

In order to integrate the planning process and reduce associated costs such as tendering and design, the Department consolidated all capital improvements into a single project. This will also minimise disruptions to court users.

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A Development Application for the first stage of the works has been lodged with Albury City Council. Subject to council approval, this work, which will improve access for people with a disability to the Olive Street Courthouse, is scheduled for completion in April 2006.

*5179 CROSS BORDER HEALTH AGREEMENT—Mr Aplin to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Did the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament 2005 (Volume Four) note that the Department of Health has expressed concerns over arrangements contained in the Cross Border Health Agreement?
- (2) Given that this agreement became effective following signing by the then Minister (the Hon. M. Iemma) in July 2003, why were these concerns not addressed at the outset or in the two and a half years since?
- (3) Does the expression of these concerns represent a reversal of commitment to the Cross Border Health Agreement?
- (4) Will you seek to increase administrative and financial input to Health Albury Wodonga to ensure its success?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am advised that the current interim arrangements are transitional. It was planned, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding, that all financial and other integration matters would be considered during the review of the cross border agreement conducted in December 2005.
- (3) No.
- (4) I am advised that any future support for Health Albury Wodonga will be considered pending the outcome of the review currently underway.

*5181 CAMDEN LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Ms Seaton to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

For the period 30 November 2004 to 30 November 2005:

- (1) On how many occasions have Camden Local Area Command (LAC) Police transported individuals to or from mental health facilities in:
 - (a) Goulburn;
 - (b) Sydney;
 - (c) other places?
- (2) On how many occasions and for what purposes have Camden LAC Police transported prisoners to or from:
 - (a) Goulburn goal;
 - (b) other goals?
- (3) On how many occasions have Camden LAC Police transported juveniles in custody to or from:
 - (a) juvenile detention facilities;
 - (b) court appearances?
- (4) How many hours in total have Camden LAC Police been involved in transporting individuals, prisoners or juveniles in such circumstances during the period?

Answer—

NSW Police has advised me that this data is not readily available from police information systems and its extraction would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources from frontline policing.

*5182 COMPETENCY TESTS—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Have students in certain trade courses, like Explosive Power Tool, at South Western Sydney Institute been required to re-sit competency tests following NSW WorkCover's identification that assessors who undertook the original assessments were not accredited?
- (2) What is the maximum number of students being asked to re-sit the tests?
- (3) Are students being charged \$120 for the second test?
- (4) Why are students paying for a failure of the Institute to employ properly accredited assessors?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Some students have been advised that there may be a need for a re-assessment following a review of their assessment records.
- (3) and (4) No students will be charged if a re-assessment is required.

*5183 RE-TEST OF TRADE STUDENTS—Mr O'Farrell to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Has WorkCover required South Western Sydney Institute to re-test the competency of trade students following the discovery that assessors who undertook the original assessments were not accredited?
- (2) How many assessors have WorkCover identified as not being accredited?
- (3) Are other centres besides South Western Sydney Institute affected? If so, which ones?

Answer—

WorkCover accredits Registered Training Organisations to undertake training and assessment of certificates of competency in a range of areas. The Registered Training Organisation then appoints its accredited assessors based on stringent criteria determined by the legislation and WorkCover. South Western Sydney Institute of TAFE is one such Registered Training Organisation.

An investigation by WorkCover in 2005 revealed that one person at South Western Sydney Institute of TAFE undertook assessments of competency although he was not accredited to do so.

WorkCover is in discussions with South Western Sydney Institute of TAFE with a view to bringing about a proper resolution to this matter. In the meantime WorkCover has suspended processing of certificates of competency where the person in question has undertaken the assessment.

WorkCover is not aware of any other instance of an assessor not meeting WorkCover's accreditation requirements.

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*5184 KEMPSEY EYE SERVICES—Mr Stoner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to specialist eye services at Kempsey:

- (1) Are you aware that a specialist eye clinic at Kempsey, which provides care to a large number of pensioners and other patients in the Macleay Valley, is likely to close due to a North Coast Area Health Service decision to deny the clinician visiting rights at Kempsey District Hospital?
- (2) Why is Dr Kim Frumar being denied visiting rights to Kempsey District Hospital, in view of the high levels of public support for his clinic and given his personal circumstances which do not allow his full-time presence in Kempsey?

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Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) and (2) I am advised that the North Coast Area Health Service is currently liaising with Dr Kim Frumar concerning his request for re-appointment as a visiting medical officer at Kempsey District Hospital.

I am further advised that the Area Health Service has not received advice from Dr Frumar, or his Clinic Rooms, that the Specialist Eye Clinic at Kempsey is due to close. However, should Dr Frumar's specialist clinic close, patients will have the opportunity to attend one of the specialist clinics conducted by Port Macquarie based ophthalmologists who travel to Kempsey to conduct these clinics.

*5186 KEMPSEY DISTRICT HOSPITAL—Mr Stoner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to mental health resources at Kempsey District Hospital:

- (1) What was the budget figure for 2004-05 and for 2005-06?
- (2) How long has the Aboriginal Mental Health Worker position been vacant?
- (3) How long has the consumer representative position been vacant?
- (4) How many staff are there in the Child/Adolescent Mental Health area?
- (5) What recognition is given to the high levels of aboriginality, unemployment and drug and alcohol abuse in the resource allocation?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) I am advised by the North Coast Area Health Service that the Mental Health budget for Kempsey District Hospital in 2004/05 was \$2,942,031. In 2005/06 the mental health budget has increased to \$3,080,730.
- (2) I am advised there is no such position or vacancy. A temporary project position was established but concluded in 2004 having met project goals.
- (3) I am advised there is no such position or vacancy. A temporary position concluded in 2004. Consumers are able to raise any issues they may have through the Site Mental Health Manager; the Director of North Coast Area Health Service's Mental Health Service; the Consumer Relations Unit; or via the Health Care Complaints Unit (HCCC).
In addition, mental health consumers will be represented on the North Coast Mental Health Forum. Establishment of this Forum is currently underway, with three of the five consumer positions appointed to-date. I am advised that the first meeting of this Forum is planned for mid 2006. Mental health consumers will be able to provide input to the Area Health Service through this Forum.
- (4) I am advised that there are two full-time positions in the Mental Health Child and Adolescent area.
- (5) The Resource Distribution Formula (RDF) is one widely accepted mechanism that is used to achieve a more equitable distribution of health care resources across NSW.

*5187 RENAL DIALYSIS UNIT PLANS—Ms Seaton to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Does the Minister acknowledge the community fundraising achieved by the Southern Highlands Renal Appeal?
- (2) Does the Minister acknowledge that a former South West Sydney Area Health Service CEO gave a commitment that if the community raised money to purchase dialysis machinery, the State Government would supply qualified staff and an appropriate venue?
- (3) Why has the Minister failed to finalise the delivery of this commitment?
- (4) When will the facility be decided and provided with trained staff, so the local service can commence?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) NSW Health values the donations, contributions and fundraisings it receives from the community. I am advised that the Sydney South West Area Health Service has written to the Southern Highlands Renal Appeal group acknowledging their efforts on behalf of patients requiring renal dialysis.
- (2) to (4) I am advised that the CEO of the former South Western Sydney Area Health Service gave a commitment to provide recurrent funding to establish a small satellite renal dialysis unit once the Southern Highlands Renal Appeal met an agreed target of \$500,000 for capital infrastructure. I understand that the local fundraising campaign has now raised slightly in excess of \$300,000 with indications of a further \$180,000 to be achieved. In expectation of the achievement of this target within the next few months, the Sydney South West Area Health Service has included the satellite unit within its preliminary draft Healthcare Service Plan. I am advised that the NSW Department of Health is currently considering the draft Plan. Once feedback has been received a consultation process will be conducted on proposed service delivery models for the Area Health Service. The establishment of a renal dialysis satellite service will be further considered pending the finalisation of the draft Healthcare Services Plan.

*5188 DR TRAU'S APPEAL—Mr O'Farrell to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) In reference to your letter dated 20 September 2005 (RML 05/2014 and ref. answer to question 3856), why won't you release either (a) the names of the chairman and members or (b) the number of the Legal Aid Review Committee who dealt with Dr Trau's appeal?
- (2) Are safety concerns a consideration in your refusal to release these names?
- (3) If so, why are the names of every member of all the LARCs published in the Legal Aid Commission's Annual Report?
- (4) Can the Attorney General justify the frustration and distress caused to Dr Trau by the refusal to release this information?

Answer—

Dr Trau has made numerous telephone calls to the NSW Legal Aid Commission regarding his application and appeal. The Commission has carefully and fully responded to all Dr Trau's questions. Under the Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 2005 the Commission is required to publish the names of members of its five LARCs.

The Commission has clear occupational health and safety reasons to refuse to provide the names of individual committee members to people whose appeals have been heard by LARC.

As appeal decisions are final and committee members are unable to provide additional assistance to appellants, the Commission considers that it is valid not to make available the names of members responsible for individual decisions.

If Dr Trau has any additional information relevant to the matter for which he originally requested legal aid he is welcome to submit a fresh application. This application would again be considered under the applicable legislation and policy.

*5189 ORTHOPAEDIC WAITING LISTS—Mr Kerr to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

How many patients are currently waiting more than 12 months for orthopaedic surgery at Sutherland and St George hospitals respectively?

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Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

Details of waiting lists are available on the NSW Health website.

In 2004/05, there was also an extra \$35 million in additional funds for elective surgery plus \$10 million as long wait surgery initiative funding. The \$10 million long wait surgery initiative fund has been used to target patients who have waited more than 12 months for low-complexity procedures such as cataracts and ear, nose and throat surgery. This is being accomplished through our public hospitals and through the Private Provider Pilot Program. In 2004/05 these additional funds resulted in a reduction of almost 48% in the long wait patient listing.

In 2005/06, our hospitals will again receive an extra \$35 million in additional funds for elective surgery plus \$15 million as long wait surgery initiative funding. The \$15 million long wait surgery initiative funding is being used in 2005/06 to target patients who have waited more than 12 months for high-complexity procedures such as hip and knee joint replacement surgery.

*5190 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COSTS—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

How much money was paid to GHD Fichtner for preparation of the Environmental Assessment of the Kurnell Desalination Plant?

Answer—

A number of environmental studies were carried out as part of the \$1.9 million spent on the feasibility study. In addition, approximately \$600,000 has been paid to GHD Fichtner to complete the environmental assessment report.

*5191 PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS—Mr Kerr to Minister for Roads—

When will the Roads and Traffic Authority introduce the new photo identity cards for people who do not have a driver's licence?

Answer—

The Roads and Traffic Authority introduced the NSW Photo Card on 14 December 2005. The card is available to residents of NSW over the age of 16 who do not hold a driver's licence or an RTA issued proof of age card.

*5192 CASINO COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND—Mr Souris to Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) What is the full list of grants and subsidies paid out of the Casino Community Benefit Fund for the financial 2005 year described in Auditor-General's Financial Audits Volume 5, 2005 comprising "expenses" \$11,367,000?
- (2) What are the names of each recipient organisation and a brief description of the purpose of each grant or subsidy?

Answer—

- (1) The full list of grants and subsidies paid out of the Casino Community Benefit Fund for the financial year 2005, including a brief description of the purpose of each grant subsidy is listed below.
- (2) See (1).

CASINO COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND – LIST OF GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2005

NAME OF GRANT RECIPIENT	PURPOSE
Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW	Trial a model service provision for Aboriginal people primarily at the prevention and early intervention stages, and develop measures to improve the detection, referral and support for Aboriginal people with gambling problems.
Anglican Counselling Service (Diocese of Armidale)	To provide child/adolescent, family, individual and couple counselling services, community education support services and family mediation to problem gamblers and their families.
Anglicare Youth and Family Services	To prevent the flow-on effects of gambling through early identification and intervention services; to decrease existing flow-on effects through counselling, support, advocacy and referral services; and to decrease gambling dependency.
Arab Council Australia Inc.	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Auburn Asian Welfare Centre Inc.	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Centacare New England North West	To provide a variety of Assessment Strategies and Therapeutic Interventions including self help, group support, counselling and clinical services to address personal, interpersonal, physical and mental health, financial, vocational and psychological consequences of problem gambling.
Centacare Catholic Family Services Parramatta	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Cessnock Family Support Service Inc.	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Christian Community Aid Service	To provide a financial counselling and support service for problem gamblers and their families.
G-line (NSW)	To provide a 24-hour telephone crisis counselling, information and referral service.
Greek Welfare Centre	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Hopestreet Urban Compassion	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Illawarra Area Health Service	To provide a counselling and treatment service for problem gamblers and their families/friends.
Life Activities	To provide support, counselling and treatment services to problem gamblers and their families.
Lifeline Broken Hill	To provide ongoing counselling education and support services for problem gamblers, their families, and other people affected by problem gambling.
West (Bathurst) Lifeline Central	To provide clinical and financial counselling services for gamblers and/or their families; conduct education workshops; and conduct workshops on flow-on effects resulting from excessive gambling to families and communities.

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NAME OF GRANT RECIPIENT	PURPOSE
Lifeline Central West (Dubbo)	To provide clinical and financial counselling services for gamblers and/or their families and conduct education workshops to community groups.
Lifeline Macarthur	To provide support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Lifeline North Coast	To provide community education and counselling programs for problem gamblers and their families/friends.
Lifeline Northern Rivers	To provide counselling and rehabilitation services for problem gamblers and their families/friends.
Lifeline Western Sydney	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Mission Australia – Coastal Sydney	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Mission Australia – Hunter Region	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Mission Australia – North Coast	To provide a counselling service for problem gamblers, and community education and awareness of the adverse effects of gambling.
Mission Australia - Riverina	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Mission Australia – Wollongong	To provide clinical and financial services for problem gamblers and their families.
Multicultural Problem Gambling Service	To provide a multicultural gambling counselling service for New South Wales.
Newcastle City Mission	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Northern Sydney Area Health Service	To provide psychiatric services for problem gamblers and significant others with or without substance abuse and/or mental health problems.
Peninsula Community Centre	To provide a treatment, education and referral service to minimise the harm associated with problem gambling amongst the Central Coast community by developing the capacity of the individual, family and friends with a flow-on effect into the community.
Southern Sydney Women's Therapy Centre	To address problem gambling issues for women through the provision of counselling, group support and information/training.
St David's Uniting Care	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
St Vincent's Hospital	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Sydney South West Area Health Service	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.

NAME OF GRANT RECIPIENT	PURPOSE
Sydney West Area Health Service	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
The Buttery Inc.	To provide an integrated counselling and rehabilitation service for problem gamblers and their families.
The Salvation Army - South West Sydney Region	To provide support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
The University of Sydney	To establish a problem gambling counselling service for problem gamblers and significant others, in the Wingecarribee LGA, conducting preventative seminars in clubs, and raise gambling awareness in the community.
The University of Sydney	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
The University of Sydney	To facilitate training of problem gambling counsellors in New South Wales.
The University of Sydney – Camden	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
The University of Sydney – Cumberland	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
UnitingCare Unifam Counselling and Mediation	To provide problem gambling treatment services for problem gamblers and their families.
Vietnamese Community in Australia – NSW Chapter Inc.	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Wagga Wagga Family Support Services	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Waverley Action for Youth Services	To provide counselling services, information and referral services, and education programs specifically addressing gambling behaviours among young people and their families.
Wesley Community Legal Services	To provide specialist legal assistance, case work and court representation for consumers with gambling related legal problems.
Wesley Gambling Counselling Service – Surry Hills	To provide a counsellor training and resourcing program.
Wesley Gambling Counselling Service – Surry Hills	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Wesley Counselling – St George/ Sutherland	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Wesley Gambling Counselling Service - Penrith	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.
Wesley Mission – Central Coast	To provide a multifaceted, well established and respected program providing education and treatment for problem gamblers, their friends, family and relatives and addressing flow on effects for families.
Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre	To provide treatment and support services to problem gamblers and significant others.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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*5194 MAIN ROAD 256—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Roads—

- (1) With reference to your reply to my question 4696 regarding Main Road 256, what is the quantum of the funds allocated by you to seal the remaining 5.3 kilometres of Main Road 256 within the Upper Lachlan Shire Council?
- (2) When will these funds be available and when is this work scheduled for completion?

Answer—

I am advised of the following:

- (1) and (2) Upper Lachlan Shire Council has been allocated a Block Grant of \$1.238M for 2005/06, for the improvement and maintenance of Regional Roads in its area. It is a matter for Council to determine where these funds are spent.

*5195 WIND FARM PLANNING REQUIREMENTS—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Do Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations require that structures over a certain height be fitted with flashing red warning lights and perimeter floodlighting?
- (2) If so, do these requirements apply to Wind Turbine Towers located in wind farms in rural areas?
- (3) What is the maximum structure height permitted by CASA regulations that is not required to be fixed with these warning lights?

Answer—

CASA regulations are the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. Thus any questions regarding CASA requirements should be directed to them or to the Commonwealth Government. The Department of Planning does liaise with CASA on wind energy developments and where appropriate, their requirements are incorporated into planning consents.

*5196 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Does the company, Webfleet Management Services, have a commercial agreement with the Greater Southern Area Health Service to supply vehicles for the use of the Area Health Service?
- (2) Does Webfleet Management Services charge the Area Health Service a fee for this service?
- (3) Are all the vehicles purchased by the Greater Southern Area Health Service acquired under the auspices of the NSW Department of Commerce Contract 653 – ‘Acquisition of Motor Vehicles’?
- (4) If so and as the discount percentage under which vehicles are purchased through the Department of Commerce contract is fixed, why is Webfleet Management Services seeking additional discounts of vehicle prices from motor dealers in the Greater Southern Area Health Service area?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) I am advised no.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) I am advised yes.
- (4) The NSW Department of Health advises that Webfleet Management Services are not seeking additional discounts of vehicle prices from Motor Dealers within the Greater Southern Area Health Service. Vehicles are supplied at the State Government Contract price.

*5197 MOTOR REGISTRY CLOSURES—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Roads—

- (1) Does the Roads and Traffic Authority have any plans, or is it considering any proposals to close the motor registries or reduce the number of staff and or services offered at the Goulburn, Queanbeyan, Tumut, Yass or Young Motor Registries?
- (2) If so, what are the details of the plans or proposals?

Answer—

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) provides registration and licensing services across the State through shop front outlets, on line services, Council and Police agencies. The demand for all services is monitored to ensure the efficient and cost effective delivery of services.

*5198 WIND MONITORING TOWERS—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) At what specific locations in the Goulburn Mulwaree, Yass, Palerang, Upper Lachlan, Gundagai, Wingecarribee, Tumut, Harden and Boorowa Local Government areas has planning approval for the construction of wind monitoring towers been granted?
- (2) At what specific locations in the Goulburn Mulwaree, Yass, Palerang, Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan, Gundagai, Tumut, Harden and Boorowa Local Government areas has planning approval for the construction of wind monitoring towers been sought with the decision still pending?
- (3) How many wind-monitoring towers are currently located in the Goulburn Mulwaree, Wingecarribee, Yass, Palerang, Upper Lachlan, Gundagai, Tumut, Harden and Boorowa Local Government areas?

