



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2007

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

# **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**No. 19**

WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2007

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

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 4 (Including Question Nos 0112 to 0148)	03 July 2007
Q & A No. 5 (Including Question Nos 0149 to 0201)	04 July 2007
Q & A No. 6 (Including Question Nos 0202 to 0250)	05 July 2007
Q & A No. 7 (Including Question Nos 0251 to 0282)	06 July 2007
Q & A No. 8 (Including Question Nos 0283 to 0324)	10 July 2007
Q & A No. 9 (Including Question Nos 0325 to 0373)	11 July 2007
Q & A No. 10 (Including Question Nos 0374 to 0401)	12 July 2007
Q & A No. 11 (Including Question Nos 0402 to 0431)	13 July 2007
Q & A No. 12 (Including Question Nos 0432 to 0465)	24 July 2007
Q & A No. 13 (Including Question Nos 0466 to 0508)	25 July 2007
Q & A No. 14 (Including Question Nos 0509 to 0556)	26 July 2007
Q & A No. 15 (Including Question Nos 0557 to 0607)	27 July 2007
Q & A No. 16 (Including Question Nos 0608 to 0640)	31 July 2007
Q & A No. 17 (Including Question Nos 0641 to 0689)	01 August 2007
Q & A No. 18 (Including Question Nos 0690 to 0771)	02 August 2007
Q & A No. 19 (Including Question Nos 0772 to 0807)	30 October 2007

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29 MAY 2007

(Paper No. 4)

\*0112 MOUNT DRUITT TAFE—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What was the number of students attending the Mount Druitt TAFE during the years:
  - (a) 2003;
  - (b) 2004;
  - (c) 2005;
  - (d) 2006?
- (2) What is the number that has so far enrolled in 2007?
- (3) What number of the above enrolments are from the postcode areas of:
  - (a) 2770;
  - (b) 2761;
  - (c) 2766?

Answer—

- (1) (a) 7,912  
(b) 7,134  
(c) 7,592  
(d) 8,339
- (2) and (3) The 2007 year-to-date enrolment total for Mount Druitt College is 5,685.  
Official TAFE NSW enrolment statistics for 2007 will be available in March 2008.

\*0113 MANLY LAGOON—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Has the RTA received advice on whether it is liable for the environmental damage of the Manly Lagoon caused through its fill of the south side of Hinkler Island in the 1950s?
- (2) If the RTA is liable, will the RTA confirm priority to restore the Hinkler Island Channel and associated remediation?

Answer—

I am advised:

Manly Lagoon is the responsibility of Manly Council.

The Roads and Traffic Authority will investigate any information regarding Manly Lagoon which is brought to its attention.

\*0114 BUDGETED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—INFORMATION BY ELECTORATE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the budgeted capital expenditure information by electorate:

- (1) Will Members of the Legislative Assembly be provided with summaries of the budgeted capital expenditure in their electorate on Budget Day, 19th June 2007?
- (2) If not, will only Labor Members of the Legislative Assembly be provided with summaries of the budgeted capital expenditure in their electorate, as in previous years?

Answer—

I'm advised arrangements are similar to those in the Federal Parliament.

\*0115 "YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK" POSTERS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the "Your Rights at Work" posters affixed to power poles by power pole technicians:

- (1) What is Integral Energy's policy regarding their staff affixing "Your Rights at Work" posters to power poles?

- (2) Have Integral Energy staff affixed the posters to power poles?
- (3) Is the Minister aware Mr Alan Flett, General Manager of Network Asset Operations for Integral Energy, said on 2UE on 18 May 2007 that power pole technicians:  
"do not have permission to put them up, that it is an unsafe act, and that worse still removal of them by someone unauthorised is even more unsafe"?
- (4) Is the Minister aware Mr Flett also said that the staff of Integral Energy do not adhere to the company's policy because:  
"the resolution by Unions NSW to prevent them from being removed has hogtied me [Mr Flett of Integral Energy] from doing anything else at the moment"?
- (5) Will the Minister take action to have posters removed?

Answer—

(1) Integral Energy does not allow the installation of signs on its poles without permission and does not endorse any messages that are beyond the ambit of its core business.

(2) to (4) Yes.

(5) Integral Energy ensures signs and posters that are installed without permission are regularly removed from their infrastructure. This removal process is aligned with Integral Energy's network management standards and is undertaken in conjunction with other maintenance work.

\*0116 STATE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the State Infrastructure Strategy: New South Wales 2006-07 to 2015-16:

- (1) Will the State Infrastructure Strategy be updated and re-issued, and if so, when?
- (2) Which construction projects indicated "a distinct reduction in cost overruns" [State Infrastructure Strategy, pg 14]?

Answer—

I'm advised

- (1) I refer to the 2006/7 budget papers.
- (2) The information in the State Infrastructure Strategy was based on a statistical analysis of a sample of major construction projects before and after procurement policy reforms were introduced in July 2004. The results indicated a distinct reduction in the average percentage difference between pretender estimates and actual completion cost.

\*0117 MAIN ROAD 54—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What length of Main Road 54 between Crookwell and Bathurst remains to be sealed?
- (2) At what part of the road is this unsealed section(s) located?
- (3) What plans have the RTA to seal the remainder of this road?
- (4) Has funding been allocated for this purpose?
- (5) When will this work be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has provided \$846,000 to Upper Lachlan Council in this financial year for work on Main Road 54.

The NSW Government is committed to maintaining the road asset and improving road safety and in 2007/08 will allocate the Upper Lachlan Shire Council over \$3.5 million for works on State and Regional Roads. This is a substantial increase to the 2006/07 allocation of \$2.7 million.

\*0118 ABORIGINAL CHILDREN'S SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What is the reason for the Department of Community Services deciding not to offer a new service agreement to the Aboriginal Children's Service Ltd?
- (2) How many Aboriginal children are cared for through this service provider?
- (3) In what areas are these children located?

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- (4) What action has the Department of Community Services taken to ensure that the Aboriginal children cared for by Aboriginal Children's Services Ltd will in future be cared for in a culturally appropriate manner?

Answer—

- (1) The decision not to offer a new service agreement to the Aboriginal Children's Service Ltd (ACS) for out-of-home care service provision was based on the findings of two comprehensive reviews:
- an independent operational review commissioned jointly by the Commonwealth and State funding bodies, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the NSW Department of Community Services; and
  - placement reviews and case file reviews of children and young persons under ACS Ltd supervision.
- (2) The number of foster children supervised by ACS Ltd at any given time varies.
- (3) Various locations across NSW.
- (4) Each of the children, young persons and their carers has been reviewed and individual case plans were developed to meet the children and young persons' needs. These are the basis for ongoing work by NSW Department of Community Services caseworkers who will provide support for carers and organise the range of services required by the children to address their health, educational and other outstanding issues and their cultural needs.

\*0119 UNLICENSED ELECTRICAL WORK—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) What was the result of the investigation of ACT tradespeople undertaking work in NSW without a NSW licence following the meeting between Mr T Smith of Yass and officers of the Office of Fair Trading last year?
- (2) Is it a legal requirement that advertisements for tradespeople working in NSW must display a NSW licence number?
- (3) Does the Office of Fair Trading monitor advertisements in ACT publications that offer work in NSW for compliance with this requirement?

Answer—

I am advised by the Office of Fair Trading that:

- (1) Fair Trading investigators visited the NSW and ACT border regions in September 2006 after meeting with Mr Smith to pursue allegations of unlicensed work. Some evidence of unlicensed activity was found resulting in contractors being made aware of their responsibility to become licensed before doing residential building work.
- (2) Yes licensed contractors must include their licence number in any advertisement seeking to do residential building or trade work exceeding \$1000.
- (3) Yes.

\*0120 PALLIATIVE CARE BEDS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the number of palliative care beds in NSW?
- (2) How many beds are in specialist hospitals/hospices and how many are in general hospital wards?
- (3) How many of the beds specified in (2) above are in each of the Area Health Services?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The total number of Palliative Care beds in NSW as at March 2007 is 327.
- (2) and (3)

Palliative Care Beds by Area Health Service

Area Health Service	Specialist Hospice Beds	General Hospital Beds
Sydney South West		44
South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra	50	67
Sydney West		51
Northern Sydney & Central Coast	19	19
Hunter & New England		42
North Coast		6

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Greater Southern		14
Greater Western		15
NSW Total	69	258

\*0121 WEEKEND MAINTENANCE WORK—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the nature and extent of maintenance work on tracks and other railway infrastructure in the electorate of Hornsby?
- (2) How many weekends in the past year (May 2006 to May 2007) have been used for the maintenance work?
- (3) Have all these weekends caused the use of rail buses to transport passengers?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) Information on maintenance work is available on the CityRail website, [www.cityrail.info](http://www.cityrail.info). RailCorp also reports on maintenance work as required in its annual report.

\*0122 NORTHERN SYDNEY HEALTH—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the very valuable work being done by Northern Sydney Health in providing general practice services to the Brooklyn-Dangar Island community through its local health centre?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that Hornsby Shire Council, that manages the land on which the centre stands, has floated a proposal to sell the land which would force the services to relocate or cease to function?
- (3) Has this proposal caused concern, especially among the elderly members of the population, who depend on the medical services that are the only ones within 15 km of where they live?
- (4) Can the Minister assure the residents of Brooklyn and Dangar Island that these vital medical services to which the local residents have contributed through fundraising will be maintained at least at the current level?

Answer—

- (1) Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Health currently operates a Community Health Centre in Brooklyn which incorporates a GP Practice that provides general practice services to the Brooklyn-Dangar Island community.
- (2) Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Health Service has not entered into any discussions with Hornsby Shire Council regarding the sale of the land on which the Community Health Centre sits.
- (3) and (4) Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Health Service is committed to providing ongoing general practice and community health services to the Brooklyn-Dangar Island community.

\*0123 MIRANDA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the authorised number of police at Miranda Local Area Command?
- (2) What is the actual number?

Answer—

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

\*0124 WAGGA WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) To what stage has planning for the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital progressed?
- (2) Are the plans ready to be submitted to Treasury for more planning funding or procurement funding?
- (3) When can capital works funding be expected to commence construction works?
- (4) What date do you expect construction to begin?
- (5) What is the new estimated cost of the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital?
- (6) Are plans available and where can they be viewed?

Answer—

- (1) The Clinical Service Plan and Service Procurement Plan supplement have been completed and the Project Definition Plan is nearing completion.
- (2) The Department of Health has planning funds to proceed with work necessary to determine the preferred procurement option.
- (3) The project will be assessed for capital funding when the planning processes have been completed.

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- (4) Date for commencement of construction will be dependent upon the selected procurement method.
- (5) The cost will be determined following finalisation of the Project Procurement Plan.
- (6) The plans for the redevelopment will be available for release when the redevelopment has been formally approved.

\*0126 CIVIL UNIONS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Noting that a number of jurisdictions now provide for legal recognition of same sex relationships, including through civil unions legislation, and that more than 1,000 people have registered civil unions in Aotearoa/New Zealand since this became possible in April 2005:

- (1) When will the Government provide for similar legal recognition of same sex relationships in NSW?
- (2) What steps has the Government taken to consult the lesbian and gay community, and educate the wider community about this proposal?
- (3) What investigation has the Government carried out to identify the value of similar legislation in NSW?
- (4) What is the Government's plan for reform to provide for State-based legal recognition of same sex couples?

Answer—

I am advised:

I refer the Member to the answers to her previous questions on the matter.

\*0127 JET BOATS IN THE HARBOUR—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Small Business and Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

With regard to jet power boats using Sydney harbour:

- (1) What assessment has the NSW Government made of the impact of jet power boats travelling close to the foreshore at high speeds, doing 270 degree spins and power break stops, on:
  - (a) sandstone sea walls?
  - (b) cover and littoral habitat?
- (2) What are the results of these assessments?
- (3) What restrictions are in place on the speed of boats travelling in the harbour, on jet boats conducting 270 degree spins, and on jet boats conducting power break stops?
- (4) What restrictions are in place on the number and frequency of jet boats allowed to use the harbour?
- (5) What restrictions has the Government applied to use of the harbour for power boat "thrill rides", and how does the Government regulate this industry?
- (6) What restrictions are in place on the level of amplified music from boats travelling in the harbour?
- (7) What enforcement has been carried out in the last 12 months to prevent or infringe power boats using Sydney Harbour, how many fines were issued and what penalties were imposed?
- (8) What is the Government's plan for future enforcement of power boat regulations?
- (9) What assessment has the NSW Government undertaken on the impact of noise coming from jet boats in Farm Cove on the foreshore such as the Royal Botanic Gardens and Mrs Macquarie's Point?

Answer—

(1) to (4) Travelling at high speed close to the foreshore is illegal, contravening the Water Traffic Regulations – NSW and the accompanying Code of Conduct which restricts the activities of power jet boats in Sydney Harbour. All vessel operators are required to comply with speed restrictions, "distance off" regulations and NO WASH zones whilst operating on Sydney Harbour. The Code of Conduct specifically restricts power jet boats from making irregular manoeuvres such as 180 and 360 degree turns in proximity to the foreshore.

(5) The Government regulates all commercial adventure vessels through legislation and a Code of Conduct which stipulates areas in which these vessels can operate, and provides specific restrictions on how they operate.

(6) Environmental issues relating to noise are covered by legislation. The Code of Conduct places specific restrictions on charter vessels operating amplified music systems.

(7) and (8) NSW Maritime regularly monitors the conduct of all commercial adventure vessels including power jet boats, investigates reports of possible infringements, issues fines to operators who fail to comply with the legislation and Code of Conduct, and will continue to do so. During the 2005 – 2006 boating season, nil infringements were issued to jet powered boats operating on Sydney Harbour.

(9) NSW Maritime responds to reports of offensive noise, and where such reports are substantiated, a noise abatement direction can be given. Failure to comply with the direction can result in a penalty notice (\$400 on the spot fine) being issued.

\*0129 QUARRY AT TERRANORA—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to a development application for a quarry at Terranora:

- (1) What discussions has the Minister, his office and/or his department had with Ready-mix since Ready-mix withdrew its development application for a new quarry at Terranora?
- (2) Does the Minister still consider the proposed quarry to be a project of State significance, despite the withdrawal of the application by the proponent?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of the enormous Tweed community concern over this project?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the Department of Planning has not met with Readymix.
- (2) I am advised that there is no current quarry proposal.
- (3) I am aware that the original Terranora proposal generated a significant level of community interest.

\*0130 POTTSVILLE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to building and staffing the new Pottsville Community Health Centre:

- (1) What are the proposed start and finish dates of these works?
- (2) What is the budgeted cost of these works?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) and (2) In March 2007 the former Minister for Health announced that a new HealthOne NSW Centre that brings together local GPs and other health professionals in one convenient location for the families of Pottsville, is to be planned.

These "one stop shops" bring together GPs, community health and allied health staff to care for patients in the community.

More detailed planning is to be undertaken to identify the range of services that could be provided at the proposed centre.

\*0131 POLICE RESOURCES—TWEED-BYRON—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to police resources in the Tweed-Byron command committed to by the Government:

- (1) When will the two extra officers for the local area command be appointed?
- (2) What is the delivery date and cost of the two new mobile police command vans?
- (3) What is the proposed location of the new \$15 million police station?
- (4) What are the proposed start and finishing dates for construction of the new police station?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me :

- (1) Two Probationary Constables commenced duty on 14 May 2007 at the Tweed/Byron Local Area Command (LAC), with two additional Highway Patrol positions having been filled prior to the March election.
- (2) The LAC took delivery of a new Mobile Police Command (MPC) Van in February 2007. The allocation and delivery date of the additional Mobile Police Station to the North Coast area has not been finalised at this time. The capital cost of each MPC Van is \$81,000, or \$106,000 when fully outfitted.
- (3) and (4) The Tweed/Byron LAC is included in funding for new building works in 2008-09. Cost, location and construction dates have not been finalised at this time.