Answer—

- (1) I have no role, and nor does the Department of Planning, in relation to the approval of or the recording or gathering of statistics relating to stand alone wind monitoring towers.
- (2) See answer to question (1).
- (3) See answers to question (1) and (2).

*5199 POWER STATION NUMBERS—Mr Amery to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) How many Electricity Power Stations are currently operating in New South Wales?
- (2) Where are each of these power stations located?
- (3) In what year and under which Government was approval first granted to build these power stations?
- (4) In what year did each of these power stations commence generating electricity?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) There are 62 power stations (of 1 MW capacity or above) currently operating in NSW. There are a myriad of smaller generation facilities including solar panels installed on school rooftops across the State.
- (2) The locations of these 62 power stations are detailed in the attached table.
- (3) Details on original approvals for many power stations are included in the table provided. Details on some facilities however reside with various Councils and former agencies and this information is no longer kept by the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability.
- (4) The year of commissioning for each power station is detailed in the table provided.

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NSW Power Stations

Power station	Location	Year of approval	Government in power	Year of commissioning	Owner	Capacity (MW)	Type of plant
Snowy (Blowering, Guthega, Murray 1 & 2, Tumut 1, 2 & 3)	Blowering Dam	commenced construction in 1949	ALP in 1941-1965	1959 to 1973	Snowy Hydro Limited	3676	Hydro
Bayswater	Hunter Valley	DA approved 22 September 1980	ALP in 1976-1988	1982 1983 1984	Macquarie Generation	2640	Steam/Coal
Eraring	on Lake Macquarie	construction commenced 1977	ALP in 1976-1988	1982 1983 1984	Eraring Energy	2640	Steam/Coal
Liddell	Hunter Valley	under construction in 1966	ALP in 1941-1965	1971 1972 1973	Macquarie Generation	2000	Steam/Coal
Mt Piper	Lithgow	DA approved 1 April 1982	ALP in 1976-1988	1992 1993	Delta Electricity	1320	Steam/Coal
Vales Point B	Central Coast	foundations laid 1960	ALP in 1941-1965	1978	Delta Electricity	1320	Steam/Coal
Wallerawang C	Lithgow	work commenced 1970	LIB in 1965-1976	1976 1980	Delta Electricity	1000	Steam/Coal
Munmorah	Central Coast	Publicly announced 1961	ALP in 1941-1965	1969	Delta Electricity	600	Steam/Coal
Shoalhaven (Bendeela & Kangaroo Valley)	Bendeela and Kangaroo Valley power stations	Construction commenced 1972	LIB in 1965-1976	1977	Eraring Energy	240	Hydro
Smithfield Energy Facility	Smithfield	DA approved 15 November 1994	LIB in 1988-1995	1997	Sitthe Australia Power	160	Natural gas cogeneration
Redbank	Singleton	DA approved by Singleton Council on 23 March 1994	LIB in 1988-1995	2001	Redbank Project Pty Ltd	150	Steam/Waste
BlueScope Steel Port Kembla	Port Kembla Steelworks			1928-1992	BlueScope Steel	61.75	Waste Gas Cogeneration
Appin Mine	Appin Mine			1996	EDL Group Operations Pty Ltd	55.6	Coal seam methane
Broken Hill	Broken Hill Gas Turbine Station	commissioned in 1965	ALP in 1941-1965	1965	Eraring Energy	50	Gas turbine/oil
Hunter Valley	Near Liddell Power Station			1988	Macquarie Generation	50	Gas turbine/oil
Warragamba	65km west of Sydney		ALP in 1941-1965	1959	Eraring Energy	50	Hydro
Tower Mine	Tower Mine			1996	EDL Group Operations Pty Ltd	41.2	Coal seam methane
Hume	Hume Power Station			1957	Eraring Energy	29	Hydro
Burrinjuck	Burrinjuck Dam	Station upgrade approved 1999	ALP in 1995-present	1938, 2002	Eraring Energy	26.8	Hydro
Copeton	Copeton Dam near Inverell			1995	Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd	24	Hydro
Visy Paper	Tumut			2001	Visy Paper	20	Wood waste / black liquor
Wyangala Dam	Cowra - Lachlan River			1992	Country Energy/Hydro Power	18	Hydro
Burrendong	Burrendong Dam near Dubbo			1996	Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd	14.5	Hydro
Lucas Heights 2	Lucas Heights Rubbish Depot			1998	EDL Group Operations Pty Ltd	12.7	Landfill Gas
Wilga Park Power Station	Narrabri			2004	Narrabri Power Limited	12	Natural Gas
Shell - Clyde	Clyde			1968-1995	Shell Refining	11.6	Waste Gas Cogeneration
Blayney Wind Farm	Blayney			2000	Eraring Energy	9.9	Wind
Teralba Power Station	Xstrata's Teralba Colliery			2004	Country Energy	8	Coal seam methane
Broadwater Sugar Mill	Broadwater- North Coast			1996	NSW Sugar Milling Cooperative	8	Bagasse Cogeneration
Caltex Refinery	Kurnell			1955	Caltex	7	Waste Gas Cogeneration
Williams Dam	Williams River, Hunter				Privately owned	7	Hydro
Pindari Dam	Pindari Dam, near Inverell			2001	Energex Retail	6.7	Hydro
Wyuna Water	Kembla Grange - Illawarra - Avon Dam Pipeline			1996	Integral Energy	6.4	Hydro
Paperlinx Shoalhaven	Bomaderry, Shoalhaven			1962	Paperlinx	6	Black Coal Cogeneration

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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NSW Power Stations

Power station	Location	Year of approval	Government in power	Year of commissioning	Owner	Capacity (MW)	Type of plant
Visy Paper	Smithfield			1988	Visy Paper	6	Natural Gas Cogeneration
Keepit	Keepit Dam	Built by Water Resources and Irrigation Commission in late 1950s	ALP in 1941-1965	1960	Eraring Energy	6	Hydro
Glenbawn	Glenbawn (Scone)			1995	Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd	5.8	Hydro
Eastern Creek	Eastern Creek			2002	Ergon Energy Pty Ltd	5.4	Landfill Gas
Lucas Heights 1	Lucas Heights Rubbish Depot			1994	EDL Group Operations Pty Ltd	5.2	Landfill Gas
Tahmoor	Tahmoor Colliery			2000	Envirogen	5	Coal seam methane
Qenos	Botany			1966	Qenos	5	Black Coal Cogeneration
Crookwell Wind Farm	Crookwell	announced and commenced construction 1997	ALP in 1995-present	1998	Country Energy	4.8	Wind
Nymboida	near Grafton			1929 1935 1972	Country Energy	4.7	Hydro
Lucas Heights 2 Stage 2 (not on map)	Lucas Heights Rubbish Depot			2004	Country Energy	4.6	Landfill Gas
Harwood Sugar Mill	Harwood			1964 -1982	NSW Sugar Milling Cooperative	4.5	Bagasse Cogeneration
Oakey River	Oakey River Gorge, near Armidale			1956	Country Energy	4.5	Hydro
Brown Mountain	Brown Mountain	originally developed by Bega Valley County Council in 1943	ALP in 1941-1965	1943, 1953, 1957	Eraring Energy	4	Hydro
EarthPower Biomass Plant	Camelia, near Parramatta			2003	Country Energy	3.9	Biomass
Liddell/Bayswater micro hydro	Hunter Valley			2001	Macquarie Generation	3.4	Hydro pipeline
Condong Sugar Mill	Condong-North Coast			1981	NSW Sugar Milling Cooperative	3	Bagasse Cogeneration
Malabar STP	Malabar			1999	Sydney Water	3	Methane from Sewage Cogeneration
Belrose	Belrose Rubbish Depot			1995	EDL Group Operations Pty Ltd	2.1	Landfill Gas
The Drop / Mulwala	Junction of Mulwala and Berrigan Canals			2002	Pacific Hydro	2	Hydro
Macquarie University	North Ryde			2001	Macquarie University	1.5	Natural Gas Cogeneration
Jacks Gully	Jacks Gully			2001	Ergon Energy Pty Ltd	1.35	Green waste gasification
Whytes Gully	Whytes Gully Rubbish Depot			2000	Ergon Energy Pty Ltd	1.35	Green waste gasification
Hampton Wind farm	Hampton			2001	Hampton Wind Park Company	1.3	Wind
Stadium Australia	Homebush			1999	Stadium Australia	1	Natural Gas Cogeneration
University of Western Sydney	University of Western Sydney Parramatta			1997	AGL Electricity Limited	1	Cogeneration
Belconnen	Belconnen			1999	EDL Group Operations Pty Ltd	1	Landfill Gas
Jerrabomberra	Jerrabomberra			1999	EDL Group Operations Pty Ltd	1	Landfill Gas
Mugga Lane	Mugga Lane			1999	EDL Group Operations Pty Ltd	1	Landfill Gas
West Nowra	West Nowra Landfill Gas Power generation			2001	AGL Electricity Ltd	1	Landfill Gas
Broken Hill	Broken Hill			2000	Australian Inland Energy	1	Solar PV

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*5200 WATER RESTRICTION INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—Mr Amery to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

How many persons (residing in the Blacktown Local Government area) have been issued with an infringement notice for breaches of Sydney's water restrictions, in each month of 2005, ending 30th November 2005?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that the number of water restriction infringement notices issued by Sydney Water in the Blacktown Local Government Area for the period 1 January 2005 to 30 November 2005 are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
2005	7	2	4	2	2	5	0	7	7	7	4

These figures do not include fines issued by local government authorities.

*5201 HOSPITAL GRAFFITI DAMAGE—Mr Amery to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What plan is in place with the Department of Health to remove graffiti damage to hospitals, signage and other property under the control of this agency?
- (2) How long does the Department allow graffiti damage to remain visible to the public before it is removed?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) and (2) I am advised that building maintenance staff employed by the Department of Health and the various Health Services are responsible for ongoing asset maintenance. The time taken to remove graffiti may vary at each health facility, however, arrangements are generally made to remove graffiti as soon as possible.

*5202 HOUSING COMMISSION STOCK—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What plan has the Minister in relation to reorganisation/transformation in the Redfern Waterloo area in relation to Housing Commission stock?

Answer—

The Redfern-Waterloo Authority expects to publicly release the draft Stage One of its Redfern-Waterloo Plan in early 2006.

Stage One will cover the priority issues for the RWA's first three years of operation in the areas of Built Environment, Employment and Enterprise and Human Services. In the area of Built Environment, Stage One will focus on urban renewal on those sites currently designated as State Significant, which does not include Department of Housing estates in Redfern-Waterloo.

However, reform and revitalisation of public housing is seen as a priority issue for the future Stage Two of the Redfern-Waterloo Plan, and detailed research and community consultation into this issue is expected to commence during 2006.

*5204 PACIFIC HIGHWAY ACCESS—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Roads—

- (1) Has the decision been made on how residents from North Arm Cove, Tahlee and Carrington will access the new upgrade of the Pacific Highway?
- (2) If so, when was it made?
- (3) If so, who made it?
- (4) If so, what is that decision?
- (5) If it hasn't been made, when will it be made?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) A decision on access arrangements to the Pacific Highway from North Arm Cove, Tahlee and Carrington as part of the Karuah to Bulahdelah upgrading project was made on 5 May 2005.
- (3) The decision regarding access arrangements was made by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) after considerable consultation with the community, stakeholders and other government agencies.
- (4) and (5) A decision was made to modify the intersection configuration from four-way intersections to staggered three-way intersections.

*5205 GEROGERY OVERPASS—Mr Aplin to Minister for Roads—

- (1) Are you aware of concerns expressed by landholders in the vicinity of the new overpass near Gerogery that they will be placed in danger when entering or exiting the Olympic Way near the bridge?
- (2) Are you aware that in his consideration of a case in September 2004 Justice McClellan stated that there was a safety risk in relation to the roadway?
- (3) What action is being taken to reduce any risk for local farmers in accessing their properties from the new roadway or in moving agricultural machinery and vehicles on to, across and off the overpass?

Answer—

I am advised of the following:

- (1) The RTA has received a number of comments from the community in relation to the new overpass near Gerogery.
- (2) I refer the honourable member to the transcript of proceedings in the matter M&H Scollard v RTA 2004 (31382). The transcript is available at the Land and Environment Court of NSW.
- (3) The intersections at the approaches to the bridge were constructed with a basic right turn treatment which provides for a three metre wide sealed shoulder adjacent to the intersections. This permits through traffic to pass vehicles turning right. This treatment is consistent with RTA design standards for intersections of this type with low numbers of turning vehicles.

*5206 PEER REFERENCE COSTS—Mr Torbay to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What are the Peer Reference Costs (PRC)/Cost Weights/Activity Costs (in keeping with the current terminology used) for funding in the 2005-2006 budget for the Armidale and New England District Hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

For 2005/06 the Department advised of 4 PRCs:

- Acute Inpatient (Acute)
- Emergency Department (ED)
- Intensive Care (IC)
- SNAP (Sub Non Acute Patient)

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The 2005/06 PRC cost for the hospitals in question are:

	Acute \$	ED \$	IC	SNAP
Armidale	2,964	292	¹	²

¹ Statewide PRC of Chargeable - \$2,982 per IC patient day
Non-chargeable - \$3,277 per IC patient day

² Statewide PRC of \$10,210

***5207 PEER REFERENCE COSTS—** Mr Draper to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What are the Peer Reference Costs (PRC)/Cost Weights/Activity Costs (in keeping with the current terminology used) for funding in the 2005-2006 budget for the following hospitals:

- (a) John Hunter
- (b) Taree Rural Referral Hospital
- (c) Maitland Rural Referral Hospital
- (d) Tamworth Rural Hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

For 2005/06 the Department advised of 4 PRCs:

- Acute Inpatient (Acute)
- Emergency Department (ED)
- Intensive Care (IC)
- SNAP (Sub Non Acute Patient)

The 2005/06 PRC cost for the hospitals in question are:

	Acute \$	ED \$	IC	SNAP
Tamworth	3,017	292	¹	²
Manning (Taree)	3,017	292	¹	²
Maitland	3,017	292	¹	²
John Hunter	3,157	390	¹	²

¹ Statewide PRC of Chargeable - \$2,982 per IC patient day
Non-chargeable - \$3,277 per IC patient day

² Statewide PRC of \$10,210

***5208 HORNSBY HOSPITAL—** Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) In relation to Hornsby Hospital, what are the current names of the patient areas, what is the speciality managed in these areas and how many patients are there in each of the areas?
- (2) When the redevelopment is complete what will be the resultant answers to question (1)?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) I refer the member to the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service website.
I am advised that patient numbers in each of these areas fluctuates on a regular basis.

- (2) I am advised that the only anticipated changes to the above include the relocation of the existing maternity and paediatric services and the Emergency Department from their current accommodation to the new facility currently under construction. This new facility will also house the new Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre (PECC).

*5209 HOUSING STOCK—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) What is the current number of Department of Housing stock of houses/single dwellings and units/apartments in the electorate of Hornsby?
- (2) Have any been sold in the past 5 years?
- (3) If so, how many?
- (4) Has the department purchased any more stock in the past 5 years?
- (5) If so, how many and which locations?
- (6) How many people in Hornsby electorate live in Department of Housing residences?
- (7) How many are on the waiting list?

Answer—

- (1) 512.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Three.
- (4) and (5) No, but there have been a number of Department of Housing properties that have been redeveloped in the area.
- (6) 851.
- (7) As at January 2005, there were 1824 applicants on the housing register for the Northern Suburbs area.

*5210 TOWLERS BAY PROPERTY—Mrs Hopwood to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

Regarding a property at State-owned Towlers Bay in Pittwater electorate (including a single-storey house and a pool):

- (1) Is this property still State-owned?
- (2) What is the use of the property?
- (3) When was the last time this property was used?
- (4) What use does it have?
- (5) Who is entitled to stay in this property?

Answer—

The property in question does not fall under the portfolio of the Minister for Commerce.

*5211 HOSPITAL BEDS—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

Using the same criteria used to calculate average available beds June 2005 in table page 123 of the NSW Department of Health Annual Report 04/05:

- (1) How many beds were there in General hospital units in the years 1994-95 to 1998-99?
- (2) How many of the beds included in this column were for:
 - (a) acute care;
 - (b) mental health:

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- (c) aged rehabilitation;
 - (d) sub-acute care; and
 - (e) seasonal (winter) beds
- for each of the years 1994-95 to 2003-04?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) Information about bed numbers is published in the NSW Department of Health's annual reports.
- (2) I am advised the NSW Department of Health did not keep records of beds broken down by these categories for the period in question.

*5212 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TREATMENT TIME—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the charts under the heading Emergency Department treatment time on page 35 of the NSW Department of Health Annual Report 04/05:

- (1) What are the actual figures for each of the tables Triage 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5?
- (2) What are the same figure results for the years 1994-95 to 2002-03?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) I am advised that the figures in each table are:
 - Table 1 – 100 for the 03/04 bar, 100 for the 04/05 bar
 - Table 2 – 76 for the 03/04 bar, 75 for the 04/05 bar
 - Table 3 – 59 for the 03/04 bar, 60 for the 04/05 bar
 - Table 4 – 65 for the 03/04 bar, 65 for the 04/05 bar
 - Table 5 – 86 for the 03/04 bar, 87 for the 04/05 bar.
- (2) I refer the member to the information regarding Emergency Department Treatment Times in the annual reports from year 1994-95 to 2002-03.

*5213 ACCESS BLOCK FIGURES—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the chart under the heading Access Block on page 35 of the NSW Department of Health Annual Report 04/05:

- (1) What are the underlying actual figures?
- (2) What are the figures for Access Block for the period 1994-95 to 2001-02?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) Emergency Departments always give priority to the most life threatening cases and NSW hospitals continue to treat 100% of the most seriously ill within the designated 2 minutes timeframe.
I am advised by the NSW Department of Health that the percentage of patients who wait longer than 8 hours in the Emergency Department to get an inpatient hospital bed (Access Block) across NSW has fallen from 38% at the peak of winter in August 2004 to 32% in August 2005. That is, over 800 more patients a week are getting to their hospital bed from the Emergency Department in the benchmark time of eight hours than this time last year.
In 2005/06 the Government is investing a total of \$227 million in opening 822 new public hospital beds as part of a major plan to lift the capacity of the NSW public hospital system.
I am advised that the underlying figures for the Access Block tables that appear on page 35 of the NSW Department of Health's 2004/05 Annual Report are as follows:

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Jul	31	33	35
Aug	30	36	38
Sep	28	32	35
Oct	26	29	31
Nov	28	29	29
Dec	25	29	25
Jan	27	28	26
Feb	28	31	29
Mar	29	31	26
Apr	28	30	27
May	30	33	28
Jun	32	34	30

- (2) I refer the member to previous NSW Health annual reports.
It is important to note that there have been coverage changes over the period as new hospitals were gradually added to the ED collection. In addition, there were data quality issues with the bedding down of the ED collection in the first year 1994/95.