\*0132 CITYRAIL COMPLAINTS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many complaints did CityRail receive in 2006 about late and cancelled services and missed connections on the Carlingford line?
- (2) How many complaints did CityRail receive in 2004 about late and cancelled services and missed



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connections on the Carlingford line?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) RailCorp reports on feedback as required in its annual report.

\*0133 TICKET SALES—CARLINGFORD STATION—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many tickets were sold at Carlingford station in each of the following years:

- (a) 2000?
- (b) 2004?
- (c) 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

RailCorp reports on ticket sales as required in its annual report.

\*0134 SHUTTLE SERVICES—CARLINGFORD LINE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Are there any technical problems associated with increasing the frequency of shuttle services on the Carlingford line when the passing loop at Rydalmere station is completed in 2010?
- (2) If not, why is the Government not proposing to increase shuttle frequency and provide an effective service to the people of Carlingford, Telopea and Dundas?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Once the passing loop at Rydalmere Station is completed in 2010, RailCorp will closely monitor shuttle services and implement adjustments as they are required, to ensure the appropriate level of service is provided to meet passenger demand.

\*0135 NORTH SHORE LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the authorised number of police at North Shore Local Area Command?
- (2) What is the actual number?

Answer—

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

\*0136 GLADESVILLE LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the authorised number of police at Gladesville Local Area Command?
- (2) What is the actual number?

Answer—

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

\*0137 AVASTIN TRIALS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

With respect to advice received that the cancer drug Avastin is currently being trialled at a number of Victorian hospitals, including the Royal Melbourne Hospital:

- (1) Is Avastin being trialled at any hospital in NSW?
- (2) If so, where are the trials being run and what is the status of these trials?
- (3) If not:
  - (a) Why not?
  - (b) Are there any plans to run trials of Avastin?
  - (c) Have applications been made to the Department of Health or any of its subsidiaries to run trials of the drug?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes
- (2) and (3) There are a number of trials with Avastin being run at various NSW hospitals in Darlinghurst, Gosford, Lismore, Port Macquarie, St Leonards, Sydney, Waratah and Wollongong.

A number of these trials are still recruiting patients while others have gone past the recruitment phase.

\*0138 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In relation to Justices of the Peace:

- (1) How much money was spent on advertising that Justices of the Peace needed to register their intent to remain in that capacity by 8 December 2006?
- (2) How many Justices of the Peace are there in New South Wales at present?
- (3) How many Justices of the Peace were there in New South Wales as at 7 December 2006?
- (4) What would have been the cost of writing to all Justices of the Peace to inform them of this requirement to re-register by 8 December 2006?
- (5) How many Justices of the Peace were removed from the roll by failing to register their intent by 8 December 2006?
- (6) Has the Government taken any action to inform Justices of the Peace that did not register by 8 December 2006 to inform them that they are no longer Justices of the Peace?
- (7) What action is the Government taking to ensure that people registered as Justices of the Peace as at 8 December 2006 that are no longer registered are not performing the duties of Justices of the Peace?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Between 2003 and 2006 the department ran a campaign to inform Justices of the Peace (JPs) and the public of the introduction of five year renewable appointments. The campaign included radio interviews, opinion pieces, media releases, liaison with stakeholders and regular updates of the department's website. In May 2006 public notices were placed in regional newspapers across NSW.

The effect of this change was to allow the department to maintain an up to date register of JPs, improve communication and allow the public to view a register of JPs in their area.

- (2) Details of registered JPs are publicly available on the internet.
- (3) Prior to the change the department could not determine the exact number of living and active registered JPs.
- (4) The department did send letters to over 59,000 JPs whose status could be determined. This was done at a cost of \$48,011.
- (5) See answers to (2) and (3) above.
- (6) and (7) Where a JP's appointment has lapsed, the person is invited to apply for a new appointment. The department has also established contacts with other government agencies to ensure that the department is made aware of cases where people continue to perform JP functions without being registered. When this occurs the department formally writes to people advising them of the opportunity to apply for a new appointment.

\*0139 EPPING RAILWAY STATION—ELEVATORS AND ESCALATORS—Mr Greg Smith asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the Epping Railway Station and associated works:

- (1) Between 29 May 2007 and the opening of the new railway station on 15 April 2007, how many times have the elevators broken down or been unusable?
- (2) Between 29 May 2007 and the opening of the new railway station on 15 April 2007, how many times have the escalators broken down or been unusable?
- (3) Between 29 May 2007 and the opening of the new railway station on 15 April 2007, in the instances when the elevators have broken down, how long have they been out of use on each occasion?
- (4) Between 29 May 2007 and the opening of the new railway station on 15 April 2007, in the instances when the escalators have broken down, how long have they been out of use on each occasion?
- (5) What have been the costs of maintenance and repairs on the elevators between 29 May 2007 and the opening of the new railway station on 15 April 2007?
- (6) What have been the costs of maintenance and repairs on the escalators between 29 May 2007 and the opening of the new railway station on 15 April 2007?

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- (7) In times where the escalators and elevators are broken down, what alternative arrangements are there for mothers with prams, elderly residents and people with a disability to access the station concourse and platforms as well as access from Beecroft Road to Langston Place?

Answer—

The NSW Government has just completed a new aerial concourse for Epping as part of the \$2.25 billion Epping Chatswood Rail Line project - the biggest public infrastructure project currently underway in NSW.

The footbridge's lifts are subject to stringent maintenance agreements.

The lifts are under 24 hour CCTV surveillance allowing station staff to monitor their operation.

A new signal controlled pedestrian crossing on Blaxland Road at Epping was constructed to provide a second, safe east west connection across the rail line. The Iemma Government committed to providing the additional crossing prior to the removal of the old footbridge in response to community feedback.

Information on station access and facilities for each CityRail Station can be found at [www.cityrail.info](http://www.cityrail.info).

\*0140 CROWN LEASES—Mr Richard Torbay asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) Has the Department of Lands conducted a detailed financial assessment of the cost of various policy options in relation to Crown leases including:
  - (a) the cost of placing and enforcing covenants on all high conservation value leases;
  - (b) the cost of retaining high conservation value leases in public ownership;
  - (c) the cost of a combination of the two approaches above?
- (2) In particular, has the Department of Lands conducted a detailed financial assessment of the cost of the first option above, which seems to be the policy that they intend to implement?
- (3) If so, will the Minister provide me a copy of any and all such assessments?
- (4) Have the funds been allocated by the NSW Government to fully meet those costs?
- (5) Has a specific budgetary allocation been made and, if so, how can that allocation be identified?
- (6) If not, can the Minister guarantee that there will be no further conversion of high conservation value leases until the policy approach has been fully costed and commensurate funds have been allocated to achieve it?

Answer—

In response to submissions by the Department of Lands and subsequent consideration by the Cabinet Standing Committee on the Budget, the Government has allocated \$1.413 million annually to cover the cost of placing and enforcing covenants on perpetual leases converted to freehold; and \$13 million for the voluntary purchase of high conservation perpetual Crown leases. In the circumstances, the relevant papers are not publicly available as they are Cabinet-in-Confidence.

\*0141 CAMPBELLTOWN PERIODIC DETENTION CENTRE—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In relation to the Department of Corrective Services:

- (1) How much money has been spent on the refurbishment on the premises formerly known as the Campbelltown Periodic Detention Centre?
- (2) How much money has been spent on the refurbishment of Commissioner Woodham's office within the premises formerly known as the Campbelltown Periodic Detention Centre?
- (3) How many staff work at the premises formerly known as the Campbelltown Periodic Detention Centre?
- (4) How many staff are assigned to Commissioner Woodham?
- (5) How many staff assigned to Commissioner Woodham are based at the premises formerly known as the Campbelltown Periodic Detention Centre?
- (6) How many days in the past year has the Commissioner worked out of offices based at the premises formerly known as the Campbelltown Periodic Detention Centre?
- (7) How many days in the past year has the Commissioner worked out of the Head Office of the Department of Corrective Services at Lee Street Sydney?
- (8) What costs are associated with transporting documents and other matter from the Head Office in Lee Street to the offices formerly known as the Campbelltown Periodic Detention Centre?
- (9) When was the Commissioner for Corrective Services reappointed?
- (10) How long has the Commissioner for Corrective Services been reappointed for?
- (11) When has the Commissioner for Corrective Services been on leave over the last two years and for

what reasons?

- (12) (a) Did the Government or the department ask the Commissioner to undergo any health checks before his reappointment?

(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The former Periodic Detention Centre has been refurbished as a transitional centre at a cost of \$201,000.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) The Special Visitation Group currently comprising 20 staff members operates, as an interim arrangement, from the former Campbelltown Periodic Detention Centre.
- (4) I refer the member to the Annual Report. See the Department of Corrective Services Annual Report 2005/06.
- (5) Refer to (3) above.
- (6) and (7) The Commissioner may work from any Departmental location within the State on any given day.
- (8) There are no specific transporting costs involved.
- (9) and (10) All Chief Executive Service appointments are published in the NSW Government Gazette.
- (11) Any leave taken was in accordance with Public Sector conditions.
- (12) The appointment was made in accordance with the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002.

\*0142 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (SENIOR LIVING)—PROPOSED AMENDMENTS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Under the proposed amendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Senior Living), how can the SEPP still have effect of allowing medium-density development in areas zoned for low-density development?

Answer—

The draft SEPP amendment proposes to introduce additional criteria to test whether a proposed housing development for seniors or people with a disability is compatible with the surrounding area.

For urban areas the criteria would include whether or not the impact on adjoining sites can be adequately managed and whether building envelopes ensure a development form that responds to the built form of the surrounding area.

On rural land adjoining urban zoned land, the criteria cover the relationship to the scale and character of existing settlements and whether or not the proposed development is appropriate for an urban land use.

\*0143 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (SENIOR LIVING)—PROPOSED AMENDMENTS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Under the proposed amendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Senior Living), how will the new 'compatibility test' be effective in preventing all inappropriate development under the policy?

Answer—

The compatibility test in the draft amendment while reinforcing the servicing and access requirements of the current Policy, also demands greater care in selecting sites for seniors housing by stipulating that compatibility with adjoining development and land uses are taken into account. The test is intended to ensure that seniors housing, which is purpose built to make it accessible and useable for seniors or people with a disability, is provided in locations which are appropriate for these target groups and where it is compatible with the surrounding environment.

\*0144 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (SENIOR LIVING)—HOUSING DEVELOPMENT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Is housing development under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Senior Living) included in the dwelling targets for each local government area mandated under the Metropolitan Strategy?

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(2) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised by the Department of Planning that housing development under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Seniors Living) will be included in the dwelling targets for each local government area established under the Metropolitan Strategy.

\*0145 TRADE SCHOOL—NAMBUCCA HEADS HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to your commitment to locate one of 25 trade schools at Nambucca Heads High School:

- (1) What is the estimated capital cost of this trade school?
- (2) What is the estimated recurrent cost associated with the trade school?
- (3) What is the planned timeframe for:
  - (a) commencement of construction;
  - (b) completion?

Answer—

- (1) \$2.1 million
- (2) Recurrent costing will be determined by a number of factors yet to be finalised. The facilities provided within the building works will determine a range of recurrent service costings, as will the final pattern and frequency of delivery to students.
- (3) A development application will be lodged with the shire council in late July 2007. The work will go to tender in August 2007 with construction expected to be completed during 2008.

\*0146 NURSING HOME RESIDENTS—40 YEARS AND UNDER—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

How many people, located in nursing homes in the local government area of Greater Taree City Council and Great Lakes Council and who are located in such nursing homes because of severe disabilities, are aged 40 or under?

Answer—

According to information provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing on 31 March 2007, there were three people under the age of 40 located in residential aged care facilities in the Greater Taree and Great Lakes Local Government Areas.

\*0147 ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT—MID NORTH COAST—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Of the funds which will be provided through the Department of Ageing and Disability and Home Care for the provision of accommodation support of the Mid North Coast for the next financial year, how much will be allocated to the local government region known as Greater Taree City Council and how much to the local government region known as Great Lakes Council?
- (2) How many accommodation places will be allocated through that funding for both local government regions?
- (3) How many accommodation places will be specifically for young people leaving the care of the Department of Community Services?
- (4) How many accommodation places will be specifically for young people moving out of nursing homes?
- (5) How many accommodation places will be specifically for people exiting the criminal justice system?

Answer—

- (1) In 2006/07, more than \$2.1 million in recurrent funding for accommodation services was allocated to the Greater Taree City Council and the Great Lakes City Council received recurrent funding of \$0.6 million.

In 2007/08, additional recurrent funding of up to \$0.5 million will be allocated for a new accommodation service in the Taree Local Government Area. Places have been made available through this funding for people with a disability residing in the Greater Taree, Gloucester or Great Lakes Local Government Areas.

Additional funding for accommodation is provided through funding to non-government organisations, funding such as young people leaving the care of the Department of Community Services, the criminal justice system or young people moving out of nursing homes.

- (2) There will be at least five new accommodation places for people with very high support needs, including one new accommodation place for young people leaving the care of the Minister of Community Services and others through individualised funding as required.
- (3) At least one new additional accommodation place has been identified for young people leaving the care of the Department of Community Services in 2007/08.

The needs and location of support for young people leaving the care of the Department of Community Service are assessed on a case by case basis.

- (4) The "Helping Young People in Residential Aged Care Program Bilateral Agreement" a bilateral agreement between the State and Commonwealth Government, includes an investment of \$81.2 million over five years to assist younger people with a disability living in – or at risk of entering, residential aged care.

All people under 50 years residing in a nursing home have been invited to complete an application for assessment.

As of 29 May 2007, six applications for assessment have been received from the Mid North Coast local planning area.

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care are currently reviewing all applications.

- (5) A regional model has been established and tendered in the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care's Northern Region of New South Wales.

The needs and location of support for people exiting the criminal justice system are assessed on a case by case basis.

\*0148 ASBESTOS DISPOSAL—TUNCURRY WASTE DEPOT—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Have there been any notifications of asbestos being wrongly handled and disposed of at the Tuncurry Waste Depot?
- (2) If so, what were these notifications?
- (3) If so, what was done in connection with such notifications?
- (4) If so, what enquiries were undertaken by WorkCover or any other relevant agency to determine who was responsible for such disposal?
- (5) Were any people spoken to concerning such disposal?
- (6) If so, who were those people?
- (7) Were any persons or corporations warned, cautioned or fined for such activity?
- (8) If so, who were those persons or corporations and what type of penalty did they attract?
- (9) If a breach of an Act occurred and no penalty was imposed, why wasn't any penalty incurred?
- (10) When was the last time WorkCover or other such relevant authority visited the Tuncurry Waste Depot to inspect the disposal of asbestos?

Answer—

Two notifications were received by WorkCover concerning the disposal of asbestos at Tuncurry Waste Depot. The original complaint was from a Union on behalf of a member and the second from the member direct.

After receiving these complaints, WorkCover inspectors attended the Tuncurry Waste Depot and carried out investigations on 13 September 2006 and 3 January 2007 respectively. WorkCover discussed the matter with representatives of management and staff of the Waste Depot.

There was no evidence found of illegal dumping or of incorrect handling of asbestos at the site and no warnings, cautions or fines were issued in this regard. However, one improvement notice was issued on 18 September 2006 related to improving the systems of work in place at Tuncurry Waste Depot in the event any asbestos is dumped at the Depot and this was subsequently complied with.

WorkCover inspectors again visited the Tuncurry Waste Depot on 30 April 2007 in relation to concerns from the same complainant about the Depot's occupational health and safety consultation process. An improvement notice was issued relating to the documentation of the consultation process and training for the OHS Officer and this has also been complied with.

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(Paper No. 5)

\*0149 RURAL LAND STUDIES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) How many councils in the Sydney Basin and the Central Coast region have completed rural land studies?
- (2) What councils have done so?
- (3) Have these studies been effective in identifying land to be set aside for agricultural production?
- (4) Have these studies resulted in land being permanently zoned for agricultural production?
- (5) If so, can the Minister give examples?

Answer—

(1) I am advised that individual rural lands strategies have been prepared by 8 councils in the Sydney Region and Central Coast.

(2) I am advised that Individual rural lands strategies have been prepared by:

- Hawkesbury - Hawkesbury Sustainable Agriculture Development Strategy 1998
- Penrith - Rural Lands Study 2001 and Rural Lands Strategy 2003
- Baulkham Hills - Rural Lands Study 2001 and Rural Lands Strategy 2003
- Hornsby - Rural Lands Study 1995
- Wollondilly - Agricultural Lands Study 1994
- Liverpool - Rural Lands Study 1994
- Gosford - Report of the Rural Lands Study Steering Committee 1999
- Wyong - Wyong Valleys Planning Strategy 1998

In addition a joint Rural Resource Lands Study was completed in 2006 involving Gosford, Hawkesbury, Baulkham Hills, Hornsby, Penrith, Campbelltown and Wollondilly councils. The Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils and the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils have also been addressing rural lands issues through the 'Mapping Macarthur's Future' process and the FutureWest project.

(3) These studies usually aim to address the broader issue of rural land-use planning in the metropolitan area, and at times this has included identifying land to be used for the purposes of agricultural production.

(4) I am advised that these studies have resulted in land being zoned for agricultural use.

(5) The strategies prepared by Wollondilly, Liverpool, Hornsby and Hawkesbury councils are examples which resulted in the updating of the planning controls to protect productive agricultural land and environmentally sensitive land.

\*0150 BUS SERVICES—WILLOUGHBY ELECTORATE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to bus services in the Willoughby electorate:

- (1) What is planned in relation to the many services cut in September 2006?
- (2) What is intended in response to ongoing concerns with lack of reliability of services during peak hour along Penshurst Street and Willoughby Road?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Service adjustments made in September 2006 were initiated by State Transit in order to provide a level of service commensurate with current passenger demand.
- (2) A number of additional morning peak trips have been provided to commence from both Laurel Street and Mowbray Road to mitigate delays resulting from traffic congestion in the area.

State Transit is currently working with the Roads and Traffic Authority and Local Council to introduce bus priority measures to improve the reliability of services in the electorate.

\*0151 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the Royal North Shore Hospital redevelopment:

- (1) Will you confirm that the hydrotherapy pool will be retained on the hospital site?

- (2) If not, where will it be relocated?
- (3) When will the hydrotherapy pool be ready for use?
- (4) What advice is given to patients at the hospital requiring hydrotherapy services?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) I am assured that the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service is committed to the continuing provision of hydrotherapy services in the local lower North Shore area.

(4) The hydrotherapy pool at Royal North Shore Hospital is currently in use. No final decision has been taken in relation to the location of these services following the redevelopment of Royal North Shore Hospital.

\*0152 CHATSWOOD TOWERS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to the three towers to be built above the railway line at Chatswood:

- (1) When will construction commence?
- (2) When will construction be completed?
- (3) What action will be taken to deal with associated traffic issues and other associated infrastructure concerns?
- (4) Will much needed capital funding be provided to both Chatswood Primary School and Chatswood High School given that many new families to that area will be relying on those services?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I refer the Member to my answer to a similar question asked in 2006 – '0839 Proposed Towers - Chatswood'.

(3) Details of the conditions of consent for the project are available from the Department of Planning's website.

(4) Questions relating to school funding do not fall within my portfolio areas.

\*0153 MS ROSALIND AUSTIN—MEDICAL HISTORY—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How did supposed false claims about Ms Rosalind Austin's medical treatment history come to appear in the RTA referral to HealthQuest dated 17 April 2003?
- (2) (a) Had HealthQuest detected the supposed false claim that Ms Austin had seen a neurologist previously when it issued its advice on 17 June 2003?  
(b) If not, why not?
- (3) Will the RTA review and communicate the findings of the investigation into Ms Austin's workplace harassment complaints, dated 24 February 2003, by management consultant Helen Colbey, to whom the RTA was asked to forward its HealthQuest referral on 2 June 2003, together with the medical advice it had received that she should be examined by a neurologist?
- (4) Will the RTA and HealthQuest apologise to Ms Austin, her mother and her brother for the pain and suffering their actions, or inactions, as the case may be, has caused them?
- (5) Will the Minister order a review of public service protocols to provide for the detection of inappropriate to HealthQuest issued by government employers?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority referred Ms Rosalind Austin to HealthQuest for assessment of her fitness for duty in April 2003. An attachment to that referral was mistakenly referred to as a neurologist's report rather than a radiologist's report. The RTA regrets the error.

\*0154 BERMAGUI COUNTRY CLUB—CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Will the Treasurer explain why correspondence sent to his office on 14 March this year regarding Bermagui Country Club has not yet been responded to?
- (2) On reviewing that correspondence, can the Treasurer outline what steps he'll be taking?
- (3) Can the Treasurer detail why it is necessary for a club or pub experiencing hardship to essentially be



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bankrupt before Government assistance is forthcoming?

- (4) Given the difficulties many clubs and pubs across regional NSW appear to be having in paying their Gaming Machine Tax, what is the Treasurer doing to ensure the future of these businesses and the jobs and support they offer their local communities?

Answer—

I'm advised:

(1) and (2) The response to Mr Constance's representation on behalf of the Bermagui Country Club was signed by the Commissioner of State Revenue on 20 June 2007.

(3) Any taxpayer who can demonstrate difficulty in meeting their current liabilities can discuss alternate payment arrangements with the Office of State Revenue.

(4) The gaming machine tax rate in registered clubs has been reduced. Registered clubs currently earning greater than \$200,000 but not more than \$1,000,000 in gaming machine profits pay a gaming machine tax rate of 10%. These clubs will no longer be liable for gaming machine tax, effective from 1 September 2007.

The rate of gaming machine tax payable by registered clubs for all amounts earned greater than \$1 million will also be reduced effective from 1 September 2007.

There will also be a continuation of the GST rebate on the first \$200,000 of club gaming tax revenue.

\*0155 EUROBODALLA PALLIATIVE CARE SUPPORT PROGRAM—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Is the Minister aware of concerns that the Eurobodalla Palliative Care Support Program will close as at 1 July?

(2) Can the Minister outline where negotiations are at concerning the future of the service?

(3) Will the Health Department be maintaining the service beyond 1 July?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The South East New South Wales Division of General Practice and the Greater Southern Area Health Service are working together to continue the provision of an integrated Palliative Care service, making best use of the resources of both organisations.

(3) Greater Southern Area Health Service will maintain the 24 hour palliative care phone service.

\*0156 OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICES—EUROBODALLA—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health—

(1) What are the results of a review undertaken by Greater Southern Area Health Service into ophthalmology services in the Eurobodalla?

(2) What action will be taken in light of that review?

(3) With three weeks left on his contract to provide ophthalmology services to the Far South Coast, is the Minister aware of the concerns of Doctor Phil Larkin regarding his negotiations with the Health Service?

Answer—

(1) I am advised that the Review is currently being finalised.

(2) It would be inappropriate for me to comment prior to the finalisation of the Review.

(3) I am advised that Dr Larkin's current contract has been extended to the 31 December 2007.

\*0157 STATUTORY REVIEW OF ACT—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Given that Section 110 of the Electricity Supply Act required a statutory review of the Act to be tabled in each House of Parliament by the end of 2006:

(1) Has the review now been completed?

(2) When will the review be tabled in each House of Parliament?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Review has been tabled.

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\*0158 CLEAN ENERGY ROUNDTABLE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the Clean Energy Roundtable:

- (1) Which individuals represent which organisations or businesses on the Clean Energy Roundtable?
- (2) Where was the inaugural meeting held on 29 May 2007?
- (3) What funds and staff are allocated to supporting the Clean Energy Roundtable?
- (4) How often will the Clean Energy Roundtable meet and where will it meet?
- (5) Given more public debate and greater public awareness of the principles of clean energy would be in the public interest, why has the Clean Energy Roundtable been established as a "confidential forum" [Legislative Council Hansard, 29 May 2007]?

Answer—

- (1) Mark O'Neill - Executive Director, Australian Coal Association  
Colin Bloomfield - President, BHP Billiton/Illawarra Coal  
Bob Cameron - Managing Director, Centennial Coal  
Tony Maher - General President, CFMEU  
Peter Murray - General Secretary, CFMEU  
Lorraine Usher - State Secretary, NSW Energy District, CFMEU - Mining and Energy  
Dr Peter Cook - Chief Executive, CO2CRC  
Dr Jim Smitham - Deputy Chief Executive, CSIRO  
Jim Henness - Chief Executive, Delta Electricity  
Bernie Riordan - Secretary, Electrical Trades Union  
Peter Jackson - Managing Director, Eraring Energy  
Travers Duncan - Managing Director, Felix Resources  
Grant Every-Burns - Managing Director, Macquarie Generation  
Mark Duffy - Director-General, NSW Department of Water and Energy  
Leisl Baumgartner - Deputy Director-General, NSW Department of Water and Energy  
Barry Buffier - Director-General, NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Alan Coutts - Deputy Director-General, NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Brad Mullard - Director, Coal & Petroleum Development, NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Dr Nikki Williams - Chief Executive Officer, NSW Minerals Council
- (2) The inaugural meeting was held at the Jubilee Room, Parliament House.
- (3) There are no funds or staff specifically allocated to the Clean Energy Roundtable. Funding and staff support are provided from within the existing resources of the NSW Department of Primary Industries.
- (4) The Clean Energy Roundtable has met once with a second meeting planned for August this year at which point a decision will be made on the need for further meetings.
- (5) The meeting was 'informal, but confidential' to allow participants to express freely their views and issues, which could have included information of a commercially sensitive nature.

\*0159 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (MAJOR PROJECTS) 2005 (AMENDMENT NO 16)—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the public exhibition draft of State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005 (Amendment No 16):

- (1) Has the Minister received any representation concerning the need for Schedule 1, clause 24 of the proposed amendment, that would allow the Minister for Planning to approve a facility for the generation of electricity under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 if it:
  - (a) has a capital investment value of more than \$30 million, or
  - (b) has a capital investment value of more than \$5 million and is located in an environmentally sensitive area of State significance?

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- (2) If so, who made the representation, and when was the representation made?
- (3) Are there plans to develop a facility for the generation of electricity under Schedule 1, clause 24 of the proposed amendment?
- (4) If so, where is the site of the proposed development, and is the site within an environmentally sensitive area?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I have been advised that no such representation has been made.

(3) and (4) This is a public exhibition draft of State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005 (Amendment No 16) which must be evaluated and considered under the criteria for public consultation and due process. Any further information on this matter should be sought from the Minister for Planning.

\*0160 CAR PARKING—SHOALHAVEN DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health—

What plans are being prepared to improve the problems of car parking at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service has engaged an independent consultant to review car parking facilities at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital and to explore options for expanding car parking spaces at the hospital.

The Area Health Service and Shoalhaven City Council are also currently exploring alternatives to improve car parking in the hospital's vicinity.

\*0161 CULBURRA PUBLIC SCHOOL—CAR PARK—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What plans are being undertaken to proceed with the sealing of Culburra Public School's car park?

Answer—

As part of the NSW Labor Government's Building Better Schools program \$2 billion will be spent over the next four years delivering the largest public education and training capital works program ever undertaken in NSW.

The NSW Labor Government has a proud record of investing in educational facilities with expenditure of over \$4.8 billion allocated in State Budgets since 1995 on school and TAFE improvements.

In the 2007-08 budget we're funding over \$530 million in capital works to construct and redevelop school facilities and to carry out major enhancements of information and communication technology in schools.

A project to upgrade the car park at Culburra Public School has been nominated for funding consideration in a future Minor Capital Works Program.

\*0162 BURLEY GRIFFIN WAY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Has any investigation been undertaken to construct a bypass around the village of Binalong on the Burley Griffin Way?
- (2) If so, what is the status of this proposal or investigation and has a time frame been set for the work to commence?
- (3) What work has been undertaken to minimise the effect of traffic noise from heavy vehicles, including B-Doubles, on the residents of Binalong?

Answer—

I am advised:

Preliminary investigations into options for a bypass of Binalong have been carried out by the RTA.

Recent work included the application of asphalt concrete material to improve two right angle bends at Binalong. This material will reduce the road noise of vehicles at these locations.

In March 2007 the \$12 million Bowning Deviation on the Burley Griffin Way was opened to traffic, creating an important link between Griffith and the Hume Highway near Bowning, west of Yass. The project will deliver significant benefits to the region and the State's economy.

\*0163 WATER RESTRICTIONS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) What are the details of the mandatory Level Four water restrictions that you have forecast will be introduced on water utilities in the Murray Darling Basin?
- (2) Why, to date, has no consultation about these restrictions been carried out with water utilities in the Murray Darling Basin?
- (3) Will these restrictions be implemented by imposing the same restrictions on every water user or by providing water utilities with a specific allocation so they can take into account local conditions and needs?

Answer—

- (1) The management of town water supplies, including the imposition of water restrictions, is the responsibility of the relevant local water utility. The Government has written to local water utilities in the Murray-Murrumbidgee requesting they implement consistent level four water restrictions, similar to the restrictions to be introduced in Victoria and South Australia from 1 July 2007. The suggested restrictions are:

Residential, commercial and public gardens and lawns, and sporting grounds – no watering with town water at any time, by any means. Watering is only allowable with non-town water (greywater or rainwater).

Paving, concrete and other hard surfaces – hosing banned except for construction purposes or in emergency; or for health or safety hazard.

Vehicles – vehicles may only be washed for health and safety reasons, in which case the windows and lights must be washed and rinsed by means of a bucket, filled directly from the tap (not by hose). Commercial car washes which use water from a source other than the water utility's reticulated water system can be used.

Residential and commercial pools and spas – cannot be filled, added to or replaced without prior written approval. Topping up is by bucket only.

- (2) A series of information sessions with local government and key stakeholder representatives were held in the Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys to develop contingency plans to deal with the critical water shortage. Regional stakeholder groups have also been formed, which include local government representation from the Murray and Murrumbidgee Regional Organisation of Councils.
- (3) Town water supplies have the highest priority of all access licences. All water utilities supplied by regulated river systems will be treated in the same manner. Those on unregulated streams will be given access commensurate with local conditions at the time.

Governments have agreed to implement these restrictions during critical water shortages to maximise water for industries to maintain regional economies. As soon as water availability improves, it is proposed that level four restrictions would be relaxed.

\*0165 CORRESPONDENCE—IAN THOMPSON—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the reason for long delays in answers to constituent correspondence eg. Mr Ian Thompson of Hornsby who for a second time waited 6-9 months for a reply to a question about the inadequacies of the rail system?

Answer—

I am advised:

A response has been sent to Mr Thompson. I am not aware of any outstanding correspondence for Mr Ian Thompson.

\*0166 HERITAGE ZONES—HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) (a) How many sites in the Hornsby Shire Council area are tagged to become heritage zones?
- (b) Where are they?
- (2) How many of these are currently being considered by the Minister?
- (3) When will these decisions be made?

Answer—

- (1) (a) I am advised by the Department of Planning that Hornsby Shire Council has identified four (4)

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draft Heritage Conservation Areas.

(b) The four draft areas proposed by Hornsby Shire Council are named as;

- East Epping Heritage Conservation Area;
- Sussex Street (Epping) Heritage Conservation Area;
- Mount Errington (Hornsby West Side) Heritage Conservation Area; and
- Rosebank Avenue (Epping) Heritage Conservation Area.

(2) and (3) I am not currently considering any of the draft plans for Council's proposed four Heritage Conservation Areas.