1 DECEMBER 2005

(Paper No. 162)

*5214 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Maguire to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many managers are there in Greater Southern Area Health Service?
- (2) What are the titles of these managers?
- (3) What is the total salary of these managers?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

(1) to (3) I am advised that the final structure is under consultation with the relevant stakeholders. As consultation has not been completed an indicative amount of managers and their salary is not currently available.

*5215 MOTOR ACCIDENTS—Mr Maguire to Minister for Roads—

- (1) How many motor accidents have occurred in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area in the year 2002, 2003, 2004, and in 2004 up to 30 June 2005?
- (2) Since the introduction of 50km zones how many accidents have occurred that have required hospitalization, or caused death?
- (3) Is there information available that demonstrates that the introduction of the 50km zones have resulted in less damage and injury?
- (4) How many pedestrians were injured in 2002, 2003, 2004, and in 2004 up to 30 June 2005?
- (5) Have pedestrian injuries over these periods reduced in injury seriousness as a result of the 50km zones?

Answer—

(1), (2) and (4) I refer the honourable member to a document produced by the RTA entitled *Road Traffic Crashes in NSW*. This document contains annual statistical information on crashes recorded in

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NSW (including information concerning accidents in the Wagga Wagga Local Government area). I understand that the information is collected in accordance with the Road Crash Recording National Guidelines. The document is available on the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au. NSW introduced the first trial for 50km/h speed limited in urban areas in 1997.

- (3) The *Roads and Traffic Authority 50km/h Urban Speed Limit Evaluation* is available on the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au
- (5) I am advised that the specific statistical information requested by the honourable member is not held by the RTA, nonetheless a substantial body of research exists on the relationship between the speed a car is travelling and the injuries caused to pedestrians. Should the honourable member desire to know more on this subject he may wish to consult the Parliamentary Library.

*5216 ACCOMMODATION—Mr Maguire to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Does the Government have specific plans to provide accommodation for young people with disabilities, who require full time care?
- (2) How do you plan to remove young people who are accommodated in aged care accommodation and place them in appropriate care that is designed to suit their needs?
- (3) Have any such plans been made available to the public?
- (4) When will you make your plan with appropriate funding available to the public?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care provides accommodation support for a range of people with a disability, including young people whose carers are no longer able to look after them.

At present the New South Wales Government is working to strengthen the Department's accommodation support system by preparing a policy that will outline a broader range of accommodation models to support the diverse needs of people with disabilities and their carers. Where necessary the development of these models will extend to consider the specific needs of young people who require full time care.

The NSW Government will release a 10-year disability plan in early 2006.

- (2) Although people under 50 years make up less than 1% of the nursing home population, the Government acknowledges concerns about younger people with disabilities living in nursing homes. The population of younger people in nursing homes has declined over recent years as in-home care services such as the Attendant Care program have expanded.

Access to nursing homes is determined through an independent needs assessment. People with disabilities living in nursing homes have high and complex health care needs that may not be readily met by existing services.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Working Group has been considering options to assist young people with disabilities since July 2005. NSW has been very involved in these discussions.

- (3) A proposal will be considered by COAG in February 2006.
- (4) Subject to the outcome of COAG in February 2006.

*5217 HORSE RIDING DAMAGE—Mr Maguire to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

What scientific evidence does the Government have for environmental damage in Kosciuszko National Park caused by horse riding?

Answer—

To assist the Department of Environment and Conservation in preparing the draft Plan of Management for Kosciuszko National Park, which was exhibited for public comment in 2004, an independent team of scientists was formed to provide an expert assessment of the current condition of the park. The presence of non-native and/or feral animals, including horses, was considered by the team as having significant environmental impacts on the park.

I am advised that, during the development of the draft Plan of Management, more than a hundred documents, including published scientific research papers, relating to the impacts of horses on a range of environments, including alpine environments, were consulted.

Dr Howard Crockford, a soil scientist from the CSIRO, reviewed papers from various parts of the world and found that all papers presented evidence of damage done by horses.

For example, a paper by Whinan et al (1994) found that the passage of only 20-30 horses in alpine environments on the central plateau of Tasmania resulted in significant damage to vegetation in shrubland areas.

The Whinan et al paper, and also research published by Hatton (1989) and Weaver (1995), have all shown that horses have the capacity to disperse viable propagules of both woody weeds and a range of herbaceous weeds.

Another study by Andreoni (1998) in Guy Fawkes River National Park found extensive erosion associated with horse movements.

The draft Plan summarises some of the environmental impacts that may result from horse riding and camping with horses. These include:

- vegetation damage and destruction through trampling and grazing;
- denudation, soil erosion and soil compaction;
- track formation;
- stream bank erosion, sedimentation and pollution of waterways;
- introduction and spread of weeds (from both horse feed and manure);
- physical damage to rock surfaces;
- damage to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal places of cultural significance; and
- damage to trees at campsites.

The degree of environmental impact in any particular location depends on site characteristics, such as the climate, type of vegetation, terrain, geology and the frequency of horse movements.

It is often difficult, however, to distinguish between damage caused by recreational horse riding and that caused by feral horses.

*5218 ANAESTHETIST FOR YOUNG HOSPITAL—Mr Armstrong to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the shortage of an anaesthetist at Young preventing the new \$16.5 million Young District Hospital from delivering a range of surgical and obstetric services to the residents of Young and surroundings?
- (2) Has the Minister taken any urgent action to assist the community of Young gain the services of an anaesthetist?
- (3) If yes, can the Minister give details of the steps he has taken?
- (4) Does the Minister acknowledge that the shortage of an anaesthetist at Young has resulted in expectant mothers, particularly those having their first child, being transferred to Cootamundra, Wagga Wagga or Canberra for the birth?
- (5) Are accounts generated between area health services when an expectant mother is transferred to a hospital outside her area health service for the birth of her child?
- (6) If yes, can the Minister detail the costs involved?
- (7) Does this financial and accounting arrangement between area health services impact on budget?
- (8) Does this financial and accounting arrangement inhibit an expectant mother from transferring to a hospital outside her area health service for the birth of her child when the shortage of an anaesthetist prevents her from having the baby in her home town?
- (9) Does the Minister discourage the practice of a baby being born at a hospital located in a neighbouring area health service?

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Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) to (3) The availability of an anaesthetist or locum can impact on the provision of surgical and obstetric services. I am advised that Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) has advertised for a GP anaesthetist on several occasions without success. The health service has also contracted locum anaesthetists to maintain surgical and obstetric services. The GSAHS is currently in negotiations with an anaesthetist to provide anaesthetic services during 2006.
- (4) I am advised that for the safety of mother and baby, expectant mothers are advised that it may be necessary for them to give birth at nearby facilities. Mothers are encouraged to return to Young Health Service for postnatal care following delivery of their babies at the referred Hospitals.
- (5) and (6) I am advised that accounts are not generated within the NSW public health system when a patient is transferred between various hospital facilities. There is an existing agreement between GSAHS and the ACT involving transfer on NSW patients to the ACT. The payment arrangements to the ACT are based on standard charge per case weighted separations and therefore the payment of individual patients is not identified.
- (7) GSAHS has a budget for interstate patient flows.
- (8) No.
- (9) I am advised that expectant mothers are given the option of choosing where they would like to give birth. The preferred hospital is notified and the transfer is organised.

*5219 RAILWAY RADIO COMPATIBILITY—Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What progress has been achieved in creating a common national railway radio network and standards for public and private passenger and freight railway operators?

Answer—

I am advised:

There has been significant progress in moving toward a common national railway radio network and standards for public and private passenger and freight railway operators. Achievements to date include:

- In October 2003 the National Rail Consultative Forum entrusted the Australasian Railways Association (ARA) to address policy and industry development in the area of train communications with the objective of rationalising the multiplicity of train radio systems across the industry.
- In early 2004 the ARA established a Communications Steering Group to pursue these objectives.
- The Steering Committee produced the Railway Communications Strategic Framework which was adopted by the ARA in September 2004.
- The Strategic Framework places responsibility for determining interoperability between different technological communications solutions on track managers. In exercising this responsibility track managers are required to determine solutions which provide the lowest cost for the rail industry without compromising the best safety and efficiency outcome.
- Rail operators (including Pacific National) adopted an in-principle agreement in February 2005 for a common digital train radio standard to apply in metropolitan track areas.
- In September 2005, metropolitan track managers and Pacific National adopted a common digital train radio functional requirements specification to form the basis of selecting an agreed digital communications standard.

*5220 CITY RAIL ROLLING STOCK —Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Is it proposed to introduce single deck passenger rolling stock into the city rail networks?

- (2) If so, on which lines?
 (3) What are the increased costs associated with having an “orphan” class of rolling stock?

Answer—

I am advised:

As part of the Government initiative to replace CityRail’s 498 non-air-conditioned carriages, RailCorp invited proposals for both single deck and double deck trains. Responses were received on 10 October 2005, and are currently being evaluated.

***5221 IMPORTED ROLLING STOCK**—Mr Pringle to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What testing regime is in place or proposed to ensure that imported railway rolling stock meets Australian standards and does not affect railway infrastructure?

Answer—

All rolling stock used by RailCorp meets strict operational and safety standards.

***5222 CONSUMER ENERGY CONTRACTS**—Mr Pringle to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

Are there plans to improve consumers’ ability to make an informed choice between energy suppliers by ensuring standard formats in contracts so that consumers are easily able to make direct comparisons?

Answer—

NSW already has mandatory standards for the information provided to small retail energy customers, including the disclosure of prices and other contractual matters.

A working group under the Ministerial Council on Energy is presently preparing a report with recommendations on standards for minimum information disclosure standards to apply across the Australian energy market in future.

These recommendations will be referred to the Ministerial Council for consideration and will contribute to a decision on standards that will enable small retail energy consumers to make informed choices throughout the Australian energy market.

***5223 ELECTRICITY SERVICE ACCESS**—Mr Pringle to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

What are the service access charges (cents per day) for Integral Energy and Energy Australia for the years 2000-2001, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Answer—

The table below shows the system access charges levied by Integral Energy and EnergyAustralia for small residential customers on standard form contracts.

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Integral Energy System Access Charge (c/day)	0.0000*	19.7122	23.4658	26.2055	30.0000
EnergyAustralia Domestic All Time (c/day)	19.1400	19.1400	20.3800	20.9900	27.4800

*The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal did not introduce the requirement for a fixed charge in the regulated tariff for standard form customers until December 2000.

The daily electricity service access or Service Availability Charge (SAC) represents fixed costs such as administration and billing (for retailers) and maintenance, metering and customer connections (for electrical networks). The SAC generally accounts for around 10-20% of the total cost of a tariff.

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A tariff generally comprises a SAC (cents/day) and the energy rates (cents/kWh). Regulated tariffs applied by Integral Energy and EnergyAustralia for both network and retail costs are approved by IPART in May/June each year for the following financial year.

There are different SACs approved for different tariffs depending, for example, on the amount of administration, metering or connection costs applicable to the type of customers applicable to each tariff.

***5224 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Mr Pringle to Minister for Education and Training—**

Noting the importance of achieving learning outcomes in the Visual Arts curriculum, will the demountable classrooms remain at Galston High School?

Answer—

No formal arrangements have been made to release the visual arts demountable at Galston High School. The Department will consider the school's submission to retain the demountable.

***5225 ROCK EISTEDDFOD CHALLENGE—Mr Pringle to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—**

Noting the success of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge in promoting healthy lifestyles, will funding be restored to the Eisteddfod for the 2006 year?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

I can advise that in 2006 the Cancer Institute NSW will be taking responsibility for the administration and funding of that component of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge, previously managed through NSW Health.

***5226 INALA SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL—Mr Pringle to Minister for Education and Training—**

Why is the Government unwilling to fund the Inala Special School?

Answer—

As a registered non-government school under the NSW Education Act 1990, Inala Special School currently receives financial assistance in the form of per capita funding. Per capita funding for non-government schools is allocated according to a 12 category needs based scheme. Within this framework, Inala Special School is funded at the highest level of Category 12.

Inala Special School also receives State Government funding under the Supervisor Subsidy Scheme. This scheme subsidises the salaries of teachers/supervisors employed in non-government special schools catering for students with moderate and severe intellectual disability and students with autism. The school received a total of \$156,000 in State Government funding in 2004/05.

Inala Special School already receives the maximum funding entitlement available to non-government schools from the NSW Government.

***5227 BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SAND—Mr Pringle to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—**

What proposals are there to secure construction sand for the building industry for the medium and long term?

Answer—

The Government is developing the Sydney Construction Materials Strategy for the purpose of securing a sustainable and long-term framework for the supply of sand and other construction materials. The work is being undertaken by the Department of Planning and remains in progress.

*5228 OYSTER HARVEST—Mr Bartlett to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) Have oyster farmers in Port Stephens been prevented from harvesting oysters in Upper Tilligerry Creek?
- (2) Has the cause of pollution been shown to be sewerage contamination, thus returning bacterial and viral readings which are above standards of acceptability?
- (3) Did this problem start in 1997 when Fisheries employees undertook to follow up on the problem?
- (4) Did the Government have Local Government charge a fee and annually inspect septic systems?
- (5) Was Fisheries involved in 1997 tests which showed high faecal counts in the water and oyster meat?
- (6) Did you receive advice that Port Stephens Council found very high levels of faecal bacteria in upper Tilligerry Creek?
- (7) Were two areas in Upper Tilligerry Creek closed permanently in June 2005?
- (8) Has EPA been notified by your administration of the problem?
- (9) Are avenues open to the oyster farmers to obtain Government Assistance to exit the industry with dignity?
- (10) What remedial action has been taken to correct the pollution problems identified?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Mineral Resources of the following response:

Please refer to my answer in the Legislative Council on 15 November 2005.

*5229 MINISTERIAL FLEET CARS—Mr Armstrong to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) How many of the Ministerial fleet cars are now running on E5 or more ethanol content petrol?
- (2) How many Ministerial fleet cars are in service today?
- (3) How many Ministerial fleet cars are ethanol compatible?
- (4) How many Ministerial fleet cars are powered by G.M. ethanol compliant engines?

Answer—

NSW Premier's Department provides vehicles for Ministers. There are 23 vehicles in the Ministerial car fleet. Advice from the manufacturers of the vehicles in the Ministerial fleet is that all can run on up to E10 (blend of unleaded petrol and 10% ethanol).

*5230 OVERSEAS ADOPTION—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

- (1) How many children have been adopted from overseas since 1 July 2005?
- (2) How many children have been adopted from interstate in the same period?
- (3) How many children have been adopted within NSW in the same period?
- (4) How many children have been adopted to other states or jurisdictions in the same period?
- (5) How many applications have there been since 1 July 2005 to adopt a child from overseas?

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Answer—

- (1) to (3) and (5) Information on adoptions for the period 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2005 will be available in the first quarter of 2006.
- (4) This is a matter for other jurisdictions to answer.

*5231 COMMUNITY PRESCHOOLS—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

- (1) How much extra funding is the Government prepared to give the community pre-schools?
- (2) What financial assistance will the Government give to community pre-schools who are incurring costs to comply with Department of Community Services and regulatory requirements?

Answer—

- (1) It was the former Coalition Government which imposed a funding freeze on preschools which the Labor Government lifted in 1995.
The NSW Government's commitment is illustrated by its investment of \$903 million in community based children's services since 1995. This financial year, the Department of Community Services' (DoCS) investment is a record \$101.7 million. I am advised that out of the DoCS children's services budget, funding of \$70 million is provided to some 800 preschool services throughout NSW. More than \$11 million is also allocated under the Supporting Children with Additional Needs scheme, primarily to assist children with additional needs participate in preschool. These figures represent an increase of 2.75 percent to community based preschools over and above 2004/2005 funding levels and an increase to the DoCS children's services budget of some \$2.6 million.
- (2) The Government is aware that some community based preschool services are facing considerable cost pressures and in recognition of this the Minister for Community Services has agreed with her colleague, the Minister for Education, that the Department of Community Services and the Department of Education and Training should work together to assess and present options for improving and supporting preschool services in NSW. This work is being progressed as a major priority. Meanwhile, DoCS continues to work with the sector to examine issues of preschool viability and provision in NSW.

*5233 NOXIOUS WEED—Mr Amery to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) How many detections of the noxious weed, parthenium weed (*Parthenium Histeroporis*) have been made in New South Wales for each of the past three years?
- (2) What detection has been the furthest from the Queensland border?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources of the following response:

- (1)

2004/05	17
2003/04	33
2002/03	27
- (2) One plant was detected at Jerilderie in the 2002/03 period.

*5234 TICKET SALES—Mr Amery to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Based on ticket sales, what are the busiest twenty railway stations on the Metropolitan rail network?
- (2) What are the annual ticket sales for these twenty stations over the past three years?

Answer—

I am advised:

The following list is of the twenty top-selling CityRail stations, based on ticket sales over the financial years 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05:

Rank	Station	Total ticket sales in 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05
1	Central	14,526,228
2	Town Hall	10,955,277
3	Strathfield	6,295,299
4	Bondi Junction	6,226,988
5	Parramatta	5,983,281
6	Wynyard	5,642,493
7	Hurstville	4,861,514
8	Chatswood	4,773,030
9	Kings Cross	4,765,482
10	Blacktown	4,323,075
11	Burwood	3,897,287
12	North Sydney	3,788,989
13	Ashfield	3,776,090
14	Hornsby	3,678,599
15	Liverpool	3,491,962
16	Rockdale	3,374,982
17	Kogarah	3,267,235
18	Redfern	3,233,675
19	Lidcombe	3,196,579
20	St Leonards	3,182,848

*5237 TRAMODOL—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Which hospitals in NSW use the medication Tramadol?
- (2) If this medication is not used, for what reason has this decision been taken?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) and (2) I am advised by the Chief Pharmacist that this information is not held centrally by the Department of Health. The range of drugs routinely held in each public hospital is determined by the hospitals Drug and Therapeutics Committee.

*5238 COWAN SEWER CONNECTION—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) What type of sewerage connection is planned for Cowan?
- (2) What will be the timeframe for this connection?

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Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that:

- (1) Sydney Water has commenced initial planning investigations for appropriate and sustainable wastewater solutions to service Cowan. At present the appropriate type of sewerage system for Cowan has not yet been determined.
- (2) The village of Cowan is included in Stage Two of the Priority Sewerage Program (PSP). Under Sydney Water's Operating Licence 2005-2010, Stage Two areas will commence by 30 June 2009 which, when complete, will permit connection to be made available to at least 30 per cent of lots eligible under Stage Two of the PSP.
Sydney Water's Operating Licence 2005-2010 requires that priority be given to those villages in PSP Stage Two that are adjacent to a World Heritage Area (WHA).
Sydney Water will progress sewerage the rest of Stage Two villages, including Cowan, after it finishes work on the areas adjacent to the WHA.

*5240 STABLING FACILITY—Mr O'Farrell to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the Macdonaldtown stabling facility

- (1) What tests were undertaken by the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (TIDC) to assess the potential environmental impact of the construction of the facility?
- (2) Why was no Environmental Impact study deemed necessary?
- (3) Who will monitor the environmental impact of the project during construction?
- (4) Who is the consent authority for this project?
- (5) What plans are there for compensation to local residents:
 - (a) for the construction of noise walls 40 weeks into the construction of the facility?
 - (b) if the effects of the construction and operation of the facility result in a "significant impact" on the environment and local residents?
 - (c) if the construction of the facility exceeds set timeframes?
 - (d) for falling property values?
- (6) What other sites were considered for the stabling facility in RailCorp's "Value Management Study"?
- (7) Where can RailCorp's "Value Management Study" be accessed?
- (8) What steps were taken to assess the North Eveleigh Rail Yards as an alternative to the Macdonaldtown site for the project?
- (9) What steps did RailCorp, TIDC, and the Ministry for Transport take to consult local business about the project?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has been prepared to assess the environmental impact of the project. The REF has been developed in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*, and the Best Practice Guidelines for Part 5 of the EP&A Act (Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1995).
- (2) An environmental assessment has been undertaken for the project in the form of the REF. The conclusion of the REF is that the project, with the proposed mitigation measures incorporated, will not have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.
- (3) The Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (TIDC) will be responsible for environmental monitoring during the construction phase. An Environmental Management Representative will also be appointed to monitor the construction works.
- (4) TIDC is identified as a Determining Authority in the Transport Administration Act where an EIS is not required. Therefore TIDC is the determining authority for the Macdonaldtown Stabling Project.

- (5) (a) The noise walls referred to in the REF are being constructed to attenuate noise once the facility becomes operational. The construction program included in the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) was indicative only and will be further refined following the appointment of a construction contractor. Noise walls will be installed as early in the construction program as is practicable.
- (b) The REF has concluded that the project as mitigated, will not have a significant impact on the environment and local residents.
- (c) A detailed construction program will be developed following the appointment of a construction contractor. Mitigation measures will be applied throughout the construction works.
- (d) Property values are not a matter for consideration under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- (6) RailCorp undertakes the value management process in accordance with Australian Standard (AS/NZS 4188:1994). This Standard defines the process as: "A structured and analytical process, which seeks to achieve value for money by providing all the necessary functions at the lowest total cost, consistent with required levels of quality and performance." The value management study for the Macdonaldtown Stabling proposal was undertaken to determine the most efficient use of the chosen site. It was not used as a site selection tool.
- (7) RailCorp's draft Value Management Study has been released to Macdonaldtown residents for their review.
- (8) The North Eveleigh Rail Yards are unsuitable for stabling for the following reasons:
 - RailCorp proposes to use the Macdonaldtown stabling facility to stable trains from Bankstown, East Hills and Campbelltown. North Eveleigh is separated from the route that serves the Macdonaldtown site by the routes that serve the North, Central Coast, West, North Shore and the Blue Mountains. Therefore, using North Eveleigh to stable trains would severely impact the reliable operation of the timetable. North, Central Coast, West, North Shore and Blue Mountains services would need to be stopped to allow trains to access the North Eveleigh site.
 - Stopping the services outlined above to provide trains with access to the North Eveleigh site would significantly reduce the frequency of services in the peak and significantly exacerbate crowding conditions on existing services.

For these reasons, stabling at the North Eveleigh site is impractical and is discounted as a viable alternative.
- (9) Local businesses within the vicinity of the project were included in the community consultation program undertaken by TIDC. This has included:
 - Notification of the commencement of environmental assessment and design work for the project in April 2005.
 - A project information session in May 2005.
 - Public exhibition of the REF for a 30 day period from 2 November to 2 December 2005. This period was subsequently extended to 14 December 2005.
 - Notification/advertising of the REF exhibition through a brochure outlining the assessment and conclusions of the REF, advertisements in two local papers and the Sydney Morning Herald on two occasions, posters at local CityRail stations, Newtown Library and City of Sydney Council.
 - Two project information sessions in November 2005.
 - Notification of the twelve day extension to the REF exhibition period in December 2005.

*5241 KINGS HIGHWAY—Mr Constance to Minister for Roads—

- (1) How many fatal accidents occurred on the Kings Highway in 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001?
- (2) What has been the funding allocation on the Kings Highway in 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001?
- (3) What was the expenditure on the Kings Highway in 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001?

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Answer—

- (1) I refer the honourable member to a document produced by the RTA entitled *Road Traffic Crashes in NSW*. This document contains annual statistical information on crashes recorded in NSW (including information concerning fatalities on the Kings Highway). I understand that the information is collected in accordance with the Road Crash Recording National Guidelines. This document can be found on the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au
- (2) I am advised that the answer is \$20.384M.
- (3) I am advised that the answer is \$18.35M.

*5242 DUNN LEWIS BALI MEMORIAL YOUTH CENTRE—Mr Constance to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

Will the Government fund the Dunn Lewis Bali Memorial Youth Centre?

Answer—

The NSW Government congratulates Ms Gayle Dunn on her proposal for the Dunn and Lewis Youth Development Foundation Memorial Complex in Ulladulla.

The NSW Government has offered to assist the Dunn and Lewis Youth Development Foundation, subject to the meeting of certain criteria, through the provision of land under an appropriate lease arrangement. I am advised that there have been ongoing discussions with the Department of Lands regarding this matter.

The NSW Government, through the Premier's Department, has also provided advice and contacts to help the Foundation explore potential philanthropic and corporate funding sources.

*5244 WAITING LISTS BATEMANS BAY—Mr Constance to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What is the waiting list at Batemans Bay Hospital, and the Moruya, Bega and Pambula Hospitals in 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001?

Answer—

Information on hospital waiting lists are published on the NSW Health Website.

The waiting list at any health facility is rarely stagnant and generally fluctuates on a regular basis. This Government is committed to improving waiting times for booked patients in NSW Hospitals. The Government will continue the steady and positive progress already implemented across health facilities improving the waiting times for booked patients. Reduced waiting times, greater certainty for booked patients and flexible options all demonstrate the Government's strong commitment to enhancing health service delivery to the people of NSW.

The Government will continue to implement initiatives to improve the management of waiting lists. In 2004/2005, the Government provided an extra \$35 million in additional funds for elective surgery plus \$10 million as long wait surgery initiative funding. The \$10 million long wait surgery initiative fund has been used to target patients who have waited more than 12 months for low-complexity procedures such as cataracts and ear, nose and throat surgery. This is being accomplished through out public hospitals and through the Private Provider Pilot Program. In 2004/2005 these additional funds resulted in a reduction of almost 48% in the long wait patient listing.

In 2005/2006, our hospitals will again receive an extra \$35 million in additional funds for elective surgery plus \$15 million as long wait surgery initiative funding. The \$15 million long wait surgery initiative funding is being used in 2005/2006 to target patients who have waited more than 12 months for high-complexity procedures such as hip and knee joint replacement surgery.

*5245 EPPING TO CHATSWOOD RAIL LINK—Mr Merton to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What is the proposed completion date for the Epping to Chatswood rail link?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Epping to Chatswood Rail Line is due for completion in mid 2008.

*5246 IDENTITY CARD—Mr Merton to Minister for Roads—

When will the Roads and Traffic Authority introduce a form of identity card for people who do not hold a drivers' license?

Answer—

The Photo Card was introduced through Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) motor registries from 14 December 2005. The Card is available to residents of NSW over the age of 16 who do not hold a driver's licence or an RTA issued proof of age card.

*5247 ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY—Mr Merton to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

How many patients are currently waiting more than 12 months for orthopaedic surgery at Westmead hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

I refer the member to the NSW Department of Health website.

*5248 ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY—Mr Merton to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

How many patients are currently waiting more than 12 months for orthopaedic surgery at Blacktown hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

I refer the member to my answer in Question 5247.

*5249 WATER RESTRICTIONS—Mr Merton to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

How many people in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area have been issued with infringement notices for breaches of the water restrictions?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that:

As at 30 November 2005, Sydney Water has issued 103 infringement notices in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area since the introduction of mandatory water restrictions.

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*5250 HOUSING DEPARTMENT PROPERTIES—Mr Merton to Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What is the current position relating to vacancies in Department of Housing properties in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area?

Answer—

The number of properties that are vacant varies from month to month. This is because properties are in the process of being prepared for reletting to applicants on the public housing register, or they may have been identified for either sale or redevelopment into more suitable accommodation.

*5251 PARRAMATTA ROUSE HILL TRANSITWAY—Mr Merton to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What is the proposed completion date for the Parramatta to Rouse Hill Transitway?

Answer—

I am advised:

This matter falls within the administration of the Minister for Roads and should be referred accordingly.

*5252 CHILDREN KNOWN TO DOCS—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—

- (1) How many children died in 2003-04 and 2004-05 who were known (or had been the subject of notification to) the Department of Community Services?
- (2) Has your office received reports in regard to any or all of these children?
- (3) Have you made any public comment on the interaction between DOCS and any of the children in these cases?
- (4) In regard to any of these cases have you apologised for the failings of the Government, or expressed regret or remorse?

Answer—

- (1) During the period 1 December 2002 to 31 December 2003 the NSW Ombudsman identified 161 child deaths as 'reviewable'. During the period 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2004 the NSW Ombudsman identified 104 child deaths as 'reviewable'.
- (2) Reviewable deaths under Section 35(1) of Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act 1993 include the deaths of children who have been the subject of a report to the Department of Community Services (DoCS) in the three years prior to their death. A 'reviewable death' also includes the death of a child:
 - where a sibling has been the subject of a report to DoCS in the three years prior to the child's death;
 - where the death is, or may be, due to abuse or neglect or that occurs in suspicious circumstances (even if the child was not previously known to DoCS);
 - where the child or young person was an inmate of a children's detention centre, a correctional centre or a lock-up (or was temporarily absent from such a place).
- (3) I refer you to the Minister for Community Services' media release of 7 December 2005, '2nd Report on Reviewable Deaths by the NSW Ombudsman'.
- (4) I refer you to the Minister for Community Services' media release of 7 December 2005, '2nd Report on Reviewable Deaths by the NSW Ombudsman'.

***5253 PHOTO IDENTITY CARD—Mr Roberts to Minister for Roads—**

What is the anticipated cost to the Roads and Traffic Authority of introducing the new photo identity cards for people who do not have a drivers licence?

Answer—

I refer the honourable member to the Regulatory Impact Statement that appears on the RTA website (www.rta.nsw.gov.au).

***5254 IDENTITY CARD CHARGES—Mr Roberts to Minister for Roads—**

What is the anticipated charge for citizens wishing to obtain the new photo identity card if they do not hold a drivers licence?

Answer—

I refer the honourable member to clause 4 of the Photo Card Regulation 2005.

***5255 WATER INFRINGEMENT NOTICES —Mr Roberts to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—**

How many people in the Lane Cove Local Government Area have been issued with infringement notices for breaches of Sydney's water restrictions, in each month of 2004, and in 2005 up to November 2005?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that:

The number of water restriction infringement notices issued by Sydney Water in the Lane Cove Local Government Area for the period 1 January 2004 to 30 November 2005 are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	1
2005	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	NA

These figures do not include fines issued by local government authorities.

***5256 WATER INFRINGEMENT NOTICES —Mr Roberts to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—**

How many people in the Hunters Hill Local Government Area have been issued with infringement notices for breaches of Sydney's water restrictions, in each month of 2004, and in 2005 up to November 2005?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that the number of water restriction infringement notices issued by Sydney Water in the Hunters Hill Local Government Area for the period 1 January 2004 to 30 November 2005 are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	4	3	2	3	0
2005	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	NA

These figures do not include fines issued by local government authorities.

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*5257 WATER INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—Mr Roberts to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

How many people in the Ryde Local Government Area have been issued with infringement notices for breaches of Sydney's water restrictions, in each month of 2004, and in 2005 up to November 2005?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised the number of water restriction infringement notices issued by Sydney Water in the Ryde Local Government Area for the period 1 January 2004 to 30 November 2005 are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	0	3	1	0	2	0	2	4	1	2	1	0
2005	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	NA

These figures do not include fines issued by local government authorities.

*5258 TOP RYDE TRAFFIC—Mr Roberts to Minister for Roads—

What are the Roads and Traffic Authority's daily traffic counts for Victoria Road at Top Ryde?

Answer—

The annual average daily traffic count on Victoria Road, east of Belmore Street, Ryde in the year 2004 was 56,506 vehicles per day.

*5259 HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Roberts to Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

How many properties does the Department of Housing own in the Lane Cove Local Government Area?

Answer—

238.

*5260 ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY—Mr Roberts to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

How many patients are currently waiting more than 12 months for orthopaedic surgery at Royal North Shore Hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:
I refer the member to the NSW Department of Health website.

*5261 LINE DUPLICATION EIS—Mr Kerr to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What is the total cost of the contract to GHD Pty Ltd to provide environment impact assessment, project management and preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Cronulla Line Duplication?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to the previous answer to question number 4259.

*5262 LINE DUPLICATION EIS—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) What is the total cost of the contract to GHD Pty Ltd and Fichtner to undertake the planning approvals process for the Kurnell Desalination Plant and to act as owner's engineer for the procurement process?
- (2) How much money has been paid to date?

Answer—

- (1) The estimate of costs for completing the planning approvals and short-listing of participants is \$6 million. Sydney Water is currently estimating the amount of support it requires from GHD Fichtner for the next stage of the procurement process.
- (2) As at 16 December 2005, \$3.7 million has been paid to GHD Fichtner for planning approvals and owner's engineer activities.

*5263 RIVERINA HIGHWAY UPGRADE—Mr Aplin to Minister for Roads—

- (1) What surveys have been undertaken to determine current and future traffic volumes on the Riverina Highway from Albury to Lake Hume?
- (2) In view of the rapidly increasing residential and tourist development east of Albury will the Government commit to completing the upgrade of the remaining 2.5km of narrow, winding road?

Answer—

- (1) The Roads and Traffic Authority collects traffic counts on a three-year cycle at four sites on the Riverina Highway between Albury and Bethanga Bridge. An additional site is located on the Hume Weir Road. The traffic counters provide information on numbers and types of vehicles.
- (2) Projects are assessed on a statewide priority basis.

*5264 RURAL RAIL LINES—Mr Aplin to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) In 1998, did the then Minister for Transport commit the Government to spending \$170m per year for the maintenance and improvement of rural rail lines to 2010?
- (2) What annual expenditure has been made to date and on which lines?
- (3) What maintenance and improvement works will be undertaken in the remaining years of the commitment?
- (4) Were the proceeds from the sale of heavy gauge line for scrap used for upgrading rural rail lines and if so on which lines?
- (5) Could this heavy gauge line have been used to upgrade rural lines such as the Henty Silo Spur?

Answer—

I am advised:

The New South Wales Government is committed to providing sufficient funding for the maintenance and safe operation of both the NSW metropolitan and country rail networks. Funding is allocated on a needs basis, and is provided from a variety of sources, though total maintenance spending is far in excess of \$170 million per year.

On 5 September 2004, The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) took up a lease of the vast majority of the country rail network, including the main interstate lines and the Hunter Valley coal network. Prior to this time, approximately \$310 million per year was expended on the maintenance of rural rail infrastructure, most of which was funded through the Community Services Obligation funding agreement.

The ARTC lease agreement between the NSW and Australian Governments includes a five year infrastructure investment program by the ARTC of more than \$870 million. In addition the ARTC has

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commenced an upgrade of the North South rail network (Melbourne to Brisbane) over the next three to four years which includes \$421 million on the Main North Line from Sydney to Brisbane.

Current funding agreements between the Rail Infrastructure Corporation (RIC), the Ministry of Transport and the NSW Government provide \$110 million per year for the maintenance of that part of the rural rail network not included in the ARTC lease. Additional funding of \$58 million over three years will also be available for maintenance funding to ensure the safe operation of the restricted lines. RIC purchases most of the second hand rail from the metropolitan rail network to replace life-expired rail on the rural network.

***5265 MURRAY CORRESPONDENCE**—Mrs Hancock to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

When and how will you respond to my letter regarding the problems being experienced by South Coast racehorse trainer Bede Murray, sent to you three months ago, and referred to you by three other Government Ministers?

Answer—

On 14 November 2005, I responded to your letter advising that the matters you have raised fall under the administration of the Minister for Natural Resources, the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC. I have forwarded your correspondence to him for consideration and reply to you direct.

***5266 SCUBA DIVING FEE**—Mrs Hancock to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

What is the response from the community regarding the Department's proposed Recreational Scuba Diving Fee?

Answer—

The NSW Government received submissions from the community on the scuba diving fee proposal and is currently reviewing these submissions.

***5267 ULLADULLA UPGRADE**—Mrs Hancock to Minister for Education and Training—

What progress has been made with respect to the upgrading of Ulladulla High School?

Answer—

Stage One of the redevelopment at Ulladulla High School was approved as part of the 2005/06 State Budget, which provides \$392 million for schools capital works.

Funding for a major upgrade of school facilities will enable the construction of a three story building comprising general and specialist teaching spaces, staff and study areas.

A Development Application for Stage One of the redevelopment of Ulladulla High School was submitted to Shoalhaven City Council on 19 August 2005. The Development Application is currently with Council. It is anticipated that tenders for the redevelopment will be called in February 2006.

***5268 SHOALHAVEN LOCAL AREA COMMAND**—Mrs Hancock to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

What is the Minister's response to concerns from the South Coast community regarding police numbers in the Shoalhaven Local Area Command?

Answer—

The authorised strength of the Shoalhaven Local Area Command has increased from 102 in 1994, under the Coalition Government, to 121 as at 31 October 2005, representing an increase of 19 police officers or 18.6%.

*5269 SHOALHAVEN RIVER—Mrs Hancock to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Given that the Minister for the Environment has publicly deferred the proposal to raise the height of Tallowa Dam and build a new pipeline for water extraction from the Shoalhaven River, will you support the communities of the South Coast who call for these proposals to be abandoned?

Answer—

This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Utilities and the Minister for the Environment.

*5270 KINGS CROSS NIGHTRIDE BUS—Ms Moore to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

When will the Government reinstate the former NightRide bus to provide public transport for visitors to Kings Cross to return to the city and access public transport after trains stop running?

Answer—

I am advised:

Neither the Ministry of Transport nor RailCorp have records of any such service having operated.