\*0167 BASKETBALL COURT—ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

When will the basketball court at Asquith Boys High School (mentioned many times as cracked and dangerous) be moved to a more appropriate site on the school grounds?

Answer—

Minor repairs to the surface of the basketball court were carried out in early 2006 to alleviate trip hazards.

A Department of Education and Training officer will meet with the Principal at the school to review the proposed relocation of the basketball court and determine whether the project will be nominated for consideration in a future minor capital works program.

\*0168 BARWON LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

With respect to police numbers in the Barwon Local Area Command:

- (1) Why have police numbers in the Barwon Local Area Command not been filled?
- (2) Has this led to industrial action within the Local Area Command?
- (3) What action is the department taking to rectify the situation?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Barwon Local Area Command currently has four vacant positions due to unexpected staff absences. Recruitment action is underway to fill these positions.
- (2) and (3) In relation to Barwon Local Area Command, the Commander decided to change recall procedures in the event of unexpected staff absences, the matter was appropriately mediated and resolved at a local level.

\*0169 DESALINATION PLANT SITE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Has work recently been carried out to determine whether there is any contamination on the site of the proposed desalination plant?
- (2) If so:
  - (a) What organisation carried out this work?
  - (b) What has been the cost of this work?
  - (c) When will the results of this work be made public?

Answer—

- (1) Environmental investigations have been undertaken.
- (2) (a) GHD and Coffey Geosciences.
- (b) Around \$350,000.
- (c) The environmental assessment findings are publicly available.

\*0170 CORRESPONDENCE—VARIOUS ISSUES—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the Minister reply to the following nine items of correspondence forwarded to her by me:

- (1) Mr and Mrs Corbett's concern of the resumption of land for the Hume Highway upgrade (dated

- 31/1/2007 and 16/5/2007);
- (2) Rev-Arena Go-Karts Driver Education Awareness Programme (dated 27/11/2006 and 16/5/2007);
  - (3) The Mother's Bridge in Railway Street in Wagga Wagga (dated 15/9/2006, 15/11/2006, 7/2/2007 and 16/5/2007);
  - (4) RTA staffing levels (dated 13/2/2007 and 16/5/2007);
  - (5) Regional Roads Timber Bridge Replacement Programme on behalf of Tumut Shire Council (dated 15/2/2007 and 16/5/2007);
  - (6) Timber Bridges Programme on behalf of Wagga Wagga City Council (dated 5/12/2006 and 16/5/2007);
  - (7) Mr Sam Nelson's drivers licence (dated 11/1/2007 and 16/5/2007);
  - (8) Mr Charles Manning's concerns regarding the use of B-double trailers (dated 20/2/2007 and 17/5/2007);
  - (9) Mr David Crowweller's concerns regarding learner drivers (dated 10/11/2006 and 18/5/2007)?

Answer—

I am advised a reply has been sent.

- \*0171 NORTH WEST RAIL LINK—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the present position concerning the construction of the North West Rail Link?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding the North West Rail Link can be found at [www.tidc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tidc.nsw.gov.au)

- \*0172 24/7 BUS LANE INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

How many infringement notices have been issued in respect of offences relating to the use of 24/7 bus lanes by motorists on Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills during the following periods:

- (a) January to December 2005;
- (b) January to December 2006;
- (c) January to May 2007?

Answer—

I'm advised

- (a) From 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005, there have been 102 infringement notices issued for the offence "Drive in a Bus Lane" on Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills.
- (b) From 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006, there have been 10 infringement notices issued for the offence "Drive in a Bus Lane" on Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills.
- (c) From 1 January 2007 to 31 May 2007, there have been 23 infringement notices issued for the offence "Drive in a Bus Lane" on Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills.

- \*0173 RED LIGHT CAMERA—BAULKHAM HILLS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

How many infringement notices have been issued for offences relating to the red light camera at the intersection of Windsor Road, Old Northern Road and Seven Hills Road at Baulkham Hills during the following periods:

- (a) January to December 2005;
- (b) January to December 2006;
- (c) January to May 2007?

Answer—

I'm advised

From 1 January 2005 to 31 May 2007, there have been 2,083 infringement notices issued for offences relating to the red light camera at the intersection of Windsor Road, Old Northern Road and Seven Hills Road at Baulkham Hills.

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\*0175 INNER CITY RENT INCREASES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

Noting reports from constituents and in the media about rent increases being applied across the inner city, and at least one group of 11 tenants taking an excessive rent complaint to the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal:

- (1) What evidence is there about the effectiveness of the excessive rent provisions of Residential Tenancies legislation?
- (2) What assessment has the Government made of Tenants' Union proposals for reform to provide better measures of "fair rent"?
- (3) Will the Government limit rent increases so that tenants can expect only one every 12 months?
- (4) What action will the Government take to prevent evictions occurring solely for the purposes of increasing rents, given current legislation does not require a reason for eviction?
- (5) Will the Government introduce long term leases in order to give tenants security of housing, as proposed in the 2005 Office of Fair Trading options paper?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

- (1) There are a relatively low number of applications to the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal from tenants challenging rent increases when compared with the number of properties in the rental market.
- (2) The Tenant's Union submission to the review of the residential tenancy laws was given due consideration.
- (3) This issue was examined during the review of the NSW residential tenancy laws. The outcomes of the review have yet to be determined.
- (4) This issue was examined during the review of the NSW residential tenancy laws. The outcome of the review has yet to be determined.
- (5) This issue was examined during the review of the NSW residential tenancy laws. The outcome of the review has yet to be determined.

\*0177 TRANSFERABLE HARBOUR AND ESTUARY LICENCE—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the efforts of Myer Berg to obtain a transferable harbour and estuary licence to enable him to carry on fishing charter business?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that one of his staff members, Jamie Gibson, told Mr Berg he would receive a transferable licence because the Minister didn't believe Mr Berg should be penalised as a result of the dioxin scare in the harbour?
- (3) If so, why is Mr Berg awaiting a transferable licence to be issued?
- (4) If not, why was Mr Berg misled?

Answer—

- (1) Yes, I am aware of Myer Berg's ongoing efforts to obtain a transferable charter fishing boat licence. Mr Berg has not been granted a transferable licence because he has failed to demonstrate the minimum level of industry participation required despite an investment warning prior to the industry being capped in 2000. Importantly however, Mr Berg's current licence does not impact on Mr Berg's ability to continue his day to day charter fishing business activities in any way.
- (2) I am advised that Mr Berg has in his dealings with my office, been abusive, aggressive and threatened various members of my staff on several occasions.
- (3) A decision regarding the future status of non-transferable licences potentially impacts the value of all NSW charter fishing boat licences, therefore, I requested input from my Marine and Estuarine Recreational Charter Management Advisory Committee before making a final decision regarding this matter. The Committee's views are currently under consideration and a final decision will be made in the near future. Mr Berg, as well as the other 33 non-transferable charter fishing boat licence holders in NSW, will be advised of the outcome at that time.
- (4) N/A.

\*0178 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Is the RTA 2007 noise and vibration report for the proposed Pacific Highway Banora Point upgrade at Sexton Hill complete?
- (2) (a) If yes, will it be released to the public?  
(b) If yes, on what date will it be released to the public?
- (3) (a) If not, on what date will the report be completed?  
(b) If not, will the report be released to the public upon completion?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority is presently undertaking a noise and vibration assessment for the upgrade as part of an environmental assessment of the preferred option for the Banora Point upgrade.

This noise and vibration assessment will be made available to the public for comment as part of the environmental assessment display for the preferred option.

**\*0179 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—**Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Has there been a recent detailed traffic count conducted, since 2001, for the Pacific Highway Banora Point Upgrade at Sexton Hill?  
(a) If not, why not?  
(b) (i) If yes, are the figures publicly available?  
(ii) If not, why not?  
(c) (i) If yes, will the Minister make these figures publicly available?  
(ii) If yes, on what date?
- (2) Will the Minister conduct a detailed traffic count for the Pacific Highway Banora Point Upgrade at Sexton Hill?  
(a) If not, why not?  
(b) If yes, on what date?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has undertaken detailed traffic counts and is preparing a traffic assessment as part of the environmental assessment.

In addition, further traffic information about the nature of public transport, pedestrian and cyclist movements will be gathered as part of the environmental assessment.

Traffic studies will be made available to the public for comment as part of the environmental assessment display for the preferred option.

**\*0180 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—**Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Has the RTA carried out a detailed Tweed economic impact study on the effect of the proposed preferred option for the Pacific Highway Banora Point upgrade in context with the Cross Border Transport Taskforce Discussion Paper's Future Challenges, in particular Aligning Transport Services with Population Growth in regards to:  
(a) the RTA preferred option;  
(b) the community option C;  
(c) Kirkwood Road interchange as per community option C?
- (2) Will the RTA carry out such a study?
- (3) If yes, on what date?
- (4) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Cross Border Transport Taskforce Discussion Paper will be considered in the context of the recently released Director-General's requirements for environmental assessment of the Banora Point upgrade,



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issued by the Department of Planning. Further information on the requirements can be found on the Department of Planning's website at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au).

These requirements require the Roads and Traffic Authority to assess the local community socio-economic impacts associated with landuse, property and amenity related changes as well as business impacts, on a case by case basis.

The information will be made publicly available as part of the display of the environmental assessment.

**\*0181 REMEDIATION OF HOMEBUSH BAY**—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) When did the Government first learn of the change in World Health Organisation (WHO) standards for dioxin limits in fish?
- (2) What steps did the NSW Government take to warn people of the health risk after it became aware of the WHO standards changing?
- (3) When is the remediation of Homebush Bay scheduled to be completed?

Answer—

Questions (1) and (2) relating to dioxin levels detected in fish should be directed to my colleague, the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, who has portfolio responsibility for the NSW Food Authority and the Department of Primary Industries.

The remediation of Homebush Bay including both the dry land and the bay sediments is expected to be completed by late 2008 to early 2009.

**\*0182 REMEDIATION OF HOMEBUSH BAY**—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Will the Government's remediation of Homebush Bay result in a resumption of commercial fishing in Sydney Harbour?

Answer—

Any decision on whether or not to reopen Port Jackson to commercial fishing in the future would depend on an assessment of dioxin levels in fish tissue following the completion of remediation work.

**\*0183 REMEDIATION OF KENDALL BAY**—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) When will work start on the remediation of Kendall Bay?
- (2) Who will pay for the clean-up?
- (3) When is it expected the work will be completed?
- (4) How much is the work expected to cost?

Answer—

The "polluter-pays" principle enshrined in the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997, requires that polluters take responsibility for the clean up of contaminated land.

I am advised that the responsible party has not yet nominated a commencement date for the remediation of Kendall Bay. However, the Department of Environment and Climate Change has advised that the remediation works are expected to commence by mid to late 2008.

Alinta AGL, as the identified polluter, is responsible for the clean up. The total remediation costs will not be known until the extent and methodology for the remediation of the Inlet and Bay is known.

It has proven necessary to carefully evaluate which areas of the Bay should be remediated, to ensure sediments near the shore are not disturbed. This evaluation has included a review of sediment characteristics, wave and tidal patterns, and of current and future usage of the Bays. All necessary steps have been taken to ensure public safety while the investigation is completed.

I am advised that no date is yet available for completion of the clean up. However, experience on similar projects suggests that the remediation can be completed approximately 12 months after the commencement of the work.

**\*0184 SPEED CAMERA REVENUE**—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

What is the amount of revenue raised from the speed camera located at Centennial Road, Lane Cove, by month for the years:

- (a) January 2000 to December 2006 inclusive; and
- (b) January 2007 to June 2007 inclusive?

Answer—

I'm advised by the Office of State Revenue that the Infringement Management Processing System (IMPS) commenced in September 2002. Data prior to September 2002 is managed by NSW Police.

No revenue has been raised, the face dollar value of penalty notices issued in relation to the speed camera located at Centennial Avenue, Lane Cove for:

- the period 1 September 2002 to 31 December 2002 was \$277,716
- the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 was \$1,454,191
- the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004 was \$981,251
- the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005 was \$494,116
- the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006 was \$570,860
- the period 1 January 2007 to 13 June 2007 was \$242,724

\*0185 LANE COVE TUNNEL—SPEEDING FINES—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) How many infringement notices were issued to motorists for speeding in the Lane Cove Tunnel for the period commencing at the introduction of the monitoring of speed in the tunnel for the purpose of enforcing the limit until 30 May 2006?
- (2) What amount of revenue was raised from these fines?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Lane Cove Tunnel opened in March 2007.

\*0186 T3 LANE INFRINGEMENTS—VICTORIA ROAD—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

How many infringement notices were issued to motorists travelling illegally in the T3 lane along Victorian Road between Gladesville Bridge and Anzac Bridge for the months July 2006 to May 2007 inclusive?

Answer—

I'm advised

From 1 July 2006 to 31 May 2007 inclusive, there have been 729 infringement notices issued to motorists travelling illegally in the T3 lane along Victoria Road between Gladesville Bridge and Anzac Bridge.

\*0187 HARBOURSIDE POLICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the full authorised strength of Harbourside Police?
- (2) What is the actual strength on 30 May 2007?

Answer—

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

\*0188 DIALYSIS PATIENTS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many patients requiring dialysis are taken to treatment by taxpayer-funded taxis in each of the Area Health Services over the past year and how much money has been spent doing so?

Answer—

I am advised:

The information sought is not routinely collected and to answer the question would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department from the exercise of its core functions.

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\*0189 DIGITALISED VOICE ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is being done to address the concerns expressed to the Minister and staff of RailCorp through many letters and emails about extremely loud digitalised voice announcements made up to 21 hours daily as trains pull into Waverton, Wollstonecraft and other stations?

Answer—

I am advised:

In January 2007, RailCorp conducted noise measurement on trains, platforms and near complainants' homes.

The results of noise monitoring are currently being assessed.

Given the safety and operational complexities involved, ongoing investigation is required for feasible options for the management and mitigation of the issues raised.

RailCorp will continue to communicate on a regular basis with residents in Waverton and Wollstonecraft areas regarding their concerns about digitalised voice announcements.

\*0190 EPPING STATION AND ASSOCIATED WORKS—Mr Greg Smith asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to Epping station and associated works:

- (1) What studies of the footpaths on Blaxland Road, Beecroft Road, Epping Road, Bridge Street and High Street, in the precinct of Epping Station, have the TIDC conducted?
- (2) What is the measurement of the widest and most narrow parts of each of these footpaths in the precinct of Epping Station?
- (3) What studies have been undertaken to assess the suitability of these footpaths for motorised scooters, electric and non-electric wheelchairs, prams and bicycles?
- (4) Are any upgrade works on the footpaths aforementioned planned?
- (5) If upgrade works on the footpaths aforementioned are planned, which ones?
- (6) If upgrade works on the footpaths aforementioned are planned, what will they be?
- (7) If upgrade works on the footpaths aforementioned are planned, when are they scheduled to commence?
- (8) If upgrade works on the footpaths aforementioned are planned, when are they scheduled to be completed?
- (9) With the installation of pedestrian traffic lights on Blaxland Road, have traffic studies been undertaken, and if so, what impact have they found the installation and phasing of pedestrian traffic lights will have on motor traffic on Blaxland and Epping Roads?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (9) Information on Epping Station can be found at [www.tidc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tidc.nsw.gov.au)

\*0191 DRUG COURT—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In relation to the Drug Court of NSW:

- (1) Since the inception of the Drug Court of NSW in 1999 how many people have undertaken the drug court program?
- (2) Of those who have participated in the program how many have not graduated?
- (3) How many participants in the drug court program who have not graduated re-offended?
- (4) How many graduates of the drug court program have re-offended?