*5271 HANDY PERSONS SCHEME—Ms Moore to Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) (a) What is the Department of Housing evaluation of the HandyPersons Scheme in NSW since 2003?
(b) What is the evaluation of the scheme in Bligh?
(c) How was this evaluation carried out?
- (2) (a) In how many sites does the scheme currently operate?
(b) How many of these sites are in Bligh?
- (3) (a) How many Department of Housing tenants are employed under this scheme?
(b) How many Department of Housing tenants are employed in Bligh?
- (4) When will the Department expand the scheme to Surry Hills?
- (5) How will the Department ensure that more Bligh Department of Housing tenants have the opportunity to participate in this Scheme?

Answer—

- (1) (a) to (c) An independent consultant evaluated the Tenant Handypersons Program during 2005. Consultation occurred with 100 stakeholders, including 65 tenants, through field visits, other meetings and telephone interviews. Handypersons and Department of Housing staff in the two project locations in the Bligh electorate participated in interviews during the evaluation process.
- (2) (a) 16 sites.
(b) 2 sites (Redfern Hill and South Coogee).

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- (3) (a) 6.
- (b) At the time of appointment handypersons both in Redfern Hill and South Coogee were social housing residents. I am advised that currently the Redfern Hill handyperson is living in private rental and the South Coogee handyperson is believed to be a community housing resident.
- (4) The Department of Housing is currently assessing the options of expanding the Program.
- (5) The Department will ensure the recommendations of the Tenant Handypersons Program review are considered in any proposed expansion of the program, particularly the recommendations pertaining to strategies aimed at increasing the employment opportunities of social housing residents in the program.

*5272 REDFERN-WATERLOO STREET TEAM—Ms Moore to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What evaluation was carried out of the Redfern-Waterloo Street Team and will the Government make this information public?
- (2) What does the evaluation identify about:
 - (a) The service model on which the Street Team was based?
 - (b) The benefits and challenges of joint Government/Non-Government Organisation staff working in one team?
 - (c) The number of young people engaging in criminal and anti-social behaviour?
 - (d) The number of young people who need support or alternative activities and what activities are needed?
 - (e) Community views about the value of the Street Team?
 - (f) Service provider and Government agency views about the value of the Street Team?
 - (g) What should replace the Street Team, and how best to engage young people?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) and (2) An extensive evaluation was carried out on the Redfern-Waterloo Street Team. The results are currently being reviewed owing to privacy considerations prior to any release.

*5273 RACHEL FORSTER HOSPITAL—Ms Moore to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

With respect to the Rachel Forster Hospital site:

- (a) What plans does the NSW Government have for this facility?
- (b) When will the local community have an opportunity to comment on proposals for the future of this site?
- (c) Will the Government use this facility to provide health and aged care services for Redfern, Eveleigh, Darlington, and Waterloo?
- (d) What local health and/or aged care needs has the Government identified?
- (e) Which of these needs could this facility meet?
- (f) What other human services have been identified that could be provided from this facility?
- (g) Will the Government ensure that this site is not sold before a thorough needs analysis and review of current services has been carried out?

Answer—

- (a) to (g) Discussions have occurred between the Department of Health and the Redfern Waterloo Authority in regards to the future use of the former hospital site. Any RWA land use proposals will be incorporated into Stage One of the Redfern-Waterloo Plan (Built Environment), a draft of which is scheduled for release for community consultation in early 2006.

*5274 WOOLLOOMOOLOO MURALS—Ms Moore to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

Regarding the 10 community art murals reflecting Woolloomooloo's history, including the famous "green bans":

- (1) Why did RailCorp remove these murals from the Woolloomooloo railway viaduct?
- (2) How were the artists and the owner consulted about the relocation of these murals before they were moved?
- (3) How was the local community consulted about the relocation of these murals?
- (4) When will the Government return these murals?
- (5) How will the Government use this railway infrastructure to preserve and promote Woolloomooloo's cultural heritage?

Answer—

I am advised:

RailCorp informed the City of Sydney of its decision to remove the murals and advised the Council of the location of their temporary storage. A contact name within RailCorp has been provided to enable the transfer of the murals to Council's Public Art division.

RailCorp understood from Council that it was planning to restore and relocate some of these murals in consultation with the artists and the community. Council has been asked if it could liaise with RailCorp if it is planning to relocate any of these murals on railway property.

*5275 BRUNGLE SEWERAGE WORKS FUNDING—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) What is the reason for the further delay in progressing the Brungle Sewerage Project?
- (2) Will you confirm that the delay is occurring as a result of the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability refusing to accept the 'packaged' Sewerage Treatment Works recommended by the Department of Commerce?
- (3) What action have you taken to ensure that this already overly delayed and much needed project proceeds expeditiously?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS) is not delaying the Brungle Sewerage project.

Tumut Shire Council has used the services of the Department of Commerce to project manage this project. This includes management of the tender and review of tender process.

The Department of Commerce initially recommended that the tender be awarded to a tenderer based on a package sewage treatment plant. The environmental assessment nominated a minimum level of water quality for the treated effluent, as required by the Department of Environment and Conservation, before it was returned to the receiving waters.

Package treatment plants of the type recommended by Department of Commerce have not normally been considered adequate to meet the required statutory and/or licence standards to conform with the environmental assessment. The Department of Commerce is further examining whether this plant can meet the required standards. When that action is complete DEUS will process Council's funding application for my consideration of funding towards this project.

The actions taken by DEUS are protecting Council's interests as well as the environment, as the construction of a plant that fails to meet the required standards could lead to significant additional capital and operational costs to the Council.

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*5276 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE DEBTS—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many invoices to either the Greater Southern Area Health Service or the Southern Area Health Service and the Greater Murray Area Health Service were paid by the Service(s) within 45 days of presentation of the invoice during the financial year:
 - (a) 2003/2004?
 - (b) 2004/2005?
 - (c) To date in the current financial year?
- (2) How many invoices to the either the Greater Southern Area Health Service or the Southern Area Health Service and the Greater Murray Area Health Service were paid by the Service(s) more than 45 days after presentation of the invoice during the financial year:
 - (a) 2003/2004?
 - (b) 2004/2005?
 - (c) To date in the current financial year?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) and (2) I have addressed the issue of outstanding payments to creditors on numerous occasions, both publicly and in the House. I refer the Honourable Member to my press release of 10th October 2005 and more recently my response to a Question Without Notice asked in the Legislative Council on 30th November, in which I outlined the status of creditor issues in the Greater Southern Area Health Service.

*5277 SOUTHERN SLOPES HOSPITALS —Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) As part of the restructure of Hospitals into the proposed Southern Slopes Cluster how many employment positions will be lost at:
 - (a) Batlow Hospital?
 - (b) Boorowa Hospital?
 - (c) Cootamundra Hospital?
 - (d) Murrumburrah-Harden Hospital?
 - (e) Tumbarumba Hospital?
 - (f) Tumut Hospital?
 - (g) Young Hospital?
- (2) How many of these positions to be lost require the incumbent to be a qualified Registered Nurse?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) and (2) I am advised by the Greater Southern Area Health Service that consultations with staff and unions are continuing on a regular basis regarding the proposed Southern Slopes Cluster structure. Negotiations continue between the parties to confirm positions within the new Area Health Service structure.

*5278 ELECTRICITY RETAILERS—Mr Debnam to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

Is Treasury satisfied with the financial and trading performance of State Government electricity retailers? Can the Government assure consumers there will be no blackouts in Sydney in 2006? Does the Government endorse the making of payments to large private sector electricity users such as industry by NSW-owned energy suppliers, to encourage users to switch off and shut down in order to reduce demand on inadequate electricity supplies?

How many such payments have been made since March 2003; which suppliers have made such payments; what has been the amount of each payment; and what is the total of such payments in that period?

Which businesses have been involved in such shutdowns?

Has the Premier's Department been involved in any negotiations or transactions with electricity users to shut down and reduce electricity demand?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The independent market operator, NEMMCO, noted in its October 2005 report "Statement of Opportunities for the National Electricity Market" that NSW has adequate electricity generation capacity to meet projected electricity demand in 2006.
- (3) The National Electricity Market allows for electricity suppliers and users to negotiate electricity contracts which provide for payments for the interruption of supply in circumstances as agreed between them where it is to their mutual commercial advantage.
- (4) The NSW-owned electricity suppliers are independent businesses operating in a market with private sector competitors and thus any payments for the interruption of supply are commercial transactions between the electricity suppliers and individual users under their contracts. It would be inappropriate for the Government to obtain and publicly disclose this information.
- (5) As noted in the answer to the previous question, shutdowns relating to interruptible electricity supply contracts are a commercial matter between electricity suppliers and individual users.
- (6) No.

*5279 SYDNEY WATER—Mr Debnam to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) What research has Sydney Water undertaken regarding the quality of water at the lower levels of Warragamba Dam proposed to be accessed by deep water off-takes?
- (2) Is the Government aware of any heavy metals present at the bottom of Warragamba Dam that would compromise the quality of water from these deep water off-takes?
- (3) Will the Government guarantee that the full extent of proposed volumes available from the deep water off-takes can be achieved?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) These questions fall within the Portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for the Environment.

*5280 LAND TAX RECEIPTS—Mr Debnam to Premier, Treasurer, and Minister for Citizenship—

In view of the disclosure in the Office of State Revenue annual report tabled on 29 November 2005 that land tax receipts have exceeded forecasts, what is the Government's response to representations from land tax payer advocacy groups that the Government issue refunds to land tax payers who have been "overcharged" according to the findings of the Ombudsman in his October 2005 report into the flawed valuation system?

Answer—

The higher than budgeted land tax outcome for 2004-05 is not news. This was announced some six months earlier in the 2005-06 Budget. The Opposition is wrong to imply the higher 2004 05 outcome is the result of the overvaluation of land. In fact, the Ombudsman concluded that, where variations were found to exceed the accepted margin for error, in approximately 80 per cent of cases these were cases of undervaluation.

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The Government does not propose to provide refunds as proposed by land tax payer advocacy groups. The Ombudsman's report concludes that the basic methodology underlying the component method of mass valuation is generally sound. The report also identifies a number of areas where the land valuation system could be improved, particularly in relation to quality assurance. The Government has allocated funding to implement all the recommendations relating to determining land valuations. Some of these changes have already been implemented.

The accuracy of land valuations is rightly an ongoing issue for all land owners. For this reason, there are established arrangements that provide taxpayers with the opportunity to challenge valuations that they consider incorrect. If a taxpayer believes that their land has been overvalued, they can lodge an objection. If the Valuer General reduces the land valuation, the Office of State Revenue will issue a new assessment based on the new value.

*5281 ELECTRICITY RETAILERS—Ms Seaton to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) Do all State Government electricity retailers make a profit?
- (2) If not, which ones have failed to make a profit?
- (3) Which energy retailers have made trading losses in the last 3 years?
- (4) What has been the extent of these losses?
- (5) Can the Government assure consumers there will be no blackouts in Sydney in 2006?
- (6) Does the Government endorse the making of payments to large private sector electricity users such as industry by NSW-owned energy suppliers, to encourage users to switch off and shut down in order to reduce demand on inadequate electricity supplies?
- (7) How many such payments have been made since March 2003; which suppliers have made such payments; what has been the amount of each payment; and what is the total of such payments in that period?
- (8) Which businesses have been involved in such shutdowns?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) This information is contained in the Annual Reports of the relevant organisations.
- (5) NSW has one of the most reliable electricity networks in the world, however no electricity system can be guaranteed not to have outages. 70% of all outages are caused by environmental factors such as storm damage, birds, animals, falling trees, etc. Equipment failure is a factor in only 5-15% of outages. The overall reliability of the NSW electricity system has remained in the range 99.94% reliable to 99.98% reliable over the last few years. The Government is investing \$6.6 billion dollars out to 2008/09 to maintain and enhance this level of reliability.
- (6) to (8) NSW does not have inadequate electricity supplies. At certain times of the year, particularly on the hottest summer days, peak demand levels rise considerably. To help manage demand levels, electricity companies may enter into commercial arrangements with businesses and industries whereby there is an agreement to shift demand in return for direct compensation payments or a lower overall tariff.
This is a demonstrated, practical and effective approach to demand management that occurs on many electricity networks around the world. As this practice involves commercial and contractual arrangements, it is not appropriate to provide details of such agreements.

*5282 POWER BLACKOUTS—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

What action have you taken to reduce the future incidence of electricity/power blackouts in Chatswood, especially throughout summer?

Answer—

I am advised that EnergyAustralia is investing more than \$50 million to provide a safe and reliable power supply for customers in the Chatswood area and meet the community's growing electricity needs.

Across the North Shore, EnergyAustralia is investing around \$328 million in capital works, as part of its record \$3 billion, five-year investment plan to 2010.

Included in the major projects funded for the North Shore region over the next two years is the replacement of underground cables linking Lindfield and Willoughby substations at a cost of \$38 million and a \$13.5 million refurbishment of the Chatswood zone substation.

There are two interconnected zone substations powering the Chatswood area so if a problem interrupts supply at one, the other can carry the load to support reliability.

Load growth in the area over the next five years is forecast at 2%, which is below the average load growth of 3% across the Network.

***5284 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE FUNDS**—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the Government's announcement of a \$241 million increase in mental health services and given only \$24.65 million was spent in 2004-05:

- (1) How much will be spent in 2005-06?
- (2) How much will be spent in 2006-07?
- (3) How much will be spent in 2007-08?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

The member is referred to the Legislative Council Estimates Committee Hansard of 14 September 2005. The balance of the \$241 million increase is to be spent over 3 years.

***5285 MENTAL HEALTH**—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

Why have mental health acute adult readmissions (within 28 days) increased to 12%?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

In addition to the comments appearing in the 2004/2005 NSW Department of Health Annual Report (page 47), the Department of Health advises that the 28 – day readmission rates referred to provide a useful starting point only for exploring aspects of care, but are not a direct measure of 'quality.'

The most important indicator of quality of care is the resulting improvement in a patient's health status – the health gain. This entails an assessment of health status on admission, and again on discharge or after a suitable follow-up period.

***5286 SPECIALISING IN MENTAL HEALTH**—Ms Berejiklian to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

Why did you not participate in the debate on the Mental Health (Criminal Procedures) Amendment Bill?

Answer—

As with all legislative proposals, the Bill was subject to Cabinet discussion and endorsement. The Government's position was put in the debate in accordance with the principle of the Westminster system. It is contrary to standing orders to be tedious and repetitious.

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*5287 ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT—Mr Stoner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the recently appointed North Coast Area Health Service Advisory Council:

- (1) Why is there no representative of communities south of Coffs Harbour?
- (2) Why did it take 9 months to complete the selection process?
- (3) How many applications were received?
- (4) How many applicants were interviewed?
- (5) What were the criteria for selection?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) Persons appointed to the Area Health Service Advisory Council are appointed to represent the entire region. For the members edification however, there are members who reside south of Coffs Harbour.
- (2) It was important that the membership of the Area Health Advisory Councils reflected the diversity of the communities of each Area Health Service.
Ensuring the right combination of consumer, community and clinical representation on the Area Health Advisory Council was vital to the success of the Area Health Advisory Council, as well as ensuring the people selected had a range of skills and links to the community.
Given the size of each Area Health Service and number of applicants it was necessary that these issues be thoroughly and carefully considered.
- (3) 67.
- (4) As part of the appointment process the Chair of the Area Health Advisory Council and the Area Chief Executive were asked to review applications and make recommendations to the Minister for Health. Final selection of the North Coast Area Health Advisory Council was subsequently endorsed by Cabinet and announced by the Minister for Health on 29 September 2005.
- (5) The criteria for the Chair and members of the Area Health Advisory Council are set out in the Health Services Act 1997.

*5288 CROCFEST—Mr Stoner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the funding of the health-related Aboriginal cultural festival “CrocFest” in Kempsey:

- (1) Will funding be provided for the 2006 CrocFest?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) and (2) NSW Health supported the establishment of CrocFest at Kempsey to the sum of \$10,000 including GST in 2005 only. Any commitment beyond 2005 would require diversion from frontline health resources.

*5289 WATER LICENCE LEE—Mr Stoner to Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) Do you plan to increase water licence fees on regulated and unregulated rivers and groundwater by more than 100%?
- (2) If so, has a rural communities impact statement been developed to consider the impacts of this proposal on primary producers and their communities?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources of the following response:

- (1) The State Water Corporation has responsibility for water licence fees. The State Water Corporation falls within the administration of the Hon C Scully MP Minister for Utilities.
- (2) Not applicable.

*5290 EASY ACCESS UPGRADE—Mr O'Farrell to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Is planning underway for an Easy Access upgrade, including installation of lifts, for Turrumurra railway station?
- (2) Is Ku-ring-gai Council being consulted during this planning stage?
- (3) When is work scheduled to (a) commence (b) be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The 05/06 Budget provides \$22.9 million for Easy Access upgrades including Turrumurra.

The scope of works is expected to include:

- installation of new lift and stairs
- new canopies to the lift entry and platform
- new family accessible toilet
- extension of CCTV and improved lighting

Design and negotiation with Council is in progress.

*5291 JOHN WILLIAMS SITE—Mr O'Farrell to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development, representing the Special Minister of State, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, Assistant Treasurer and Vice President of the Executive Council—

- (1) How much did the sale of the John Williams site at Wahroonga realise for the Department?
- (2) How are these proceeds being spent?
- (3) What benefits will local families or individuals with disabilities gain following this sale?

Answer—

- (1) \$9.08 million.
- (2) It is proposed to spend the funds over time in accordance with the conditions of the Trust. New properties will be progressively purchased for the Trust commencing this financial year. Each of the new facilities will bear the name of the Trust.
- (3) Two new respite services for children will be established. Families who previously accessed John Williams Respite Service will have access to the new services.

*5292 BUS PRIORITY—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Roads—

What has been the cost of bus priority works at Wakehurst Parkway/Frenchs Forest Road and the Warringah Road/Forest Way intersection?

Answer—

I am advised that the estimated total cost of these two projects is \$6.176M.

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*5293 HAZARD REDUCTION—Mr Humpherson to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) How many hazard reduction burns have been planned and completed since July 2005?
- (2) How many burns were not completed?
- (3) Which districts had hazard reduction burns incomplete?
- (4) By district, what percentage of planned hazard reduction burns have been completed?

Answer—

Section 74 of the Rural Fires Act 1997 requires local government and managed land authorities to report to the Commissioner on hazard reduction activity by 30 September for the previous financial year. Accordingly, figures from July 2005 to the current date are not available at this time.