Answer—

The Attorney General has provided the following advice from the Attorney General's Department:

(1) and (2) The term graduate is used in different contexts. It is unclear precisely what the member is referring to. However, as at 31 December 2006 1380 offenders had commenced Drug Court programs and 1164 had completed their programs and received a final sentence.

(3) and (4) Comprehensive international studies of evidence-based programs have shown that specialised drug courts achieve, on average, a 10.7 per cent reduction in the recidivism rate of participants.

This is supported by 2002 evaluation of the Drug Court undertaken by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR). The key finding of that evaluation was that the Drug Court was 'more cost effective than imprisonment in reducing the number of drug offences and equally cost effective in delaying the onset of further offending'. BOCSAR will this year undertake further evaluation of the program.

\*0192 MONA VALE ROAD—UPGRADING AND WIDENING—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the Minister commit to funding an Environmental Impact Statement for the upgrading and widening of Mona Vale Road between Foley Street and Terrey Hills?

Answer—

I am advised:

Mona Vale Road has been progressively upgraded to provide dual carriageway in stages to address road safety issues and improve traffic flow.

Completed upgrading works on the eastern end of Mona Vale road include:

- widening the curve west of the Baha'i Temple and installation of a raised median;
- construction of a new intersection and traffic signals at Powder Works Road and a new entry to the Baha'i Temple and future school;
- a new signalised intersection at Manor and Lane Cove Roads; and
- a four lane divided road between Powder Works Road and Manor Road, Ingleside.

Preliminary planning has been undertaken to upgrade at the eastern end between Manor Road, Ingleside and Foley Street, Mona Vale, to provide four lanes and a climbing lane.

\*0193 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (SENIORS LIVING)—PROPOSED AMENDMENT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Why, under the proposed amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Seniors Living), will the exemptions from the SEPP's provisions applying to seven local council areas lapse?

Answer—

It is proposed that the exemptions will lapse within 12 months of the commencement of the SEPP amendment, unless the councils concerned can demonstrate that there is adequate provision in their local environmental plans to supply housing for seniors or people with a disability to be provided in their locality.

\*0194 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (SENIORS LIVING)—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

How does the State Environmental Planning Policy (Seniors Living) contribute to Urban Consolidation policy?

Answer—

The aim of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Seniors Living) is to encourage the provision of housing (including residential care facilities) that will:

- increase the supply and diversity of residences that meet the needs of seniors and people with a disability;
- make efficient use of existing infrastructure and services; and
- be of good design.

\*0195 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STAFF—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

For the years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006:

- (1) How many Full-time equivalent (FTE) staff were employed by the Department of Education and Training?
- (2) Of these staff, how many were:
  - (a) Teachers (schools);
  - (b) Educational Support (schools);

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- (c) Educational Support (State and district/regional offices);
- (d) DET Corporate Services (core and non-core);
- (e) Educational Support (TAFE);
- (f) Teachers (TAFE);
- (g) AMES and NAS?

Answer—

Information about Department of Education and Training staffing is published each year in the Department's Annual report.

The Department changed its method of reporting its staff full-time equivalent from 2003 to reflect the NSW Public Sector Workforce Profile data. This means that since 2003, in the Department's Annual Report, all casual and temporary employees are reported.

\*0196 "SEAGULL" INTERSECTION—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

With regard to the "seagull" intersection of the Pacific Highway at Bellwood shops (Nambucca):

- (1) How much did this intersection cost?
- (2) Were there any developer contributions to it?

Answer—

I am advised:

The intersection of the Pacific Highway and Bellwood Road was constructed in conjunction with Riverside Drive (main access to Nambucca Heads) to improve road safety.

The intersection was constructed in 2001 at a cost of approximately \$1 million.

There were no developer contributions.

\*0197 CROWN LAND DEVELOPMENT—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) Under any agreement with local government, what areas of Crown land has it been agreed could be developed or have the status as Crown land altered to allow development?
- (2) Under any completed agreement to have any Crown land developed or altered in such agreement, what is the value that the Department of Lands and/or the Government will receive for such arrangements?
- (3) What is the value, if any, that any council who has such developed, or proposed to be developed, Crown land in their council area will receive under such arrangement?
- (4) Who are each and every developer or other party to such development or change of use of such Crown land?
- (5) What was the consideration paid in each instance by any developer or other party to develop or change the use of such Crown land?
- (6) (a) Where development has been proposed or change of use has been proposed, has the local council consented to the development or is consent to be issued through the Department of Planning?  
(b) What are the details of each such individual parcel?

Answer—

Crown land in New South Wales totals some 12.7 million hectares. It comprises state parks, public reserves, caravan parks, coastal beaches, rural waterways and land allocated for a variety of business and community purposes. The Department of Lands, as steward of the Crown estate, is dedicated to optimising environmental, economic and social outcomes for the benefit of the people of New South Wales. Crown land development projects are as diverse as establishing a residential housing estate at Collina, near Griffith, a marina and associated tourist facilities at Batemans Bay or an eco-tourism resort at Kingscliff. Each project is unique and subject to different development criteria and parameters. Suffice to say that each project undergoes extensive planning and consultation with the community, local Government and other relevant government agencies, as necessary.

\*0198 TUNCURRY WASTE DEPOT—INSPECTION—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Has WorkCover or such other relevant organisation inspected plant at Tuncurry Waste Depot?

- (2) If so, when and what plant?
- (3) Who owned the plant?
- (4) What did the inspection reveal?
- (5) If the inspection revealed a breach of any law, what action did WorkCover or such other relevant authority take in relation to such breach?
- (6) If such an inspection has occurred, did the officers satisfy themselves that the plant on site was operated and supervised by the appropriate people?
- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) Were any persons or corporations warned, cautioned or fined for any breaches of any Acts concerning the plant or operation or supervision of the plant at the depot?
- (9) If so, who were those persons or corporations and what type of penalty did they attract?
- (10) If there was found to be a breach of any Act and no penalty was imposed, why was no penalty imposed?
- (11) When was the last time WorkCover or such other authority visited the Tuncurry Waste Depot to inspect plant at the depot?

Answer—

WorkCover received two notifications regarding the operation of plant at the Tuncurry Waste Depot, both of which were lodged by the same person.

WorkCover attended the site on 13 September 2006 and 3 January 2007 respectively and conducted extensive investigations.

On both occasions, WorkCover investigated the operating procedures and maintenance records of a 980 Cat Loader, Bale Press and tyre change machine. The 980 Cat Loader and tyre change machine were owned by Great Lakes Community Resources Inc and the Bale Press owned by Great Lakes Council.

Neither investigation revealed any major workplace safety risks or deficiencies, however some areas for improvement were identified. WorkCover subsequently issued two Improvement Notices following its visit of 13 September 2006 and three Improvement Notices following its visit of 3 January 2007. These notices related primarily to risk assessment and plant maintenance issues. Specific allegations by the complainant regarding certification, supervision and site induction proved unfounded.

All notices have since been complied with and WorkCover is satisfied that the site is being operated in accordance with current workplace safety legislation. WorkCover has not been required to return to the site for any plant related issues since 3 January 2007.

\*0199 ANTHONY HEAPY—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Was Anthony Heapy killed in an accident at Tuncurry Waste Depot in 2004?
- (2) If so, was an inquest held into his death?
- (3) If no inquest was held, was Mr Heapy supposed to be supervised whilst undertaking his work at the depot?
- (4) If so, why was an inquest not held to determine exactly the cause and method of death?

Answer—

I am advised that the Coroner dispensed with the holding of a formal inquest into the death of Anthony Heapy. This decision was made after carefully considering the advice provided by NSW Police and the WorkCover Authority as to the manner and cause of Mr Heapy's death.

\*0200 SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the future of the School Dental Service in view of the reduction in mobile vans and the closure of a number of school dental services?
- (2) If the School Dental Service is to be phased out what are the reasons?
- (3) What will be done to ensure children continue to have access to free dental care, especially in low socio-economic areas that have no dentists?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Issues related to mobile dental vans and children's dental services were discussed at the Upper House Inquiry into Dental Services. Responses were provided by NSW Health and are available on the NSW Parliament web site at: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/PARLMENT/Committee.nsf0/E7BEDC88D5811798CA256BB90004893F>

(3) Children who require public dental services are prioritised for care through the NSW Priority Oral

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Health Program, ensuring priority is given to those with the most urgent conditions.

NSW Health employs Dental Therapists to provide comprehensive dental care to children. Dental Therapists are employed in Public Dental Clinics throughout NSW, including low socio-economic areas.

NSW Health also promotes the prevention of dental disease through their Early Childhood Oral Health Program that targets children aged 0-5.

\*0201 PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What responsibility does NSW Health have in providing public health facilities and staffing in NSW?
- (2) What are the current facilities provided for the training of:
  - (a) Dental Nurses;
  - (b) Dental Assistants;
  - (c) Dental Prosthetists;
  - (d) Dental Hygienists;
  - (e) Oral Health Graduates?
- (3) How many of each of the above professionals are trained annually?
- (4) What is the current vacancy numbers for nurses assistants and prosthetists in the public dental system?
- (5) What provisions are being made to fill the current vacancies for dental therapists and future vacancy for oral health graduates in the public health system?
- (6) How many school dental services are there in operation in NSW and what is the level of staffing at these facilities?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) I refer you to Section 9 of the Health Services Act 1997.
- (2) (a) NSW does not have dental nurses.  
 (b) Technical and Further Education NSW (TAFE NSW) and Open Training and Education Network (OTEN TAFE NSW).  
 (c) TAFE NSW.  
 (d) University of Sydney and University of Newcastle.  
 (e) University of Sydney and University of Newcastle.
- (3) (a) NSW does not have dental nurses.  
 (b) Dental Assistants – 453  
 (c) Dental Prosthetists – 24  
 (d) Dental Hygienists – 66  
 (e) Oral Health Graduates – 66
- (4) This varies within NSW Area Health Services from month to month and year to year. Current vacancies advertised can be found at the HealthJobs website.
- (5) In NSW, a recruitment campaign is currently being planned for later in 2007 to fill existing vacancies statewide as well as the new positions created by the substantial funding enhancement to child dental services of \$4M announced in the 2007-08 NSW State Budget.
- (6) NSW does not currently operate a school-based dental service along the same lines as other jurisdictions such as South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia. There is strong evidence that because of the change in distribution of dental disease that the traditional "school-based" dental programs are no longer an effective and efficient means of targeting dental prevention and services to children and adolescents.

Child and adult services are integrated wherever possible in NSW to assist in the development of contemporary professional relationships between the dental team, including dentists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, oral health therapists, dental technicians and dental assistants. The shift from school-based clinics to multidisciplinary community clinics is being made for a variety of reasons, including issues of informed consent when treating a child at school without a parent present and opportunities for chair side oral health education are missed if a parent is not present for their child's treatment. NSW Health also seeks to encourage family-based oral health services as dental disease is a condition that affects families.

All preschool-aged children and full-time students less than 18 years of age are eligible for free public oral health care in NSW and can be prioritised for care through the NSW Priority Oral Health Program. This ensures that children with the most urgent conditions are seen in the shortest timeframe.

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**\*0202 AUSTRALIAN VACCINATION NETWORK**—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Has the group called the Australian Vaccination Network (AVN) expressed concerns about the regulations that require the compulsory vaccination of health workers in New South Wales?
- (2) Does this requirement relate to all health workers in all facets of health care under the authority of the NSW Health Department?
- (3) Is this regulation designed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases to patients and other health workers?
- (4) Is there any record of a disease being spread by an unvaccinated health worker to a patient, health worker or other person in:
  - (a) New South Wales;
  - (b) Australia;
  - (c) elsewhere?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The policy relates to health workers who have direct patient contact.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Yes. Transmission of vaccine preventable diseases in healthcare settings has the potential to cause serious illness and avoidable deaths in patients and other users of the health system, and to impact on outbreaks beyond the healthcare facility doors. Further, it increases the cost of health service delivery and is a significant occupational health and safety (OH&S) issue.

There is substantial evidence both in New South Wales, Australia and other countries throughout the world of transmission of diseases including measles, varicella (chickenpox), hepatitis B and pertussis (whooping cough) from patients to health workers and from health workers to vulnerable infants and other patient groups.

**\*0203 PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY**—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In view of the safety risks faced by pedestrians on the Mulwala Canal Bridge what progress has been made by the RTA in developing a pedestrian walkway?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Mulwala Canal Bridge is vested in Corowa Shire Council and leased to Murray Irrigation.

Council can submit a proposal to the RTA for the funding and construction of a pedestrian walkway over the Mulwala Canal under the RTA's 50:50 cycleway program.

**\*0205 FIRE SERVICES IN PRIVATE FORESTS**—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Are companies involved in private timber plantations obliged to provide their local rural fire service with fire plans, maps, access trails and water points?
- (2) If not, how are fire services co-ordinated in private forest areas?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.



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\*0206 ABORIGINAL CHILDREN'S SERVICE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Following the decision to not review the service agreement with the Aboriginal Children's Service Ltd what organisation will provide Aboriginal families with a community out-of-home care program from 30 June 2007?
- (2) Will any replacement service be available in the same locations and with the same cultural considerations?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Each of the children, young persons and their carers has been reviewed and individual case plans were developed to meet the children and young persons' needs. These are the basis for ongoing work by NSW Department of Community Services caseworkers who will provide support for carers and organise the range of services required by the children to address their health, educational and other outstanding issues and their cultural needs.

\*0207 PATIENT RECORDS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Are patient records maintained at public hospitals?
- (2) Where mental health facilities are co-located with public hospitals are patient records available to authorised staff in the accident and emergency department in relation to prior admissions?
- (3) If records are available why were carers advised otherwise at Albury Base Hospital in relation to the examination of a patient who had been admitted to Nolan House on several prior occasions?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Patient records are maintained at Public Hospitals in NSW (including Albury Base Hospital) in accordance with NSW Health Policy Directive 2005\_015 and NSW Health Policy Directive 2005\_004.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The specific occasion mentioned in the question involving the carer is unable to be investigated without further details of the carer or patient.

\*0208 "OBVIOUS OVERSIGHT"—DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

With respect to the statement on 10 November 2004 by Brian Graham, a senior licensing officer in the Department of Natural Resources, to solicitor John Clarke, that the department had made an "obvious oversight" at the expense of Peter Mercieca and Laura McHarg, what specific action will the department take to correct the oversight?

Answer—

This question falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water.

\*0209 WATER PUMP RELOCATION—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Did Mr Irving of Willow View north of Bega, in July 2006 receive written confirmation from the Department of Natural Resources that he would have to relocate his pump site, because he would no longer be able to construct a legal sand wall in the river to maximise pumping because the wall was having an impact on the passage of endangered native fish?
- (2) To which species does the sand wall pose a risk?
- (3) On what scientific basis did the department base this decision?
- (4) Given that Mr Irving has been operating his pump for the last 13 years on a site approved by the department, and now at their request has to move to an alternative site, what financial assistance might be available to help Mr Irving offset the \$140,000 cost of the relocation?

Answer—

This question falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water.

\*0210 PROPOSED LEGISLATION—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Given on 25 July 2006 the Minister for Energy announced that by October 2006 "people battling to pay their electricity and gas bills will be given more time to pay" because "tough new measures to be introduced by the State Government meant electricity and gas providers would have to consider customers' financial circumstances":

- (1) Has this legislation been introduced, and if not, has the bill been drafted and when will it be introduced into Parliament?
- (2) Has the Government incorporated the recommendations of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre into a draft bill, and if so, which recommendations have been incorporated?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Amendment to legislation is not required.

Amendments to the Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2001 and Gas Supply (Natural Gas Retail Competition) Regulation 2001 were finalised after extensive consultation.

The consultation period was extended to ensure stakeholders such as the Public Interest Advocacy Centre had an adequate opportunity to provide input to the proposed Regulation, and comments from all stakeholders were taken into account.

The amended Regulation commenced on 1 July 2007.