*5294 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICE HOMES—Mr Humpherson to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) How many homes does the Department of Corrective Services own?
- (2) How many of these are used by staff?
- (3) What are the rental arrangements?
- (4) How many homes are in the eastern suburbs of Sydney?
- (5) How many homes are not occupied in this area?
- (6) If so, how long have they been vacant and why?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Corrective Services administers and manages 89 residences on behalf of the Crown.
- (2) 65 residences are currently available as staff accommodation, and 24 are used for administration purposes by the Department or occupied by various community groups and charities.
- (3) Departmental staff lease accommodation from the Department under individual lease arrangements, based on annual market rent reviews. In some cases, residences in remote locations may be leased at a discount to market rate.
- (4) Two.
- (5) None.
- (6) Not applicable.

*5295 WAKEHURST PARKWAY—Mr Humpherson to Minister for Roads—

- (1) Have you got a cost estimate to raise Wakehurst Parkway so that it is no longer flood prone? What would be the cost?
- (2) What would be the cost to widen Mona Vale Road to four lanes from Terrey Hills to Ingleside?

Answer—

I am advised of the following:

- (1) The RTA has no further flood minimisation works planned for Wakehurst Parkway in the near future.
- (2) Federal Government cost shifting on to the NSW Government's road budget has meant it is more difficult to widen roads such as Mona Vale Road.

*5297 FOX KILLS—Mr Richardson to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

How many foxes were killed as part of the Government's control program in the following National Parks in the years 2002, 2003, 2004 and the first 6 months of 2005:

- (a) Sturt
- (b) Kosciuszko
- (c) Morton
- (d) Oxley Wild Rivers
- (e) Ben Boyd
- (f) Blue Mountains
- (g) Wollemi
- (h) Border Ranges
- (i) Nattai
- (j) Dorriggo
- (k) Yengo
- (l) Mount Warning
- (m) Barrington tops
- (n) Nadgee Nature Reserves
- (o) Warrumbungles?

Answer—

When a bait is taken by a fox, the time to death may be several hours away, in which time the fox may have moved large distances. The deceased animal is therefore rarely found.

The Fox Threat Abatement Plan under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 determines priorities for fox control, not only in national parks but across a range of public lands. It does this by identifying the threatened native species that are most at risk from fox predation and the localities where fox impacts are most critical.

Under the Plan, monitoring programs have been established to measure the response of the most vulnerable threatened species to fox control conducted at priority sites throughout NSW. There are 19 species-specific programs incorporating measures of fox and threatened species abundance.

Of the parks referred to, large-scale continuous fox control and/or monitoring programs have been established in Sturt, Kosciuszko, Ben Boyd, Blue Mountains, Wollemi, Yengo, Barrington Tops, Nattai and Warrumbungles national parks and Nadgee Nature Reserve. Border Ranges and Mount Warning national parks have been surveyed extensively and very low fox densities have been observed. Vulnerable populations of threatened species have not been identified in Morton, Oxley Wild Rivers or Dorriggo national parks and thus they are not priorities in the Fox Threat Abatement Plan. These priorities will be reviewed in 2006 with the revision of the plan.

There have been some notable successes, such as significant increases in fledgling success for the four threatened shorebird species targeted under the Fox Threat Abatement Plan: Little Tern, Hooded Plover, Beach Stone Curlew and Pied Oystercatcher.

*5298 TALLOWA DAM WALL RISING—Mr Richardson to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) How many trees will be drowned as a consequence of raising the Tallowa Dam wall by seven metres?
- (2) How much higher will floods in Kangaroo Valley village rise as a consequence of raising the Tallowa Dam wall by seven metres?
- (3) Can the Government guarantee that raising the Tallowa Dam wall by seven metres will not compromise the integrity of the Hampden Suspension Bridge?
- (4) Will raising the Tallow Dam wall by seven metres have an adverse effect on the prawning and fisheries industries downstream?

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Answer—

The Sydney Catchment Authority's (SCA's) studies predicted that about 0.06% of Morton National Park (or 120 hectares) would be inundated if the dam was to be raised by seven metres. Detailed flora and fauna impact studies are currently being undertaken as part of the environmental assessment process.

The Honourable Member would recall his statement in 2004 when he said: "the only alternative capable of delivering the sorts of volumes [of water] Sydney will need into the future is raising the Warragamba dam wall." Therefore, if the Coalition's plan for Warragamba Dam was implemented, 3,000 hectares of national park, including world heritage area, would be flooded. That is, 25 times more trees in national park would be inundated than would be under the SCA's Tallowa proposal.

The Roads and Traffic Authority's advice indicates that the integrity of the Hampden Bridge would not be compromised by the proposal.

Detailed studies and investigations into downstream impacts are under way led by the Department of Natural Resources.

*5299 CARLINGFORD LINE—Mr Richardson to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Are there any plans to increase the frequency of trains on the Carlingford line, particularly during peak hour?
- (2) Has the Government given any consideration to increasing the number of direct services between Carlingford and the city?

Answer—

Railcorp reviewed Carlingford Line services as part of the network-wide review in developing the 2005 timetable.

Introduced on September 4, the new CityRail timetable is the biggest overhaul of services in 13 years.

The next timetable changes will occur in May 2006 in the introduction of a new timetable on the Eastern Suburbs, Illawarra and South Coast lines.

A new CityRail timetable will be introduced in 2008 with the opening of the Epping – Chatswood link.

Services across the network will be reviewed as part of developing the 2008 timetable.

*5300 PROMOTION OF NATIONAL PARKS—Mr Richardson to Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) What efforts are being put into promoting NSW National Parks overseas?
- (2) How much money was spent in the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 on material promoting NSW National Parks overseas, including press, TV and radio advertising?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Tourism NSW is forecast to spend \$50.3 million in 2005/06 in promoting the State and its assets, such as national parks. Similar amounts have been expended over the 2002-03 to 2004-05 periods.

In the international market place Tourism Australia has the lead responsibility in marketing Australia in our key markets and Tourism NSW works closely with Tourism Australia in this regard. National Parks are also promoted by Tourism NSW through its web site which also contains a link through to the National Parks and Wildlife Service's website.

Tourism NSW developed the State's first ever NSW Nature in Tourism Plan in 2004 to assist NSW with the product development, visitor experiences, tourism facilities and services in its natural treasures. The Plan informs the international and national promotion of our State's natural assets.

*5301 BOOM GATES—Mr Richardson to Minister for Roads, representing the Minister Ports and Waterways—

- (1) Are booms always deployed around oil tankers unloading at the Caltex oil refinery at Kurnell?
- (2) Is the Government sure that this deployment is adequate to deal with any foreseeable spill that might occur in Botany Bay?

Answer—

I am advised:

Sydney's ports adopt a number of safety measures for oil tankers which exceed world's best practice as established by the International Safety Guide for Oil Tankers and Terminals (published by the Oil Companies International Marine Forum).

Booming is one of many spill response options used in Sydney's ports.

Following the Laura D'Amato oil spill in 1999, the NSW Government commissioned a report by the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF).

The ITOPF report took into account the wind and wave action of Botany Bay and recommended that modifications be made to fixed boom mooring points in the Bay. That's why these fixed mooring points, near the southern shores of Botany Bay, are used to secure booms to protect significant environmentally sensitive areas, and deflect oil to specific areas for recovery.

Regular on-water training exercises are performed by Caltex. Sydney Ports Corporation also conduct annual training exercises in conjunction with Caltex. They include deployment of oil spill containment booms, oil spill recovery equipment, fast response vessels and a Geographic Information System used to help prioritise the protection of sensitive habitats.

*5302 CASUAL TEACHERS—Mr Cansdell to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) What number of casual teachers were employed at each school in the Clarence electorate over each of the last three years?
- (2) How many casuals were employed, during what particular periods, in each school during the last three years?

Answer—

The number of casual teachers employed in the 44 NSW government schools in the Clarence Electorate is as follows:

2003 school year: 478.

2004 school year: 479.

2005 (to 2 December 2005): 502.

In any one year many of these casual teachers would have worked in a number of schools in the electorate.

*5303 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS—Mr Cansdell to Minister for Education and Training—

How much capital has been spent on each school in the Clarence electorate over each of the last three years?

Answer—

Over \$1.16 million was spent on capital works at schools in the Clarence electorate over the last three financial years.

In addition, a further \$918,300 has been approved for a total of 37 capital works projects in 2005/06. Details of these projects can be found at www.det.nsw.gov.au

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*5304 SCHOOL MAINTENANCE—Mr Cansdell to Minister for Education and Training—

How much money on maintenance has been spent on each school in the Clarence electorate over each of the last three years?

Answer—

Maintenance funds are provided both through Statewide maintenance contracts and global funding provided directly to individual schools.

Clarence schools will benefit from the Department's new \$600 million, four year maintenance contracts which commenced from July this year and provide for both preventive and programmed maintenance. The new contracts include an even greater number of repair items which are provided at no cost to schools.

Regular independent condition assessments are undertaken at each school and maintenance priorities are determined in consultation with the school principal.

The Department also allocates global funding to schools for a range of purposes including day-to-day maintenance. This would include minor repairs such as repairs to bathroom fittings and electrical appliances which are not covered by the maintenance contracts.

*5305 YAMBA POLICE STATION—Mr Cansdell to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) Has the Minister acknowledged the critical need for rebuilding the Yamba Police Station?
- (2) Do detainees when transferring from vehicles to the Police Station cross open public land, which places Police in extreme danger?
- (3) When will the Police station be rebuilt?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) Any upgrade of facilities at Yamba Police Station will need to be considered in the context of competing priorities across the State.

*5306 GRAFTON BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Cansdell to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In light of the former Minister for Health's 2003 election promise to spend \$7m on rebuilding the operating theatres at Grafton Base Hospital, when will this Government commence this needed infrastructure project?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises:

The North Coast Area Health Service has allocated funding in 2005/06 to progress planning for the redevelopment of the Grafton Base Hospital Operating Theatres. Part of the available funding will also be directed to allow for upgrade of the theatre air-conditioning and medical air-compressor.

*5307 BREAST SCREENING NSW—Mr Cansdell to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many women of between 49-70 years of age are breast screened each year by the mobile breast screening unit?
- (2) How many women between 40-49 years are diagnosed each year in NSW with breast cancer?
- (3) How many women above the age of 70 are diagnosed each year in NSW with breast cancer?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Approximately 60,000 women aged between 49-70 are screened each year by BreastScreen NSW mobile screening units.
Yearly mobile unit screening numbers vary according to locations visited, local access to public and private fixed screening sites, radiographer availability and rescreening requirements, and the personal preferences of the women concerned.
- (2) and (3) Details of the new breast cancer cases by age are available in the Cancer in New South Wales- Incidence and Mortality Report, released annually by the Cancer Institute NSW.
Copies of the report are available at www.cancerinstitute.org.au

*5308 SUMMERLAND WAY—Mr Cansdell to Minister for Roads—

Will the Minister investigate the Summerland Way as an option to bypass the sensitive coastal region in any upgrade of the Pacific Highway?

Answer—

The \$2.2 billion Pacific Highway Upgrade Program has already achieved significant milestones during its first nine years with 44 projects completed and 229 kilometres of dual carriageway now open to traffic.

While the preferred route for Woodburn to Ballina has been released, the Government continues to do preliminary assessment work on the Don Page/ Summerland Way inland route proposal.

Preliminary advice shows the Page Plan would have potentially ecologically contentious challenges as it had the potential to impact on areas of high biodiversity such as old growth forests and significant areas of threatened species habitat and have very significant impact on rural holdings between Casino and Ewingsdale.

The proposal also has the potential to impact on noise and social amenity in both urban and rural communities such as Grafton, Junction Hill, Koolkhan, Whiporee, Casino, Lismore, Woodlawn, Bexhill, Clunes and Possum Creek.

The proposal will traverse 50 kilometres of high value Regional Significant Farmland and 0.3km of higher State Significant Farmland as defined by the Northern Rivers Farmland Land Protection Project.

Despite these constraints, I agreed to consider looking at the Summerland way proposal. However, this will not stop planning for the upgrade of the Pacific Highway.

*5309 DENTAL HEALTH—CLARENCE REGION—Mr Cansdell to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What action is the Minister taking to secure a second dentist for the Grafton Dental Clinic?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

I am advised that the North Coast Area Health Service is conducting a review of activity at the Grafton Dental Clinic. This review is expected to be completed in early 2006.

*5310 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What was the amount of debt owed by Mona Vale Hospital to creditors as at the 1st of each month in 2004 and 2005?
- (2) What was the total amount at each such date that was more than 60 days overdue?

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Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

I am advised that the Department of Health does not routinely collect information at an individual facility level.

Information in relation to creditors over 45 days is published in the NSW Department of Health's Annual Report. The Department's 2004/2005 Annual Report was tabled in the NSW Parliament on 30 November 2005.

*5311 MANLY HOSPITAL DEBT—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What was the amount of debt owed by Manly Hospital to creditors as at the 1st of each month in 2004 and 2005?
- (2) What was the total amount at each such date that was more than 60 days overdue?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

(1) and (2) I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question 5310.

*5312 INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

In each of the last three years what was the oldest and youngest age of children found accessing internet pornography at NSW Government schools?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training does not maintain records detailing the age of children found accessing internet pornography at NSW Government schools.

*5313 INTERNET IN SCHOOLS—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

In each of the last three years, what was the total cost of services to prevent internet pornography being accessed by children?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training does not maintain records that indicate the total cost of services to prevent internet pornography web sites being accessed by children.

*5314 INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

In each of the last three years, what system(s) have been/are in place to stop students accessing internet pornography at NSW Government schools?

Answer—

Since 1996, the Department of Education and Training has provided filtered access to Internet web sites for school students and staff. The filter lists are updated frequently in order to block new web sites that regularly appear and to ensure the service provides the highest possible level of protection. In addition the Department has the ability to block any additional Internet sites which members of staff identify as hosting inappropriate material. Sites that are reported as inappropriate by teachers and departmental

officers are added to this filter list and the Department's Internet service provider blocks access to the site from school computers.

The Department is currently implementing a new authenticated process for Internet access and email to further improve security.

Student use of the Internet and email is also managed at school level by a Student Access to the Internet Policy that includes an agreed code of behaviour describing acceptable and appropriate use.

*5315 STUDENT ACCESS TO PORNOGRAPHY—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) In each of the last three years how many Government schools have been notified to the Department of Education and Training where students have accessed internet pornography?
- (2) What actions have been taken by the Department of Education and Training to stop such access?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Education and Training maintains records that detail requests from schools to have any inappropriate Internet web site blocked. These records do not define the category of the inappropriateness of these Internet web sites. Therefore, details about the number of government schools that have notified the Department of instances where students have specifically accessed Internet pornography are not maintained.
- (2) All inappropriate Internet sites reported by schools were added to the filter list used by the Department for blocking access to inappropriate Internet sites, and on request, the Department's Internet service provider blocked access to the sites. The Department continues to work with its Internet service providers to ensure that its Internet filtering is as effective as possible.

*5316 VANDALISM—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many schools were attacked by vandals or arsonists during school holiday periods in 2005?
- (2) Which schools, by name and location, were attacked?
- (3) What is/was the total cost at each such school of:
 - (a) repairs and
 - (b) capital works?

Answer—

- (1) During school holiday periods in 2005, schools reported 18 incidents of possible arson and 830 incidents of vandalism. The vandalism category includes incidents which cause minimal damage to school assets and where reports are made by more than one source each report is captured.
- (2) and (3) It is not appropriate to provide the names of each of the schools and total costs of repairs at each school as the identification of individual schools would constitute a security risk for the education system and for the schools concerned.
There were no capital works as a result of these incidents.

*5317 VANDALISM—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many schools were attacked by vandals during each of the four school terms in 2004 and 2005?
- (2) Which schools, by name, were attacked?
- (3) What is/was the total cost at each school of:
 - (a) repairs and
 - (b) capital works?

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Answer—

- (1) During Term 1, 2004, 740 schools reported incidents of vandalism.
During Term 2, 2004, 689 schools reported incidents of vandalism.
During Term 3, 2004, 722 schools reported incidents of vandalism.
During Term 4, 2004, 719 schools reported incidents of vandalism.
During Term 1, 2005, 775 schools reported incidents of vandalism.
During Term 2, 2005, 677 schools reported incidents of vandalism.
During Term 3, 2005, 467 schools reported incidents of vandalism.
During Term 4, 2005, 520 schools reported incidents of vandalism.
An analysis of this information reveals that there was a 35 per cent reduction in incidents of vandalism during Term 3, 2005, when compared to the same Term in 2004; and a 63 per cent reduction in incidents of vandalism during the current school Term when compared to the same Term in 2004.
It is anticipated that the incidence of vandalism will continue to fall as a result of the risk management strategies that are being implemented by the Department of Education and Training.
- (2) and (3) It is not appropriate to provide the names of each of the schools and total cost of repairs at each school as the identification of individual schools would constitute a security risk for the education system and for the schools concerned.
There were no capital works as a result of these incidents.

*5318 ARSON—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many schools were attacked by arsonists or had fire damage in each of the four school terms of 2005?
(2) Which schools, by name, were attacked?
(3) What is/was the total cost at each school of:
(a) repairs and
(b) capital works?

Answer—

- (1) During Term 1, 2005, 51 schools experienced damage by fire.
During Term 2, 2005, 55 schools experienced damage by fire.
During Term 3, 2005, 102 schools experienced damage by fire.
During Term 4, 2005, 32 schools experienced damage by fire.
Fires that have been reported include fires that have occurred both inside and outside school buildings. The data includes nuisance fires that have occurred in a variety of garbage bins, in gardens, and material that has been set alight on open ground. Of the 240 fires that have been recorded, 20 per cent have occurred in school buildings as a result of probable arson.
- (2) and (3) It is not appropriate to provide the names of each of the schools and total cost of repairs and capital works at each school as the identification of individual schools would constitute a security risk for the system and for the schools concerned.

*5319 EPPING HIGHWAY—Mr Merton to Minister for Roads—

What changes are proposed to the traffic pattern on the Epping Highway when the Lane Cove Tunnel is completed?

Answer—

I refer the honourable member to the Environmental Impact Statement dated 2001.

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*5320 NSW/ACT CROSS BORDER WATER AGREEMENT—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) As ACT Chief Minister Stanhope announced on 13 December 2005 that the ACT Cabinet has signed off on the Cross-Border Water Agreement, will you now commit to providing funds to allow Yass to access a safe and reliable supply of water from the Australian Capital Territory?
- (2) If not, will you explain why the NSW Government is failing to make this commitment?
- (3) Will you provide me with a copy of the agreement?

Answer—

- (1) Yass Shire Council will be able to benefit from the completion of the Cross-Border Water Agreement. The agreement will provide a framework that will enable negotiations to proceed on developing a service agreement with the ACT water supply authority. The agreement does not specify the provision of infrastructure or the funding of urban water. Thus, this question would be more appropriately directed to the Hon Carl Scully MP, Minister for Utilities.
- (2) See above.
- (3) The Agreement has not yet been formally signed by all parties involved.