\*0211 GOVERNMENT-OWNED ENERGY BUSINESSES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the privatisation of Government-owned energy businesses:

- (1) On 12 March 2007 did the Premier write a letter to the United Services Union saying:  
"The privatisation of the State Government-owned energy companies is not on the agenda. In fact, the NSW Government's commitment to this sector is stronger than ever with record investment in new and upgraded electricity infrastructure."
- (2) Did the former Minister for Energy receive any briefing or report discussing any proposal to privatise any energy assets before 12 March 2007?
- (3) Has the current or former Minister received any briefing or report discussing any proposal to privatise any energy assets since 12 March 2007?

Answer—

- (1) This is a matter for the Premier.
- (2) and (3) The Minister for Energy receives suggestions and comments from stakeholders and private sector participants in the electricity industry regarding privatisation of energy assets.

\*0212 ETHANOL-BLENDED FUEL—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to the introduction of a 2% ethanol mandate:

- (1) Will the Government be introducing legislation mandating 2% ethanol, and if so when?
- (2) What evidence will fuel suppliers be required to provide to the Government to prove 2% of the total volume of petrol sold is ethanol?
- (3) Will any assistance be made available to assist existing petrol stations to convert infrastructure to allow the sale of ethanol-blended fuel, and if so, what assistance will be made available?
- (4) Will any marketing campaign be introduced to encourage motorists to purchase ethanol-blended fuel, and if so, what are the details of the marketing campaign?
- (5) Since February 2007 what meetings of the Government's E10 Taskforce have been convened, where did the meetings take place, and who attended the meetings?
- (6) What issues has the E10 Taskforce identified in achieving 10% ethanol by 2011?
- (7) Has the E10 Taskforce produced a report, and if so, when will the report be released?

Answer—

- (1) The Minister for the Climate Change, Environment and Water introduced the Biofuel (Ethanol Content) Bill 2007 into Parliament on 20 June 2007. The Bill was agreed in-principle by the Legislative Assembly on 26 June and passed by the Legislative Council on 27 June. It is currently awaiting the Governor's assent.

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- (2) The requirements are set out in Clauses 7-8 of the Biofuel (Ethanol Content) Bill 2007.
- (3) Financial assistance for retail petrol stations to install or convert infrastructure for the purposes of supplying ethanol-blended petrol (E10) is currently available from the Federal Government's Ethanol Distribution Program. Under the Program, the work must be completed between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007. The NSW Government has called on the Federal Government to extend the program beyond this date.
- (4) The Government will work with the industry and motoring groups to provide information regarding the new legislation and to promote the broader use of ethanol throughout the community. All major wholesalers have indicated that they are progressing with a roll-out of ethanol blended product at their outlets.
- (5) There have been four meetings of the E10 Taskforce since it was established by the Premier in September 2006. Two meetings have been held to date in 2007. The meetings were held either in Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney or in Bligh House, 4-6 Bligh Street, Sydney.

The Taskforce members are:

- Dr Col Gellatly (Chair);
- Dr John Keniry, Chair Ridley Corporation;
- Dr Brian Fisher, Agricultural Economist;
- Dr Paul Martin, Director, Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law, UNE;
- Mr Alan Evans, President of the NRMA; and
- Mr Tony Windsor MP, Federal Member for New England.

The meetings were supported by a Reference Group comprised of Chief Executives of the following Government agencies or their representatives:

- NSW Department of State and Regional Development; NSW Department of Primary Industries;
- NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change;
- NSW Department of Commerce;
- Department of Premier and Cabinet; and
- NSW Treasury.

(6) As required by its terms of reference, the E10 Taskforce is considering a wide range of matters, including technical, economic, environmental, health, marketing, policy, legal and transitional issues. The Premier's media release dated 14 February 2007 also indicated that the Taskforce will be providing advice to the Government on whether sufficient production capacity is present within NSW to support further staged progress towards a 10 per cent mandate by 2011, amongst other issues.

(7) The Taskforce is due to provide a Final Report to the Premier later this year.

\*0213 RURAL LANDS PROTECTION BOARD RATING REVIEW—Mr Thomas George asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the Rural Lands Protection Board Rating Review currently being conducted:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that Rural Lands Protection Boards have a monopoly on the use of 1080 poison?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that landowners who own 4 hectares or more of land have to pay for the Rural Lands Protection Board to lay 1080 poison on their land?
- (3) Is the Minister further aware that landowners who own less than 4 hectares of land do not have to pay for the same service?
- (4) Will the Minister consider reviewing these rate regulations to make the payment system more equitable for all landowners, regardless of whether the land is used for livestock purposes or not?

Answer—

(1) Rural Lands Protection Boards do not have a monopoly on the use of 1080 poison. Distribution of poison baits to landholders and the circumstances in which poison baits can be used are heavily regulated for safety reasons.

(2) and (3) While Rural Lands Protection Boards may prepare poisoned baits, those who use poison baits are responsible for laying the baits and abiding by the conditions of use. Rural Lands Protection Boards rates fund a range of services but this does not include laying baits on a landholder's property.

(4) The Hon Richard Bull is currently reviewing the Rural Lands Protection Board rating system.

\*0215 CLINICAL SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) On what dates have the Clinical Services Review Committee, which is considering the split of services between Mona Vale Hospital and the proposed Northern Beaches Hospital, met?  
 (2) What services are currently being proposed by the committee for each of the hospitals?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Chief Executive of Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service advises me that there is no committee of this name.

\*0216 MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What were the staffing levels/positions in the Rehabilitation/Aged Care services at Manly Hospital, as at 1 May in 2000, 2003 and 2007?

Answer—

Total positions in Full Time Equivalent figures for the Rehabilitation and Aged Care Services at Manly Hospital as at May 1 on the stated years are:

- 2001 - 38 FTE
- 2003 - 44.5 FTE
- 2007 - 46.7 FTE

\*0217 MANLY HOSPITAL CREDITORS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What are the names, amounts and length of time unpaid, of all creditors of Manly Hospital as at (a) 31 December 2006 and (b) 30 May 2007?

Answer—

I am advised that management of creditor payments is maintained at an Area Health Service, not an individual hospital, level.

I am also advised that creditor payments at both dates are within NSW Department of Health benchmarks.

\*0218 BUS MAINTENANCE—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How much money has been spent on maintenance of buses at Brookvale Depot in each of the last five years?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Transit reports on bus maintenance as required in its annual report.

\*0219 AGE OF BUSES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the (a) range of ages; and (b) average age, of buses at Brookvale Depot?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) and (b) Information on State Transit's bus fleet is available on the State Transit website, [www.sta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0220 CANCELLED BUS SERVICES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many bus services were cancelled on the Northern Beaches between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Transit reports on service reliability as required in its annual report.

\*0221 CLOSURE OF BUS STOPS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What rules are applicable to the closure of bus stops in Sydney?

Answer—

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I am advised:

Local Councils and the Roads and Traffic Authority have responsibility for the placement or removal of bus stops.

\*0222 DEE WHY POLICE STATION—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Has the Minister or the police force received requests from the Northern Beaches Local Area Command seeking repairs to the Dee Why Police Station?
- (2) If so, what repairs were requested, and when?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

There have been a number of minor building works completed at Dee Why police station in the past six months, for a total cost of approximately \$35,300.

These works have ranged from lighting checks and tap repairs to the installation of a new CCTV system and the recently completed annual maintenance of the station.

\*0223 NARRABEEN LAKES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What plans are there for conservation of land around Narrabeen Lakes?

Answer—

Approximately 970 hectares of the catchment of Narrabeen Lakes is already protected as part of Garigal National Park, and managed by the Department of Environment and Climate Change. A further five hectares is protected within the privately-owned Wheeler Creek Conservation Area, which is also managed under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

The Minister for Lands created the 469-hectare Oxford Falls Crown Reserve in August 2006. The Department of Environment and Climate Change is working with the Department of Lands and Warringah Council to establish conservation management arrangements for the Reserve, so that it will complement management of the adjoining national park.

\*0224 GRENFELL MEN'S SHED—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why has the Grenfell Men's Shed, which offers a supportive environment for isolated rural males, been unable to obtain a regular visit from a NSW Mental Health worker despite their representations to you on 31 January 2007?
- (2) Why is there no support for this valuable mental health initiative in a small rural community suffering significantly from the ongoing drought?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Grenfell Health Service attempts to maximise its health resources for the benefits of as many individuals and groups in its local community as possible.

An agreement has been reached for community health staff at Grenfell and specialist community mental health staff from Orange to provide services to Grenfell Men's Shed.

This followed discussions between members of the Men's Shed and local health staff as to the most appropriate gender of health worker to support the men at the shed in view of previously expressed concerns about the lack of male health workers available.

The Men's Shed will continue to be appropriately supported by the local health team.

In future, questions relating to mental health ought to be directed to the Minister assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health).

\*0225 PUBLIC DENTAL WAITING LISTS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many patients are waiting for public dental treatment in:
  - (a) Crookwell;
  - (b) Grenfell;
  - (c) Cowra;
  - (d) Boorowa;

- (e) Young;
  - (f) Cootamundra;
  - (g) Gundagai;
  - (h) Yass;
  - (i) Harden-Murrumburrah?
- (2) How many of these patients have been waiting for treatment for more than:
- (a) three months;
  - (b) six months?
- (3) In which of these locations are public dental clinics located?
- (4) Which of these public dental clinics have a permanent full time dentist working on staff?

Answer—

In the absence of a specific date or milestone period, it is not possible to provide accurate data due to ongoing changes in the waiting list. To ensure an accurate response, a date or milestone period must be nominated in the question.

\*0226 SOUTH MAROUBRA OUTREACH PROJECT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What is the reason that the Department of Community Services has ceased funding support for the South Maroubra Outreach Project forcing its closure on 9 June 2007?
- (2) What alternative arrangements has the department made to provide youth services for the 995 clients of the service including about 150 indigenous and about 250 culturally and linguistically diverse youths?
- (3) What is the reason for not immediately resuming funding for this important youth service?

Answer—

The Department of Community Services has not ceased its funding support to the South Maroubra Youth Outreach Project. The Department has provided \$87,000 for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

\*0228 SAFETY HOUSE PROGRAM—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Why was the closure of the safety house program not publicised to inform local residents of this decision?
- (2) What has been done to improve information about the status of the safety house program in NSW?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that an audit ongoing since 2004 into Safety House usage has revealed a decline from 152 active committees in 2001 to only 19 in 2006. There was no official use of a Safety House in 2005-06.

All existing Safety House members have been invited to join the new Community Safety Precinct Committees. They will be offered police training and the chance to become an accredited Volunteer in Policing.

The Community Safety Precinct Committees will use a new approach to child safety which teaches children how to protect themselves, identify safe places to go if they feel they're in danger and to pick up on warning signs in the event they're approached by child predators.

\*0229 ASQUITH GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL—KITCHEN UPGRADE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What date will the upgrade commence of the 1959 kitchens at Asquith Girls High School?
- (2) How much funding has been allocated to this work?

Answer—

The upgrade to the food technology building at Asquith Girls High School commenced on 9 May 2007 and the project is expected to be completed by mid August 2007. The Department of Education and Training has allocated \$450,000 to the project within its 2006/2007 Minor Capital Works Program.

\*0232 INFORMATION ON REBATES—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

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When will the Minister release requested information relating to rebates for the installation of rainwater tanks, solar hot water systems, conversion from electric to gas for hot water systems and the installation of energy efficient home insulation, and also proposed water restrictions?

Answer—

The residential rebates under the Climate Change Fund were available from 1 July 2007 for rainwater tanks plumbed into a toilet and/or washing machine. From 1 October 2007, rebates will be available to install energy efficient home insulation, and to convert from electric to an approved gas hot water system. After 1 January 2008, there will be rebates for an approved solar hot water system.

Detailed information on each of the rebates will be available on the Department of Environment and Climate Change's website [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au). Applicants will also be able to contact a hotline to receive information.

Letters detailing suggested level four restrictions have been sent to local water utilities in the Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys.

\*0233 WIND POWER—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Given the Spanish Government's March announcement that wind power generation provides for 27 per cent of Spain's energy requirement, exceeding power generated by nuclear and coal:

- (1) What assessment has the Government carried out on the amount of electricity demand in NSW that could be met by wind power?
- (2) What are the findings of the assessment?
- (3) What initiatives is the Government taking to encourage and expand wind power generation in NSW?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The National Electricity Market Management Company has recently carried out extensive research into the amount of electricity that can be provided by intermittent power sources such as wind.

(3) The NSW Renewable Energy Target, which is proposed to commence operation on 1 January 2008, set renewable energy targets for NSW of 10% by 2010 and 15% by 2020, which require all electricity retailers in NSW to purchase a certain amount of renewable energy. NSW wind generators will have the opportunity to contribute to the targets.

\*0234 HOUSING STRESS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

Noting that 88,000 of the estimated 156,000 NSW households in "housing stress" are in Sydney, and continuing reports about steep rent increases across the inner city:

- (1) What action has the Government taken to assess falling housing affordability in the inner city and to increase low cost housing in the inner city?
- (2) Will the Government extend the pilot Key Worker Project to provide low cost housing for lower income working families in the inner city?
- (3) Will the Government expand the Rentstart Scheme to help low and moderate income renters?
- (4) Will the Government expand the Special Assistance Subsidy Scheme to help low and moderate income renters?
- (5) Will the Minister for Housing liaise with the Treasurer to consider land tax exemptions for owners of low income rental properties in inner Sydney?
- (6) Will the NSW Government lobby the Commonwealth Government for a coordinated Commonwealth-State-Territory approach to improving housing affordability and investing in low cost accommodation?

Answer—

(1) The Government, through the Metropolitan Strategy, has identified the importance of affordable housing and is developing a number of approaches to address affordability in specific locations.

The Government has taken the following steps to provide affordable housing in the inner city area:

- The City West Housing Company was established in 1994 to develop and manage affordable housing in the Ultimo/Pymont area;
- In 1995 the Ultimo and Pymont Affordable Housing Scheme was established;
- The Affordable Housing Scheme was established in Green Square in 1998; and

- The Redfern Waterloo Contributions Plan was developed in 2006. It enables the Minister for Planning when granting consent to development to impose a condition of consent requiring the payment of an affordable housing contribution for the provision or refurbishment of affordable housing in the Redfern Waterloo Authority's Operational Area.

To date, some 365 units in the City West and 16 units in the Green Square area have been provided.

In addition, on 20 March 2007, the Government announced the following new affordable housing initiatives:

- The creation of a \$49.8 million Affordable Housing Innovations Fund;
- The development of a long-term leasing program for Department of Housing stock that is managed by community housing providers; and
- The introduction of legislation to recognise and regulate the community housing sector.

It is anticipated that a portion of the affordable housing development from these initiatives will be located in the inner ring of Sydney.

(2) Yes. The NSW Government will continue its efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing for low to moderate income households meeting the needs of key workers.

(3) In March 2007, the Iemma Government announced it would spend \$109 million on a Rentstart Program over four years to help hardworking families into the private rental market, through a bond payment and two weeks rent.

The Department of Housing has recently introduced a sub-product of Rentstart called Rentstart Move. This product provides bond assistance to moderate income renters who are leaving public housing due to ineligibility for a further lease at the end of a fixed term lease.

(4) No expansion of the Special Assistance Subsidy is currently planned.

(5) Yes. As part of the Framework for National Action on Affordable Housing, the department is working with governments nationally to consider mechanisms and policy initiatives that will deliver increased affordable home ownership and rental opportunities for low-moderate income households.

(6) Yes.