*5321 GOULBURN RAILWAY STATION TICKET MACHINE—Ms Hodgkinson to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) What criteria were used to decide which type of the five ticketing machines available to CityRail, would be installed at Goulburn Railway Station?
- (2) Do these criteria include the ability to purchase a ticket for the whole length of the particular railway line on which the station is located?
- (3) Will you act urgently to replace the existing machine, which is unable to accept sufficient cash for a customer to purchase an adult one-way ticket between Goulburn and Sydney?

Answer—

I am advised by RailCorp:

- (1) to (3) An average of 300 CityRail tickets are sold at Goulburn Station each week, around 90% of which have a value of less than \$20, and most of which are sold when the station is staffed. The \$2.50 Pensioner Excursion Ticket accounts for 65% of all tickets sold at the station. RailCorp advises that those passengers needing a ticket of more than \$20 out of station staffing hours should purchase an Authority to Travel Receipt for \$4, which allow passengers to travel anywhere on the CityRail network. Upon arrival at their destination, passengers are then required to exchange the receipt and purchase the remainder of a full ticket. Alternatively, customers who travel more regularly between Goulburn and the city could purchase a longer-term ticket (such as a weekly) from any CityRail station.

*5322 HUME HIGHWAY/TOWRANG AND CARRICK ROAD INTERSECTIONS—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Roads—

- (1) What is the reason for the delay in the Roads and Traffic Authority approving work to address the dangerous intersections at Towrang Road and the Hume Highway and Carrick Road and the Hume Highway?
- (2) Will you confirm that the Department of Environment and Conservation is delaying this important work because of concerns about the sourcing of archaeological permits?

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- (3) What action have you taken to speed this approval process?
- (4) When will the RTA actually start work on these dangerous intersections?

Answer—

- (1) As part of the environmental requirements, five indigenous sites and one Potential Archaeological Deposit were identified. Consequently, a Section 87 (Preliminary Research) permit and Section 90 (Consent to Destroy) permit are required from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) before work can commence.
- (2) and (3) The RTA is working with the DEC to resolve heritage issues.
- (4) Detailed design work is underway. At this stage, it is anticipated construction will commence this year.

*5323 MYOCUM RIDGE ROAD—Mr Newell to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) What is the Government policy with regard to allowing a private property owner to appropriate, by fencing in, Crown land without permission from or consulting with neighbours or the Department of Lands?
- (2) Is the Minister for Lands aware of previous correspondence to this office detailing the recent construction of a new fence now on Crown land forming part of a Crown road known as Myocum Ridge Road in the Shire of Byron?
- (3) What portions of Myocum Ridge Road and its unformed extensions are under lease and to whom?
- (4) In relation to (3) above, when was/were such leases issued and to whom?
- (5) Why have departmental officials permitted a fence to remain in place on Crown land disadvantaging both neighbouring property owners and the State of NSW?
- (6) When will the Department of Lands order the fence to be removed?
- (7) Who are all the departmental officers who have inspected the fence on the Crown land and others who have provided advice that, or agreed with advice that, the fence can remain on Crown land pending other matters?
- (8) Can you give an assurance that none of the officers listed in (7) have or are acting corruptly?

Answer—

The Department of Lands deals with such matters on a case by case basis. I have arranged for the General Manager of Crown Lands NSW to inspect the site and investigate possible solutions to this matter. The Director General of Lands assures me that no officer dealing with this matter has acted corruptly.

*5324 CAMDEN LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Ms Seaton to Minister for Police, and Minister for Utilities—

- (1) How many of the police who graduated in December 2005 will be allocated to the Camden Local Area Command?
- (2) How many of the 9 police currently “on loan” from the Camden Local Area Command, will be returned to the Camden Local Area Command?
- (3) When will this occur?
- (4) Which Command areas have these 9 officers been loaned to?
- (5) What date did each officer leave the Camden LAC on loan?

Answer—

- (1) NSW Police has advised me that 2 probationary constables from the December 2005 graduating class have been assigned to Camden Local Area Command.
- (2) to (5) Staffing allocations are a matter for the Local Area Commander.

*5325 CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN—Ms Seaton to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In respect of the Clinical Services Plan being developed for areas including Wingecarribee and Wollondilly, and the community health survey conducted by the member for Southern Highlands:

- (1) What are the details of any community consultation the Government intends to conduct on the draft Clinical Services Plan, including full details of dates, places and all participants in such consultation, and the means by which community participants will be selected and invited?
- (2) Does the Minister endorse statements by Health officials on 13-14 December 2005 that the 1055 survey responses received by the Member for Southern Highlands will not be included in the Clinical Services Plan consultation?
- (3) Why are the officials refusing to listen to local feedback?
- (4) Will you agree to my request for a meeting, to include representatives of the Southern Highlands Renal Appeal and the BDCU Children's Foundation?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) I am advised that the Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Paul McLeay, met with the Honorable Member and a local delegation on Wednesday, 18 January 2006. Representatives of the Sydney South West Area Health Service also attended the meeting to outline the planning process that is underway to address the health needs of all Area residents, including those of Wollondilly and Wingecarribee, with a planning horizon of 2016 and beyond.

*5326 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Amery to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What have been the activity figures for the Mount Druitt hospital since the well publicised changes were made to the Mount Druitt and Blacktown Hospitals earlier in 2005?
- (2) In particular, to the end of the year, how many persons presented to the Accident and Emergency Department?
- (3) How many persons were conveyed to the hospital by ambulance?
- (4) How many operations were performed at the Mount Druitt hospital?
- (5) How many of these operations were emergency operations, and how many elective?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

The Area Health Service publishes information about activity levels each year in its Annual Report.

*5327 CONCRETE BATCHING PLANTS POLLUTION—Mr Amery to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Have there been any complaints lodged with the Environment Protection Authority by residents anywhere in New South Wales about the operations of concrete batching plants over the past five years?
- (2) If so, how many of these complaints related to (a) noise and (b) dust pollution?
- (3) What was the outcome of these complaints?

Answer—

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), which includes the Environment Protection Authority, received 128 reports of dust or noise pollution from scheduled concrete batching plants in the five years from 2001. Of these, there were 65 dust complaints and 63 noise complaints.

All reports resulted in appropriate action such as meeting with the complainants, inspecting and investigating the premises or negotiating ways to reduce noise and dust impacts. Appropriate action also includes placing conditions on the operating licence and/or negotiating and implementing a 'pollution reduction program' or fines for breaches of licence conditions.

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*5328 HOUSING ESTATE ROADS—Mr Amery to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Have concerns been raised by emergency service agencies about the minimum width of roads in residential housing estates?
- (2) Are there minimum road width regulations set by the Government for developers of residential housing estates?
- (3) If so, what are these widths and when were they last altered?

Answer—

- (1) To my knowledge no concerns have been raised by the Emergency Services to the Department of Planning regarding road widths in new housing estates.
- (2) Minimum road widths in new residential housing estates are generally determined by the relevant local council. Minimum road widths are determined using information such as: the relevant Australian Standards for Road Design; RTA traffic generating development guidelines; and any local council road design controls.
As the issue is controlled through local council planning policies, the Department of Planning has not set minimum road width requirements for new housing estates.
- (3) As noted above, minimum road widths in new housing estates are generally determined by the local council. The minimum road widths/standards can vary from council to council.

*5329 LEFT HAND TURN—Mr Merton to Minister for Roads—

When is the Government going to allow a second left hand turn from Old Northern Road to Windsor Road for vehicles proceeding towards Parramatta?

Answer—

The proposal is currently under consideration.

*5330 HUNTERS HILL PROPERTIES—Mr Roberts to Minister for Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

How many properties does the Department of Housing own in the Hunters Hill Local Government Area?

Answer—

349.

*5331 NAMBUCCA DENTAL CLINIC—Mr Stoner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

Why has your Department still not provided a public dental clinic for the Nambucca shire as promised?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

I refer the Member to the answer to Question on Notice 2828 answered 27 October 2004. Consideration of any further facilities for oral health will be within the context of Community Health Center planning.

*5332 RURAL FIRE SERVICE FUNDING—Mr Stoner to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

When will the South West Rocks Rural Fire Service receive promised funding for their shed extensions?

Answer—

I am not aware of any promises made in this regard.

I have been advised that Kempsey Council, which is responsible for the administration of the South West Rocks brigade, has not sought funding for this purpose in the annual estimates of expenditure recently submitted to the Rural Fire Service.

*5333 HEALTH SERVICES—Mr Draper to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What was the net cost of services budget result for 2004-05 for (a) Hunter New England Health (b) the old New England sector and (c) Tamworth Base Hospital?
- (2) What is the amount of reserves, in dollars, held at the Area level as at 30 November 2005?
- (3) What proportion of these reserves came from the old New England sector?
- (4) What is the purpose of these reserves?
- (5) If reserves exist, why has Tamworth Base Hospital been issued a budget, which it cannot achieve, when reserve funds are being held?
- (6) What is the current net cost of services budget result for each of the cost centres for the old New England Health Services as at 30 November 2005?
- (7) How does this compare to the overall New England results for 2004-05?
- (8) Why have delegations been withdrawn from Tamworth Base Hospital?
- (9) With respect to the twenty senior management positions which have been cut from the Northern sector to date since amalgamation, what proportion of savings made will be returned to the Northern sector?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) Each year the NSW Department of Health and Area Service published detailed information about their financial results in their audited annual reports. I refer the member to the annual reports.
- (2) to (5) I am advised that no funds are being held in reserve. The Hunter New England Area Health Service has allocated all of its funds to operational units.
- (6) and (7) The Hunter New England Area Health Service measures performance against the reporting entities within the Area Health Service's organisational structure. I am advised that meaningful comparison to previous Area Health Service organisational structures is not possible as such services have and/or are in the process of clinical service integration.
- (8) I am advised by the Hunter New England Area Health Service that delegations have not been withdrawn from Tamworth Hospital.
- (9) That Area Health Service has advised that, among other strategies, there were 21 Area Executive positions deleted across the Health Service. Net savings of \$3M will be achieved in savings have been allocated to clinical services development as follows:

Tamworth Hospital	\$1.5M
Armidale Hospital	\$0.5M
Northern Sector Mental Health	\$1.0M

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*5334 SCIENCE LABS—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Do the science labs at Ku-ring-gai Creative Arts High School comply with occupational health and safety regulations?
- (2) What funds will the department make available to either upgrade the labs or bring them up to an acceptable standard?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Department has identified a project to upgrade the science facilities at Ku-ring-gai High School. The project will be considered in the context of competing regional and statewide priorities. The safety of students and staff is of the highest priority. Accordingly, should any occupational health and safety issue arise, it will be managed under the school asset maintenance contract.

*5335 TENDER PAYMENTS—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Roads—

- (1) Was an upfront payment of \$106 million part of the successful tender for the Cross City Tunnel project?
- (2) How many of the other toll road/tunnel projects have included upfront payments as part of the successful tender?
- (3) Which projects?
- (4) How much were the upfront payments for each?

Answer—

- (1) The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) received an upfront payment of almost \$97 million plus GST.
- (2) Three.
- (3) Eastern Distributor, Westlink M7 and Lane Cove Tunnel.
- (4) Eastern Distributor - \$10.2 million.
Westlink M7 - \$193.5 million plus GST.
Lane Cove Tunnel - \$79.3 million plus GST.

*5336 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NETWORK ACCESS—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the emergency Department Network Access System what are the details of the:

- (a) hospital clinical service matrix, giving information for each of the 57 hospitals which are monitored and reported on the NSW Health website;
- (b) hospital diversion thresholds for the 57 hospitals;
- (c) the Ambulance Status Board?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (a) The hospital clinical service matrix does not apply to all the 57 hospitals as suggested. I am advised that the Ambulance Service and NSW Health refined the Emergency Department Network Access System (EDNA) during 2005. The refined EDNA system utilises a multidimensional approach, which assists in managing both the patient as well as positively impacting on Ambulance and Emergency Department capacity.
- (b) See answer to (a) above.
Diversion thresholds identify the total number of ambulances that an ED can manage within a one-hour period (based on historical performance).

I am advised that the data is maintained and updated within the hospital clinical services matrix software identifying the number of ambulances already at an ED as well as the ones on the way to a given hospital from an incident scene, within the last hour, (based on a rolling average per hour).

This assists ambulance officers to identify EDs with capacity to accept the patient.

- (c) The Ambulance Status Board (ASB) was introduced to Sydney metropolitan area in June 2005. It provides information on ambulance bookings, arrivals and their status.

***5337 TARCUTTA TRUCKSTOP—Mr Maguire to Minister for Roads—**

- (1) Is the truckstop currently planned for Tarcutta progressing on time?
- (2) When do you expect this project to be completed?
- (3) Is the project on budget?
- (4) Will the project still be completed now that a \$30m truckstop has been announced 4 km south of Tarcutta?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) and (2) Tenders for construction are scheduled to be invited shortly. The project is expected to be completed this year.
- (3) The current estimate is in line with the Budget.
- (4) The project is proceeding. The approval of the private truckstop development proposal is a matter for Wagga Wagga City Council. I understand that the proposal is currently under consideration.

***5338 CARE AND ACCOMMODATION FOR CHILDREN—Mr Maguire to Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Youth—**

- (1) How many accommodation places are available for homeless youth under the age of 16 in Wagga Wagga and region?
- (2) Have the number of places been expanded in the last 5 years, if not, why not?
- (3) Has demand for places increased?
- (4) How many carers are available to care for children removed from their parents in Wagga this year 2004/05?
- (5) How many carers were available to care for children, in 2003/04 and 2002/03?
- (6) How many children are in care in the Wagga region as of 12 December 2005?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The primary objective in helping young people under the age of 16 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness is to reconnect them with their families. Where they require a period of transition or accommodation to achieve this aim Wagga's youth refuge, funded under the Supported Accommodation Access Program, may be accessed by young people. Should it not be possible to reconnect them with their families they may be legally placed into foster care. While the demand for and number of foster carers varies, as at 7 December 2005 there were 28 authorised foster carers listed for Wagga Wagga Community Services Centre. In addition both Anglicare and the Aboriginal Children's Services, designated Out-of-Home Care service providers, offer a range of children's services, including foster care, in Wagga Wagga.
- (5) Figures for these periods are not available.
- (6) As at 12 December 2005 Wagga Wagga Community Services Centre had 123 children and young people in the Parental Responsibility of the Minister for Community Services and/or the Director-General of the Department for Community Services.

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*5339 DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Roads—

What are the accident statistics (including deaths and injuries) for the following intersections, for each year between 2000 up to 2004, and in 2005 to date:

- (a) Foxglove Road and Pacific Highway, Mount Colah?
- (b) Excelsior Road and Pacific Highway, Mount Colah?
- (c) Ku-ring-gai Chase Road and Belmont Parade, Mount Colah?

Answer—

I refer the honourable member to a document produced by the RTA entitled *Road Traffic Crashes in NSW*. This document contains annual statistical information on crashes recorded in NSW (including information concerning accidents in the Shire of Hornsby and the Municipality of Ku-ring-gai). I understand that the information is collected in accordance with the Road Crash Recording National Guidelines. The document is available on the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*5340 PLANNING FUNDS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What amount of funding was allocated to Hornsby Hospital to plan for the construction of a child and adolescent mental health unit?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

I am advised details of capital works funding are set out in the 2005-06 Budget Papers. The timing for the allocation of funding for projects outside the budget cycle will be considered on the basis of state-wide priorities for capital funding.

*5341 HORNSBY STATION CONCOURSE—Mrs Hopwood to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for State Development—

What facilities and services/functions will be available on the proposed new concourse of Hornsby Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

As part of the Hornsby Station Rail Clearways project, the existing concourse at Hornsby Station will be extended to the west by approximately five metres.

New facilities to be provided on the concourse include ticketing machines and weather-protected lift and stair access to platform 4/5.

The CountryLink office located on Platform 4 will also be relocated to the new concourse.

*5342 BEGA HOSPITAL—Mr Constance to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What action is the Minister taking to address the serious concerns of the medical workforce at Bega Hospital about serious occupational health and safety issues associated with the current state of the operating suite at Bega Hospital?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

I am advised that, subsequent to Workcover inspections of the operating theatres at Bega Hospital in December 2005, Bega Hospital management and Greater Southern Area Health Service management immediately developed an action plan to address the issues raised within specified timeframes.

On January 13, 2006 Workcover indicated that there had been satisfactory progress and Greater Southern Area Health Service and Bega Management continue to work collaboratively with staff and Workcover representatives to ensure issues are addressed and the environment provided supports safe work practices.

*5343 LOCAL COURT PROCEEDINGS—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for Fair Trading, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Did the Department of Fair Trading commence proceedings against Michael Owen Kew in the Local Court of New South Wales at Parramatta?
- (2) If so, did the Department of Fair Trading assert that a Mr Robinson had authority to bring proceedings on behalf of the Department of Fair Trading under the Crimes Act?
- (3) If so, did in fact Mr Robinson have that authority?
- (4) If not, why did Mr Robinson assert that he had such authority?
- (5) If not, why did the Department of Fair Trading assert that Mr Robinson had such authority?
- (6) Was there a challenge mounted by the defendant, Michael Owen Kew in the Supreme Court of New South Wales to determine whether Mr Robinson had such authority?
- (7) Did the counsel for the defence issue a notice to the prosecution to produce a copy of Mr Robinson's delegation?
- (8) Was it conceded after the issue of that notice that Mr Robinson did not in fact have such delegation?
- (9) If so, why did Mr Robinson not have such delegation?
- (10) If so, who was responsible for not providing such delegation?
- (11) What was the total amount of costs that were involved by the Department of Fair Trading whether they be the prosecution or defendant's costs in bringing this matter in the Local Court (on all appearances) and the Supreme Court?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (5) These matters are still before the court and yet to be determined.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) and (10) These matters are still before the court and yet to be determined.
- (11) The total amount of costs cannot be determined at this time as the matters are still before the court.

*5344 MYALL WAY INTERSECTION—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Roads—

- (1) Was a review undertaken in regard to the intersection of the Myall Way and the Pacific Highway?
- (2) If so, who was the independent expert who did the review?
- (3) Did the independent expert look at the potential for accidents at the intersection?
- (4) If so, what was his or her findings including projected accidents, serious accidents causing injury and accidents causing death?
- (5) Did the independent expert look at traffic volumes of the intersection of the Bucketts Way and the Pacific Highway and make comparisons with the proposed intersection of the Myall Way and the Pacific Highway?