**\*0235 SUSTAINABLE CITIES NATIONAL ACTION PLAN—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—**

With regard to the Sustainable Cities National Action Plan developed by the Centre for International Economics and adopted by the Australian Local Government Association:

- (1) What assessment has the State Government made of the plan?
- (2) To what extent will the State Government endorse the plan?
- (3) To what extent is the State Government prepared to work with Local and Federal Governments on urban development issues for Sydney?
- (4) What approaches has the State Government made, and what approaches does the State Government plan to make, to the Federal Government to ask for involvement, assistance and financial support for:
  - (a) sustainable transport networks and infrastructure, particularly public transport, in Sydney;
  - (b) sustainable water and stormwater management, including recycling, in Sydney;
  - (c) industrial and domestic waste minimisation in Sydney;
  - (d) energy efficiency and renewable energy for Sydney?
- (5) To what extent does the State Government consider climate change as part of urban development policy development?

Answer—

(1) to (5) I am advised that the Sustainable Communities – A National Action Plan for Urban Australia initiative (which incorporates the Sustainable Cities National Action Plan developed by the Centre for International Economics) is to be considered by the Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council. NSW will consider the Plan in preparation for its consideration by the Ministerial Council, and those elements to be endorsed by the Government will be discussed at this time. To date, the Commonwealth Government, which would be responsible under the Plan for providing most of the direct funding sourced from government, has not indicated its support for the Plan.

The NSW Government supports the vision of fair, prosperous and sustainable urban communities consistent with the proposed National Action Plan, and is pursuing a range of initiatives, with Local and Federal Governments where appropriate, which will contribute to sustainable development in urban areas.



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On 20 November 2006 the Premier released the NSW Government's Urban Transport Statement, which recognises that sustainable transport initiatives are essential to developing equitable, accessible and economically viable cities. The NSW Government is committed to continued engagement with the Commonwealth, including through COAG, to secure a national response to urban transport issues.

In June 2006 NSW proposed Recycling in Western Sydney as a project for funding under the Australian Government Water Fund. This project comprises Sydney Water's Replacement Flows Project, to recycle water treated at sewage treatment plants, and Camellia Recycled Water Project, to provide recycled water to industrial and open space users. The Commonwealth has not yet determined the application. Notwithstanding the Commonwealth's lack of a decision on funding, the NSW Government is moving on the development of these two projects. On 25 June 2007 the Premier announced the preferred tenderer for the Replacement Flows Project, and two consortia have been short-listed for the Camellia project.

The work of the national Environment Protection and Heritage Council, involving all jurisdictions, includes a focus on waste, particularly on product stewardship. Work is funded jointly by all jurisdictions and has the capacity to contribute to a reduction in industrial and domestic waste in Sydney.

The NSW Government has been leading the national agenda on global warming in key areas such as emissions trading and mandated targets for renewable energy use. The Government recently announced a comprehensive package of initiatives to combat climate change, and will establish a \$310 million Climate Change Fund, which includes a \$40 million renewable energy fund to promote the next generation of renewable technologies. On 27 June 2007 the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water introduced into Parliament the Renewable Energy (New South Wales) Bill 2007. This Bill establishes renewable energy targets for electricity consumed in New South Wales, and requires that 10 per cent of end use consumption by 2010, and 15 per cent by 2020, will have to be supplied from renewable energy sources. The NSW Government has funded the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Project which will assist local councils to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

Additionally, NSW administers two national programs, the National Australian Built Environment Ratings scheme and the GreenPower scheme, which deliver energy efficiency or renewable energy outcomes. The NSW Government will continue to work with the Federal Government and other States, through the National Framework for Energy Efficiency, to develop and implement other initiatives for energy efficiency best delivered at the national level.

The Government has recently released comprehensive long term planning strategies, principally the Metropolitan Strategy (City of Cities, A Plan for Sydney's Future) and the Regional Strategies, to provide a framework for strategic planning by State and Local Governments. All Strategies recognise climate change as a challenge for the future planning of growth areas and provide guidance on promoting sustainable development. Regional Strategies, in particular, address climate change adaptation. The Metropolitan Strategy and the Regional Strategies support recent changes to building standards and the introduction of BASIX across the State to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

\*0236 CROWN LAND—PORT MACQUARIE—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) In light of Port Macquarie-Hastings councillors voting on 29 May to keep the Crown land adjacent to the Port Marina site as Open Public Space zoning, can the Minister outline the impacts this will have on the expression of interest process currently underway within the Department of Lands for the same site?
- (2) Will this vote of 29 May assist in selecting a preferred expression of interest by allowing the Department of Lands to reject any submission that requires a rezoning against the wishes of the local councillors?
- (3) If the Department of Lands preferred expression of interest requires a rezoning, can the decision by the Port Macquarie-Hastings councillors of 29 May be overruled, or is this vote binding on the Department of Lands?

Answer—

The expression of interest process for Crown land at Port Macquarie was initiated following endorsement by the Port Macquarie Hastings Council at its meeting of 18 December 2006. The Department of Lands, having only recently become aware of Council's latest decision, is still assessing the implications of this resolution. The Minister for Lands undertakes to inform Mr Oakeshott when the implications of Council's decision have been fully assessed.

\*0237 PLAN OF MANAGEMENT—PORT MACQUARIE LAND—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) Did the Department of Lands prepare a Plan of Management for the Expression of Interest (EOI) Port Macquarie land adjacent to the marina prior to the EOI process proceeding?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide a copy?
- (3) If a Plan of Management was not prepared for this land, how was the EOI process legally entered into?
- (4) Was the Combined Community Expression of Interest not short-listed in the EOI process because there was no financial reward for the Department of Lands contained in that submission?
- (5) What consultation with the community has taken place so far and what is planned for the future?
- (6) As a Department of Lands spokesperson, in an article in the Port Macquarie News of 30 April 2007, made a statement that the community would be involved in the process at the Development Application stage, why is there no provision for greater community engagement prior to this point?
- (7) After a Department of Lands spokesperson indicated the preferred tenure was for a lease agreement:
  - (a) Why does the EOI ask proponents to indicate their preferred option and lists a series of options, one of which is to purchase the land?
  - (b) Is the department considering the option of sale of the land?
- (8) As the Port Marina site has been under lease to the Department of Lands for some 20 years:
  - (a) Where have monies generated from this lease arrangement been applied?
  - (b) What is the approximate amount of income generated from that site for the past 20 years?

Answer—

(1) and (2) No.

(3) The expression of interest process was considered the most appropriate legitimate method to assess future options for this land. There is no requirement to undertake a plan of management prior to calling for expressions of interest.

(4) No. In this regard, the Department of Lands held confidential discussions with all expression of interest proponents, including the Combined Community Expression of Interest, under the scrutiny of an independent probity advisor.

(5) and (6) While there has been no community-wide consultation to date, it should be noted that the expression of interest process was developed in consultation with Port Macquarie Hastings Council and The Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce. The Department of Lands is currently working through the agreed process, which requires site concept plans to be presented to the community and other interested agencies before final plans are submitted for approval.

(7) The expression of interest document clearly states that departmental policy favours retention of foreshore land in public ownership. The opportunity presented sought to bring innovative concepts to the site and to integrate those concepts with substantial foreshore improvement works. Accordingly, all initiatives would be considered. However, the assessment panel would need to carefully consider the foreshore policy in making its deliberations.

(8) (a) Rent from the Port Marina lease is deposited in the Consolidated Fund.

(b) Over the last 20 years, the amount of rent paid from the various tenures totals approximately \$1.25 million.

\*0238 PERSONALISED NUMBER PLATES—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How much revenue is raised per annum by the annual fee system for personalised number plates in NSW?
- (2) How does the Government spend this revenue?

Answer—

I am advised:

The sale of personalised and personalised plus number plates generates around \$20 million each year.

All revenue from the sale of number plates goes to fund road safety programs and road construction and maintenance initiatives that benefit all New South Wales road users.

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\*0239 PROPOSED DAM—ROCKY CREEK—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to the planned development of a dam at Rocky Creek:

- (1) When did the Government become aware of the discovery of the threatened species located in the dam area proposed by the Federal Government?
- (2) On what date will the collected information be made available to the public?
- (3) Will there be an environmental management plan?
  - (a) If yes, what involvement will the local community have with the development of the plan?
  - (b) If not, why not?
  - (c) If yes, what is the time frame, including key dates, for this plan?
- (4) Who are the local consultants and what are the initial budgets for the research that is currently being undertaken?

Answer—

Mr Provest has referred to a proposed dam at Rocky Creek. If he refers to the existing Rocky Creek Dam north of Lismore in the Richmond Catchment, it should be noted that DECC is not aware of any Commonwealth Government proposals to upgrade this dam. If Mr Provest is referring to the Commonwealth Government proposal for a dam at Rocky Cutting on the Oxley River, the answers are as follows:

The record of the endangered Red-fruited Ebony (*Diospyros mabacea*) was formally confirmed in August 2006. The record of this species has been submitted and should soon be publicly available on the Department of Environment and Climate Change's Wildlife Atlas.

I am advised that the Commonwealth Government has not yet taken a decision as to whether the dam will be constructed. Accordingly, no decision has been made regarding an environmental management plan.

It is not clear which consultants and budgets Mr Provest is referring to in his question. However, the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority has provided \$60,000 for planning and works involving a range of threatened plant species.

\*0240 PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL—POTTSVILLE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to the meeting that has been called with Department of Education staff to discuss the planning process for a high school in Pottsville and the subsequent investigation that will be conducted:

- (1) On what date will the investigation start?
- (2) What are the terms of reference for the investigation?
- (3) On what date will the investigation be completed and a report made public?
- (4) Who is the project manager responsible for the report?
- (5) What is the reason that the local State Member has not been informed nor invited to the meeting that has been called?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training does not have a plan to conduct an investigation into a new high school at Pottsville.

Kingscliff High School will continue to cater appropriately for Pottsville Beach Public School students.

The Department of Education and Training's position on secondary education facilities for Pottsville students has been clarified with representatives of the Pottsville Beach Public School Parents and Citizens' Association. The Department will continue to monitor demographics in the area.

\*0241 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway and the RTA's preferred option for the development of the Pacific Highway Banora Point upgrade, which directs all traffic flow advancing to the South Tweed commercial district and major shopping centre into Minjungbal Drive:

What alternatives will the RTA provide for motorists, given that the Lower Tweed Traffic Master Plan fails to address both the current traffic flow congestion in that street and also the intersection capacity problems at Minjungbal Drive and Machinery Drive?

Answer—

I am advised

The Pacific Highway, as the key AusLink route on the Sydney to Brisbane corridor, is being upgraded as part of the joint NSW and Federal Government program.

The completed Pacific Highway upgrade will mean 664 kilometres of continuous dual carriageway from the F3 Freeway near Hexham to the Queensland border.

Over the ten years to 2006 the NSW Labor government has spent \$1.66 billion dollars more than double the Federal Government's \$660 million. Under this \$2.3 billion upgrade program 47 projects have now opened to traffic.

The NSW Government will manage the next phase of the \$1.3 billion joint State/ Federal Pacific Highway upgrade AusLink.

More than \$447 million will be spent on projects to upgrade and improve the Pacific Highway in the 2007/08 financial year.

This includes \$404 million to continue construction and planning work on the highway upgrade. A further \$43.6 million will be spent on maintenance work for the highway.

The entire length of the Pacific Highway is now either completed, under construction or has a preferred route identified.

The Pacific Highway is one of the biggest projects ever undertaken in this country to ensure the smooth and timely construction of dual carriageway from the Hunter to Queensland, the Iemma Labor Government declared the Pacific Highway Upgrade critical infrastructure.

The Banora Point upgrade will provide a high standard 2.5 kilometre dual carriageway and will connect the completed Chinderah Bypass with the Tweed Heads bypass. The upgrade will significantly improve safety and relieve traffic congestion on this section of the Pacific Highway.

The preferred route for Banora Point was selected in September 2006 after careful consultation with the community.

As an interim safety improvement, the RTA is installing a median barrier between Terranora Road and Minjungbal Drive to prevent errant vehicles from crossing into oncoming traffic.

Traffic suggestions made by the local community and Tweed Shire Council have been incorporated into the design.

In 2005 and 2006 the NSW Government initiated two reviews of Option C – an alternate route nominated by community representatives which concluded that this Option was not preferred on engineering and financial grounds.

The NSW Government is getting on with the job of working cooperatively with the Federal Government to upgrade the Pacific Highway.

\*0242 DIALYSIS PATIENTS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

What is the policy regarding maximum distances which should be travelled per day by patients needing dialysis?

Answer—

The nature of the services provided to dialysis patients are based on the clinical and geographical considerations applicable to each individual.

\*0243 DIALYSIS PATIENTS—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

What provisions are made to assist people with limited financial resources access regularly required treatment such as dialysis, particularly where this involves expensive travel?

Answer—

I am advised that detailed information regarding the Transport for Health program, and the transport assistance options available, is accessible through the NSW Health web site at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/transport/](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/transport/). Alternatively, local Transport For Health IPTAAS Offices can provide more specific information in relation to services provided at a local level.

\*0244 CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

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When will the Clinical Service Plan for the new Northern Beaches Hospital be released for public comment?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Northern Beaches Health Services Plan is being considered by the Department of Health.

\*0245 CAULERPA TAXIFOLIA ERADICATION—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

How much money is the Government spending on projects to eradicate the outbreak of Caulerpa Taxifolia in Pittwater?

Answer—

The Climate Change, Environment and Water portfolio only administers marine conservation matters insofar as they relate to marine parks and aquatic reserves. No part of Pittwater is reserved as marine park or aquatic reserve.

This question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, who has responsibility for marine vegetation under the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

\*0246 INTERSECTION UPGRADE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What action is the Government taking to upgrade the intersection of Warringah Road and Wakehurst Parkway?

Answer—

I am advised:

The former Health Minister announced in March 2006 a site had been identified at Frenchs Forest for a new Northern Beaches Hospital.

Any road improvements required to support the development will be taken into account during the Department of Health process for the delivery of the hospital.

\*0247 POLICE RADAR MANUALS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to radar devices used by police on NSW roads:

- (1) Do police radar manuals require that cameras shut down when two or more vehicles are in the same radar beam and the difference in speed is more than 2 kph?
- (2) If so, can you guarantee that there is no opportunity for a vehicle travelling more than 2 kph lower than another vehicle in the same radar beam to be identified as travelling at the high speed?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me :

Vehicles that travel through the radar beam at the same time with a difference in speed between them of more than 2 kph are unable to be accurately measured in terms of speed. The equipment automatically declares the measurement as invalid.

If the instrument cannot determine the speed of two vehicles separately and thus cannot determine which vehicle is speeding, it invalidates the frame by placing the letters "FFF" in all segments of the display.

\*0248 FORSTER-TUNCURRY—PUBLIC ASSETS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) Was General Manager of the Department of Lands, Mr Graham Harding, quoted in a press article on 13 May 2007 as saying "We're getting into early planning work at Forster-Tuncurry There are considerable public assets on both sites"?
- (2) What is the location of these considerable public assets that the Department of Lands is looking at in Forster and Tuncurry?
- (3) What is it intended to do with the considerable public assets identified at Forster and Tuncurry?

- (4) Has the department or any person on behalf of the department had any discussions with any potential developers or other interested parties on the considerable public assets identified at Forster and Tuncurry?
- (5) If so, who are those developers or interested parties?
- (6) What public consultation, if any, has occurred in relation to the possible disposal of these considerable public assets at Forster and Tuncurry?
- (7) If there has been no public consultation, why not?
- (8) If it is intended that there be public consultation, when will it occur?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The public assets include port works and infrastructure, the bed of Cape Hawke Harbour and Crown lands generally in and around Forster -Tuncurry and foreshores.
- (3) In accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with Great Lakes Council, the Department of Lands proposes to prepare and implement a publicly supported sustainable Master Plan for these public lands.
- (4) and (5) No.
- (6) and (7) At this stage, preliminary planning has been limited to drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding and setting the boundaries of the area to be investigated. No purpose will be served by initiating a public consultation process at this stage.
- (8) Once concept plans have been prepared as part of the master planning process, the project will enter the community engagement phase, which provides for the concepts to be presented to the community for discussion and comment.