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- (6) If so, did the independent expert take into account growth in the Hawks Nest Tea Gardens area versus growth on the areas along the Bucketts Way?
- (7) If so, what was their finding?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) Did the RTA advise a meeting on the 26 May 2005 between the then Roads Minister, the Member for Myall Lakes and a delegation of concerned citizens from Hawks Nest Tea Gardens, held in Minister Costa's office, that the cost of a flyover at the intersection of Pacific Highway and Myall Way could be \$9 million but later admitted it would be as discussed previously with the Member for Myall Lakes, \$6 million?
- (10) Was the RTA's final cost of the flyover that was put in at Rainbow Flat \$5.5 million?
- (11) Did the independent reviewer assess the cost of the flyover at Rainbow Flat as a comparative cost for the work at the intersection of the Pacific Highway and Myall Way?
- (12) If so, how does the independent expert assess that any overpass or flyover at the Myall Way and the Pacific Highway intersection will be costed at \$16.6 million?
- (13) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) engaged two independent experts to assist in the review. Connell Wagner Pty Ltd and Robert MacDonald and Associates.
- (3) As part of the review, Connell Wagner looked at the capacity and safety performance of the proposed at-grade intersection.
- (4) I refer the honourable member to the report. A copy of the report is available on the RTA website: www.rta.nsw.gov.au.
- (5) The RTA gathered the data relating to traffic volumes and undertook a comparison of the two intersections.
- (6) The RTA collected growth figures and traffic volumes from a range of sources, including advice from Great Lakes Council. I refer you to Section 2.1.3a of the report.
- (7) and (8) I refer you to Section 2.1.3.a of the report.
- (9) The RTA advised at the meeting held on 26 May 2005 that a cost estimate for the specific interchange would need to be developed. However, it was also advised that an indication of the cost could be obtained by looking at the Lakes Way grade-separated interchange constructed near Rainbow Flat. The final cost of this interchange was in the vicinity of \$9 million.
- (10) No. The final cost of the grade separated interchange recently constructed at Rainbow Flat (The Lakes Way) will be approximately \$9M.
- (11) to (13) I refer the honourable member to the report.

*5345 ABORIGINAL SCHOOL COUNSELLORS—Mr Hazzard to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many Aboriginal school counsellors are there in NSW schools?
- (2) Which schools, by name, do these counsellors look after?

Answer—

- (1) There is no position titled Aboriginal school counsellor in the Department of Education and Training. There are school counsellors employed in NSW government schools. School counsellors hold dual qualifications in education and psychology. They are trained and supported to work with students and parents from all backgrounds.
- (2) Not applicable.

*5346 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Armstrong to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) In view of the information that has emerged and exposed the financial plight of the Greater Southern Area Health Service and its failure to pay debts, will the Minister give an immediate explanation of the true budgetary position of the GSAHS?
- (2) Has the Minister taken action to rectify the financial plight of the GSAHS?
- (3) If yes, can the Minister outline the action he has implemented?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Will the Minister give an undertaking that any budgetary action to enable GSAHS to pay outstanding creditors will not have a negative impact on the delivery of front-line clinical and other health services?
- (6) What steps is the State Government taking to improve its management of health services in NSW, addressing the problems that resulted in the GSAHS having a deplorable record in meeting its financial commitments to creditors within normal credit arrangements?
- (7) Can the Minister give a guarantee that in future all monies owed to medical practitioners and other suppliers of goods and services to GSAHS will be paid on time and in accordance with the agreed terms of credit?
- (8) If not, can the Minister indicate when GSAHS will be in a financial position to pay creditors on a 30-day basis?

Answer—

The Minister for Health advises me:

- (1) to (5) The member is referred to my previous media release and statement on this matter dated 10 October 2005 and 30 November 2005 respectively. Financial Strategies have been developed by the Area Health Service that are aimed at maintaining the net cost of service at a sustainable position in the future. The identified strategies relate to improvements in operating efficiency.
- (6) Area Health Services are large and complex organisations with expenditure budgets up to \$1.9 billion. In 2004/05, 8 of the 11 Health Services operated within or on budget. In 2004/05, the Area Health Services on a combined Net Cost of Services budget of \$7.7 billion reported a 0.1% (or \$9M) favourable result, a result similar to prior years. These results and those of prior years reflect that Greater Southern Area Health service has particular issues which are being addressed.
- (7) to (8) The member is referred to my previous media release and statements on this matter. The Greater Southern Area Health Service aims to meet all of its obligations in regards to the payment for goods and services that have been received in accordance with the terms of procurement.

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5347 MIXED MARTIAL ARTS—Mr Souris to Minister for Tourism and Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, and Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development—

- (1) Are you aware of the sport mixed martial arts, a combination of kick boxing and wrestling?
- (2) Is this sport permitted to be professionally competitively staged in NSW?
- (3) What are the conditions imposed on the staging of the sport?
- (4) Is it mandatory for a doctor to be present when a competitive event is being staged?
- (5) Are you aware of Tony Bonello, a promoter of mixed martial arts competitions at licensed clubs?
- (6) Was a doctor present at a mixed martial arts event staged at Penrith Panthers on Friday 10 February 2006?
- (7) Are mixed martial arts promoted events required to be notified to the Department of Sport and Recreation?

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5348 HOSPITAL COOK-CHILL—Mr Souris to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Are any hospitals in the electorate of Upper Hunter receiving all or part of the meals supplied to patients as cook-chill supplies?
- (2) Which hospitals in the electorate of Upper Hunter are utilising cook-chill supplies for part or all patients' meals?
- (3) Are there any plans to introduce or fully supply hospitals in the electorate of Upper Hunter with cook-chill supplies?

5349 YANCO CREEK TRIBUTARIES ADVISORY COUNCIL—Mr Piccoli to Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

With respect to the Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council:

- (1) Has this committee met yet and if so, how often?
- (2) If they have met, what actions has the Committee undertaken to address environmental problems along Yanco Creek?

5350 DUAL CARRIAGEWAYS LANE RESTRICTION—Mr Stoner to Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra, representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) On the long weekend in October 2005 (5-7/10/05), were dual carriageways in some locations along the Pacific Highway from Sydney to the Queensland Border restricted to single lane use?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) Did these alleged restrictions involve both north and southbound traffic?
- (4) Did such a practice also occur over the Christmas Holiday period?
- (5) Does the NSW Government believe it is acceptable to upgrade parts of the Pacific Highway and then restrict the use of these areas during the busiest periods?

5351 SHIRLEY BYRNE—Mr Tink to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to the death of Mrs Shirley Byrne on 4 February 2000 and the subsequent manslaughter trial of Dr Gerrit Reimars:

- (1) Did he on 2 March 2004 indicate that at all times the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) acted upon all the relevant material available to his office?
- (2) Why were documents subpoenaed by the DPP from the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) never accessed by the DPP?
- (3) In light of statements by both the New South Wales Medical Board and the HCCC that a s66 report was submitted under subpoena, does the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions still maintain that it was not in receipt of these documents?
- (4) Who is the legal owner of ante-mortem and post-mortem blood samples taken from Mrs Shirley Byrne?

5352 HOSPITAL BED NUMBERS—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to hospital beds:

- (1) Has the Department of Health collected information on all hospitals on available and occupied beds in 2003-04 and 2004-05 through the Department of Health Reporting Systems (DOHRS)?
- (2) What is the data showing available beds and occupied beds in General Hospitals by month for 2003-04 and 2004-05 from DOHRS?
- (3) Could he provide a table showing where the 763 “additional permanent beds”, as announced on 8 December 2004, are located?

5353 CAMDEN HOSPITAL OLD NURSES QUARTERS—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the old nurses quarters at Camden Hospital –

- (1) Are there plans to upgrade the building?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) how much money has been allocated for the purpose?
 - (b) when was it allocated?
 - (c) what is the total estimated cost of the project?
 - (d) when will it be completed?
- (3) What will the facility be used for?

5354 NSW HEALTH PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS—Mr Maguire to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why is there no standardised procurement process encompassing IT systems, guidelines, ordering and purchasing methods, prices, contracts, payment methods, KPIs and communication processes in NSW Health?
- (2) How is the non payment of suppliers on time impacting on price, reliability of supply and Greater Southern Area Health Service’s ability to negotiate better deals?
- (3) Why is NSW Health still trying to develop an electronic catalogue that can be used by all Areas to make purchases and track items after fifteen years?
- (4) Why has a single corporate service IT system not been implemented across the State?
- (5) Who established their own catalogues for commonly purchased and used items?

5355 WAGGA WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL SECURITY—Mr Maguire to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) What steps have been taken to improve security at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital since October 2004?
- (2) How many extra security personnel have been employed?
- (3) Are all positions for security officers filled?
- (4) What action has been taken to counsel staff involved in the latest assault where a guard was stabbed?

5356 STATE RAIL—ASSET DISPOSAL—Mr Maguire to Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) What is the process that the Department would use to dispose of assets owned by State Rail?
- (2) If a rail corridor is closed and decommissioned who owns the assets, rail line and sleepers?

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- (3) How would the steel rail line be disposed of?
- (4) Does he have Ministerial discretion to allocate the assets without entering into a formal disposal procedure agreement?

5357 HOUSE FIRES—PLUG IN AIRFRESHENERS—Mr Amery to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts, representing the Minister for Justice, Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) Has the Fire Brigade identified a plug into the power point type airfreshener as the cause of any house fires in New South Wales?
- (2) If so, how many such reports have been submitted?

5358 SEWERAGE SCHEME—Ms Seaton to Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) In relation to his answer to Question 5036, what are the 20 unsewered villages under stage 2 of the PSP?
- (2) Could he list the 20 villages?
- (3) What are each of the Local Government Areas advised of sewerage priorities under the CTW and SS, and projects in each of them, and their relative priority?

5359 VINCENTIA PROPERTY ACQUISITION—Mrs Hancock to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Has your department curtailed communications with the owner of Lot 180 Plantation Point Parade Vincentia with respect to possible acquisition of the site. If so, why?
- (2) If so, when will you resume discussions with the owner of Lot 180 Plantation Point Parade and work towards acquisition of the site for possible open space?
- (3) Did Professor Bruce Thom from your department inform the legal representative of the owner (of the abovementioned site) that he was no longer authorised to speak with either the owner or their legal representatives?

5360 SHOALHAVEN LOCAL AREA COMMAND NUMBERS—Mrs Hancock to Minister for Police—

Of the actual strength numbers as listed in the NSW police website for the Shoalhaven Local Area Command, how many are currently on restricted duties or on leave?

5361 SHOALHAVEN RIVER WATER EXTRACTION—Mrs Hancock to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Now that the Government has ruled out raising the height of Tallowa Dam in Kangaroo Valley, what are the plans to increase water extraction from the Shoalhaven River?

5362 ALBURY RAILWAY STATION—Mr Aplin to Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

- (1) What is the timetable for announced maintenance works at Albury Railway Station?
- (2) Following the closure of the travel centre and changed usage of the former station master's residence what options are being canvassed for the future usage of facilities at Albury Railway Station?

5363 CROSS BORDER HEALTH AGREEMENT MID-TERM REVIEW—Mr Aplin to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) When will the findings and recommendations of the review of the Cross-Border Health agreement be released?
- (2) Will he appoint a senior NSW Health Administrator and provide adequate funding to facilitate the establishment of Health Albury Wodonga?

5364 GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION—Mr Aplin to Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) What consultation is being undertaken with farmers in the Albury electorate to mitigate the effect of threatened reductions in ground water allocations on the viability of their farming enterprises?
- (2) Why did the Department encourage the drilling of bores in 2004 without ensuring these were used for agricultural or industrial production purposes?

5365 CAMPBELLTOWN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE—Mrs Skinner to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why was the Campbelltown Community Health Centre closed?
- (2) (a) Will it be upgraded or moved to another location?
(b) If so, when?

5366 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION—Mr Kerr to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

When will construction works on Sutherland Hospital be completed?

5367 CRONULLA POLICE NUMBERS—Mr Kerr to Minister for Police—

How many extra police will be stationed at Cronulla Police Station during 2006?

5368 PARKING INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—BAULKHAM HILLS AND PARRAMATTA—Mr Merton to Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport, representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

How many traffic infringement notices were issued in the following Local Government Areas in each of the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005:

- (a) Baulkham Hills and
- (b) Parramatta?

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5369 NORTH WEST RAIL LINK—Mr Merton to Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

What is the commencement date for the construction of the North West Rail Link?

5370 HOMEBUSH BAY REMEDIATION—Mr Richardson to Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What percentage of the dioxin contaminated sediments in Homebush Bay has the Government budgeted to clean up?
- (2) How much money has the Government budgeted specifically for the remediation of dioxin contaminated sediments in Homebush Bay?
- (3) How much of the \$21 million dollars the Member for Smithfield told Parliament in 1997 would be used to remediate sediments in Homebush Bay to provide a safe, clean bay for the people of NSW as an enduring community legacy has been spent?

5371 NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY FATALITIES—Mr Souris to Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra, representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) What have been the number of fatalities that have occurred on the New England Highway over the six months ended 28 February 2006?
- (2) What have been the number of fatalities that have occurred on the Pacific Highway between Hexham and the Queensland border, the Hume Highway and the Great Western Highway over the six months ended 28 February 2006?
- (3) What are the details of fatalities on the New England Highway over the six months ended 28 February 2006 by date, location and number of fatalities?
- (4) How many fatalities have occurred on the New England Highway over the six month periods ended 31 August 2005, 28 February 2005 and 31 August 2004?

5372 BREAST SCREENING—HUNTERS HILL LANE COVE AND RYDE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS—Mr Roberts to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What number of 50-69 year old women have been screened by Breast Screen NSW in each of the years since 2000 in the:

- (a) Lane Cove Local Government Area;
- (b) Hunters Hill Local Government Area; and
- (c) Ryde Local Government Area?

5373 BOWNING DEVIATION—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra, representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) How much funding in total has been allocated to the construction of the Bowning Deviation?
- (2) What is the total cost of the works to construct the Bowning Deviation?
- (3) Has any of this funding been cut or delayed as a result of the \$3million reduction in the RTA Southern Region's Capital Program?
- (4) Will the Bowning Deviation be completed before March 2007 in line with the then Minister's commitment of 7 March 2003?

5374 COMMUNITY COLLEGES FUNDING—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Will the Government commit to continue funding of Community Colleges through the Board of Adult and Community Education during 2007?
- (2) Will this funding be reduced below the levels committed in 2006?

5375 NURSING POSITIONS—Ms Hodgkinson to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will she confirm that an additional four Registered Nurses resigned or ceased working at Goulburn Base Hospital during January 2006?
- (2) Have these vacant nursing positions been filled?
- (3) How many (i) Registered Nursing and (ii) Enrolled Nursing positions are currently unfilled at:
 - (a) Goulburn Base Hospital
 - (b) Chisholm Ross Hospital
 - (c) Bourke Street Medical Centre
 - (d) Crookwell Hospital
 - (e) Boorowa Hospital
 - (f) Yass Hospital
 - (g) Gundagai Hospital
 - (h) Batlow Hospital
 - (i) Tumut Hospital
 - (j) Queanbeyan Hospital
 - (k) Young Hospital

5376 COMMERCIAL FISHERS BUYOUT PORT STEPHENS—GREAT LAKES—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra, representing the Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Mineral Resources—

- (1) Has an amount of \$10 million been allocated for a buy out of commercial fishers that may be affected by the Port Stephens-Greater Lakes Marine Park?
- (2) If not, how much has been provided?
- (3) If more or less has been provided, how was that amount calculated?
- (4) If more or less has been provided, how many fishers will be bought out with that money?
- (5) Is the criteria for any buy out established as an amount equal to twice the average value of catches over the best three consecutive years between 1986 and 2002?
- (6) If so, why have 2003, 2004 and 2005 not been considered?
- (7) If any buy out offers are based on the amount equal to twice the average value of catches over the best three consecutive years from 1986-2002, will the dollar value for those years selected be calculated and increased to 2006 dollars?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) If the buy out offers are based on the amount equal to twice the average value of catches over the best three consecutive years from 1986-2002, will that be the value of all markets to which the fish is sold?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) If not, what markets will be used and why?
- (12) Will long time bigger effort fishermen be given the same consideration as others for buy out?
- (13) If not, why not?
- (14) If fishers are bought out, will the remaining costs recoverable by the Department of Fisheries from the fishing industry be redistributed over the existing fishers?
- (15) If so, what is the expected increase in such charges and fees per fisher?

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5377 FORSTER AND TUNCURRY BRIDGE MAINTENANCE—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Water Utilities, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for the Illawarra, representing the Minister for Roads—

- (1) Is it a requirement to close the bridge between Forster and Tuncurry on a regular basis for maintenance of drains associated with the new walkway that was built onto the bridge recently?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) Why does it need to be closed?
 - (b) Why does the work have to be done?
 - (c) How often does it have to be closed?
 - (d) What is the time limit it is closed?
 - (e) What is the cost of carrying out the work?
 - (f) Was the walkway built incorrectly?
 - (g) In what manner?
 - (h) What action has been taken to rectify the work?
 - (i) Who will bear the cost of any such rectification work?

5378 CYCLE WAY FUNDING—GREAT LAKES—Mr J.H. Turner to Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Did Great Lakes Council apply for funds for cycle ways in the Great Lakes area in the past two years?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) When?
 - (b) Was the application successful?
 - (c) How much was given to the council?
 - (d) Where are the cycle ways planned to be located?
 - (e) If funding was applied for and refused, why was it refused?

5379 COUNTRYLINK OFFICE CLOSURES—Mr O'Farrell to Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport—

Which CountryLink centres and/or booking offices were permanently closed during the following periods:

- (a) 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000?
- (b) 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001?
- (c) 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002?
- (d) 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003?
- (e) 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004?
- (f) 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005?
- (g) Since 1 July 2005?

5380 PARKING INFRINGEMENTS—KU-RING-GAI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA—Mr O'Farrell to Deputy Premier, and Minister for Transport, representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

For the financial year ending 30 June 2005, how many parking infringements were issued in the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area?

5381 BREAST SCREENING—KU-RING-GAI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA—Mr O'Farrell to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

What number of:

- (a) 50-69 year-old women; and
 - (b) 40-49 year-old women
- have been screened by BreastScreen NSW in each year since 2000 in the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area?

5382 GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT FUNDING—HORNSBY COUNCIL—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Local Government—

How much funding has been provided to Hornsby Shire Council for graffiti management in:

- (a) 1999-2000?
- (b) 2000-2001?
- (c) 2001-2002?
- (d) 2002-2003?
- (e) 2003-2004?
- (f) 2004-2005?
- (g) 2005 to the present?

5383 HORNSBY HOSPITAL FORENSIC PATIENT BEDS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Education and Training, representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many beds will be provided in the Mental Health ICU being planned for the Hornsby Hospital site?
- (2) Will any of these beds be used for forensic patients?
- (3) Is there any plan to increase the number of beds in the future for forensic patients?

5384 HALLS FOR SCHOOLS—Mrs Hopwood to Minister for Education and Training—

In the past 20 years has any school or have any schools in New South Wales with:

- (1) less than 400; and
 - (2) less than 500 students,
- been provided with a school hall?
- (3) If so, what schools, how big was the school hall and in which year did this occur?