\*0249 JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENTS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) How many joint venture agreements have been entered into between the Department of Lands and local councils in New South Wales to look at the development or change of use of Crown land?
- (2) Which councils have signed such agreements?
- (3) Are councils required to contribute under these agreements to the process of looking at the development or change of use of Crown Land?
- (4) If so, how much has each council that has signed such agreements been required to pay under the agreement and who have they paid or are liable to pay such monies to?

Answer—

The Department of Lands has not entered into any joint venture agreements with local councils in New South Wales to look at the development or change of use of Crown Land.

\*0250 COUNTRYLINK SERVICES—Mr Russell Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What CountryLink bus services are available to residents of Mudgee and Gulgong?
- (2) How many of those services connect directly with the electric train that travels from Lithgow to Sydney?
- (3) Do residents of Mudgee and Gulgong have a direct bus link with Dubbo?
- (4) Of the CountryLink services from Gulgong or Mudgee to Lithgow, what are the average passenger numbers per service in both directions?
- (5) Is CountryLink proposing to increase its services from Gulgong/Mudgee to Lithgow?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) Information on CountryLink bus services can be found at [www.countrylink.info](http://www.countrylink.info)

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\*0251 FERRY MAINTENANCE SPENDING—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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What is the year-on-year maintenance spend for Sydney Ferries?

Answer—

I am advised:

Sydney Ferries reports on maintenance expenditure as required in its annual report.

- \*0253 MANLY SKIFF CLUB—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Small Business and Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

What is the status on lease negotiations between Manly Skiff Club and the NSW Maritime Authority in relation to the proposed rent hike of 5% of the club's gross revenue?

Answer—

Rental and lease terms have been agreed and a draft copy of the lease document is being prepared for the club's consideration.

- \*0254 MANLY VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What is the priority level of Manly Vale Public School's capital works application?

Answer—

I am advised that the Department of Education and Training confirms the priority levels for capital works applications.

The question should be redirected to my colleague the Minister for Education and Training.

- \*0255 TAFE ENROLMENTS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What are the enrolment figures for the Northern Beaches TAFE Campus over the past 10 years?

Answer—

The enrolment figures for TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute, Northern Beaches College over the past 10 years are:

1997 - 7,211  
1998 - 6,813  
1999 - 7,041  
2000 - 6,398  
2001 - 8,223  
2002 - 8,952  
2003 - 8,871  
2004 - 7,454  
2005 - 8,381  
2006 - 8,302

- \*0256 MANLY FERRY SERVICE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What are the year-to-date patronage figures of the Manly ferry service?

Answer—

I am advised:

Sydney Ferries reports on patronage figures as required in its annual report.

- \*0257 SEAFORTH TAFE DEVELOPMENT—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

What are the details of costings for Landcom's existing proposal for its development on the site of the old Seaforth TAFE?

Answer—

I am advised that Landcom is continuing to explore options for the future of this site with Manly Council and the Community Reference Group.

\*0258 SYDNEY WATER—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How much has Sydney Water spent on water pipe infrastructure in the Manly electorate over the last 4 years?
- (2) What are the spending plans on water pipe infrastructure in the Manly electorate for the next four years?

Answer—

- (1) Capital and maintenance expenditure in the Manly Local Government area over the last four years was over \$2.638 million.
- (2) Anticipated capital and maintenance expenditure in the Manly Local Government area for the next four years is \$2.610 million.

\*0259 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health—

What is the timeline for the construction of the new Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question on Notice No. 0069.

\*0260 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to Inter-Departmental Committees in the Department of Water and Energy and formerly the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability:

- (1) What Inter-Departmental Committees were formed by the Department since July 2004?
- (2) What was the actual expenditure for each Inter-Departmental Committee in each of the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06?
- (3) What was the budget for each Inter-Departmental Committee in the financial year 2006-07?
- (4) How many times did the Inter-Departmental Committees meet and what was the venue for each meeting?
- (5) What travel expenses were incurred by each committee in each of the financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, including but not limited to flights, accommodation and meal costs?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) Two inter-departmental committees have been formed since July 2004:

- Senior Officers Working Group on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme Transition Committee; and
- Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme Review Interdepartmental Committee

Both are convened on a needs basis, do not have individual budgets and do not incur expenditure or travel expenses.

\*0261 BARANGAROO SITE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the development of the Barangaroo site in East Darling Harbour:

- (1) Has the Office of Infrastructure Management or any other Treasury officer made an evaluation of the potential for light rail as part of the redevelopment of East Darling Harbour?
- (2) If so, what evaluation was made, what was the basis of the evaluation and who made the evaluation?

Answer—

I'm advised

The Minister for Planning approved a concept plan on 9 February 2007. Details are available from the Department of Planning's website.

\*0262 BUS ROUTE 380—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the 380 bus route:

- (1) What are the passenger patronage figures for the 380 bus route for the financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 to date?



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- (2) Has the Minister or State Transit received complaints regarding passenger confusion resulting from having three different terminating points for the 380 bus route (City Watson Bay) at North Bondi, Dover Heights and Watsons Bay?
- (3) Has the Minister or State Transit received complaints indicating 380 buses terminating at North Bondi have on occasion incorrectly displayed Watsons Bay as their destination?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) State Transit reports on patronage figures as required in its annual report.
- (2) Not that I am aware of.
- (3) State Transit reports on feedback as required in its annual report.

\*0263 YASS/ACT WATER PIPELINE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Was the Department of Water and the Environment involved in the negotiations between the Yass Valley Council and the ACT Government about connecting Yass to the ACT water supply?
- (2) Does the Department of Water and Energy agree with the conditions proposed by the ACT Government before they will approve the connection of Yass to the ACT water supply?
- (3) As these conditions are unacceptable to Yass Valley Council, will you make further representations to the ACT Government on behalf of council?
- (4) In light of the failed negotiations will you now as a matter of urgency commit to funding the \$12 million required to raise the wall of Yass Dam by 3 metres?

Answer—

The questions fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water Utilities.

\*0265 ABORIGINAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES LTD (ACS)—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How much funding has been allocated to ACS Ltd over the past 5 years?
- (2) How many foster children does ACS Ltd manage?
- (3) How many carers does ACS Ltd manage?
- (4) (a) Are there child protection/safety issues of concern to the Department of Community Services regarding children fostered by ACS?  
(b) If so how many?
- (5) How many staff do ACS Ltd employ over the four branches (Strawberry Hills, Wagga Wagga, St Mary's and Cowra)?
- (6) When was ACS Ltd last audited or reviewed?
- (7) What were the results of the audit/review?
- (8) What were the specific problems identified with the operation of ACS Ltd?
- (9) (a) Was there anything done or any advice provided by the department in order to rectify the problems?  
(b) If so, what was it and when did they provide it?
- (10) When was the first piece of correspondence sent to ACS Ltd regarding the department's decision to not support or offer a new service agreement to ACS Ltd?
- (11) (a) Was there a written response to this decision from ACS Ltd?  
(b) If so, what was the content of the response?
- (12) When will the current service agreement expire?
- (13) (a) What is the formal procedure the department must undertake in transferring the foster carers to another organisation or are they getting transferred to DoCs themselves?  
(b) If so, what effect will this transfer have on the carers?
- (14) (a) Do the specific carers need to be notified in writing about this decision?  
(b) If so, when was such correspondence sent?

Answer—

- (1) ACS Ltd received funding from three Commonwealth and State agencies: the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS). The NSW Department of Community Services provided more than \$3 million over the past five years for out-

of-home care services. Specific information on funding provided by the other funding agencies would be need to be sourced from them.

- (2) The number of foster children supervised by ACS Ltd at any given time varies.
- (3) Any specific information on the number of carers or workers employed by ACS Ltd would need to be sourced from ACS Ltd. The funding DoCS provides to organisations is for the care of children and young people and not for numbers of workers or carers.
- (4) (a) and (b) There was one external review undertaken by an independent consultant. The final report was received by DoCS in July 2006 that identified, among other things, serious service delivery issues. As a result of the review, DoCS undertook placement and case file reviews of children and young persons in ACS Ltd's care. The placement and case file reviews identified significant child protection issues.
- (5) See answer to (3) above.
- (6) ACS Ltd was last reviewed by an external consultant in 2005-06.
- (7) to (9) (a) and (b) The most recent independent review findings are consistent with findings of previous reviews conducted by DoCS, the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and NSW Ombudsman between 2000 and 2006.

DoCS provided additional resources to ACS Ltd to make necessary changes following these reviews. I am advised that Commonwealth funding bodies also provided additional resources to ACS Ltd for similar changes and improvements at this time.

Problems identified in the most recent review were in the areas of out-of-home care service delivery, governance, planning, budgeting and financial management, staffing and human resources, service models and management structure, funding and implementation.

I am advised that ACS Ltd has failed to implement changes or improvements despite the additional resources and advice provided by DoCS and other funding bodies.

(10) 17 April 2007.

(11) (a) Yes.

(b) That is a matter for ACS Ltd, as the author of the correspondence.

(12) The term expired on 30 June 2007.

(13) (a) and (b) Each of the children, young persons and their carers has been reviewed and individual case plans were developed to meet the children and young persons' needs. These are the basis for ongoing work by NSW Department of Community Services caseworkers who will provide support for carers and organise the range of services required by the children to address their health, educational and other outstanding issues and their cultural needs.

(14) (a) and (b) All carers were informed in writing by DoCS in May 2007 and a toll-free number has been provided to all carers for information and assistance regarding these changes

\*0267 SCHOOL ZONES FLASHING LIGHTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will the school 40 kph zones in the Hornsby electorate without flashing lights have lights installed?
- (2) In what order will these flashing lights be installed school by school?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

\*0268 PRETORIA PARADE BRIDGE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When will the work currently being undertaken on the Pretoria Parade bridge, in relation to the Clearways Project at Hornsby Station, be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

Works on Pretoria Parade bridge were completed by the end of June 2007 and reopened to vehicular traffic at this time.

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\*0269 PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT DOCUMENT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) Over 6 months ago, in November 2006, did the Premier's Department publish the document: "State Plan A New Direction for NSW"?
- (2) Does page 142 of this document mention a "new Cabinet Standing Committee on State Plan Performance" to be established?
- (3) On what date was this committee established and how many times has it met?
- (4) If the committee has not met as at this date (1 June 2007), why not?

Answer—

(1 to 4) The "State Plan, A New Direction for NSW", was launched by the Premier, Morris Iemma on 14 November 2006.

The overall delivery of the plan is to be managed by the Cabinet Standing Committee on State Plan Performance. The Committee was established in May 2007 with its first meeting held on the 23 May 2007.

\*0270 SAFETY BARRIER—MONA VALE ROAD—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Does the government support the erection of a safety barrier on the kerbside of Mona Vale Road at St Ives outside "Pemberley Grove" and adjoining properties (near 199 Mona Vale Road), as has been requested a number of times through the Ku-ring-gai Council Traffic Committee?
- (2) If 'yes', when will it be erected by the RTA or otherwise?
- (3) If 'no', is the Minister or his representative prepared to meet with resident representatives to explain why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

\*0271 BELROSE BUS SERVICES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many buses run from Belrose to either North Sydney or Milsons Point each week, if any?
- (2) How many buses run direct from the City to Belrose leaving after 8pm on Monday to Thursday or Saturday?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Details of bus services from Belrose are available at [www.131500.info](http://www.131500.info) or [forestcoachlines.com.au](http://forestcoachlines.com.au)

\*0272 ROAD UPGRADES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What plans does the government currently have to:

- (a) upgrade Wakehurst Parkway;
- (b) upgrade the Pacific Highway between Roseville and Turramurra;
- (c) introduce extra lights and pedestrian crossings on Forest Way?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) to (c) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

\*0273 URBAN CONSERVATION AREAS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What proposals for Urban Conservation Areas (UCA) have been submitted to the Planning Department from Ku-ring-gai Council in the last seven years?
- (2) Exactly when were they submitted?

(3) What are the reasons for delays in considering and acting on these?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that Ku-ring-gai Council has proposed several areas be listed as Urban Conservation Areas (UCAs) over the past seven years. Some of these proposals were formally submitted to the Department under section 54 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, while other proposals were the subject of pre statutory community consultation and were not formally submitted to the Department under the Act.
- (2) I am advised that these were submitted at various times between 2001 and June 2005.
- (3) I am advised that the Department of Planning advised Ku-ring-gai Council in 2002 that planning for increased housing choice in the rail corridor and St Ives centre should take precedence over any draft plans for UCAs.

In July 2006 the Department further advised Council to address heritage in Ku-ring-gai in a more strategic manner through a local government area wide heritage review, while considering the objectives of the Metropolitan Strategy.

\*0274 OPEN SPACE—DAVIDSON AND KU-RING-GAI ELECTORATES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) How much extra open space will the State government provide in light of the increased densities being forced on established residential areas in the Davidson and Ku-ring-gai electorates?
- (2) What strategies are in place to ensure adequate recreational areas to cater for the tens of thousands extra residents introduced with these urban consolidation initiatives?

Answer—

- (1) A key focus of the Metropolitan Strategy and draft subregional strategies is to improve access and facilities for existing open space, parks and recreation areas, including the improvement of the quality of regional open space across Sydney.
- (2) The State Government has a number of strategies in place to promote access to open space and recreational areas, including:
  - The Metropolitan Greenspace Program.
  - The Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program.
  - The Regional Recreation Demand and Opportunity Study for the Northern Sydney Region.
  - Revitalising Sydney's National Parks Program.
  - The Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government.
  - An open space inventory for all local and regional open space in Sydney, which will assist Councils in planning for open space in their local areas.
  - In addition, local councils are able to use their section 94 plans to provide for local open space and recreational areas.

\*0275 GRAFFITI—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Exactly how much specific money, in total dollar terms, will be spent this year to fight graffiti in:

- (a) Sydney as a whole;
- (b) the North Shore;
- (c) the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that these figures are not possible to accurately quantify.

In addition to specific anti-graffiti taskforces, general duties police from every Local Area Command participate in the fight against graffiti. For example, School Liaison Officers work to educate children and discourage them from this type of vandalism. Police also work with local councils and other organisations, including RailCorp, to minimise and remove graffiti and to prosecute offenders.

\*0276 BELROSE WSN LANDFILL SITE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) What will be the "finished" height of the Belrose WSN landfill site and how has the permitted height varied over time?
- (2) By what date will the site no longer be used for landfill?
- (3) What are the proposed uses of the site after that date?
- (4) Is the current progress in remediating the site to acceptable environmental standards satisfactory?

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Answer—

I am advised the finished height of the highest part of the Belrose WSN landfill will be reduced to a level 185 metres above sea level. This is in accordance with the landform design restriction placed upon the relevant registered Belrose Land Title Certificate.

The expected date for cessation of landfill activities at the site, based on current fill rates, is December 2009. This date may change however, as WSN Environmental Solutions is working with the Shore Regional Organisation of Councils (Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah Councils), to maximise the life of the landfill.

The lower portion of the site will continue to be used by WSN Environmental Solutions for operational activities. These activities may include the processing of recyclables, dry waste, garden waste or putrescible waste, though no material will be landfilled on the site at that time.

The higher, steeper part of the site is not intended to be used for operational activities. There are presently no definite plans for the post-closure use of this area. Ongoing discussions are occurring with local community members and Warringah Council about the establishment of appropriate post-closure uses for the site.

The landfill is progressively capped as areas are finished. WSN Environmental Solutions capping works are undertaken in accordance with environmental performance standards specified in the Department of Environment and Climate Change's Solid Waste Landfill guidelines. Capping is tested by independent consultants to make sure it complies with guidelines.

When the landfill closes, WSN Environmental Solutions is required to submit a Closure Plan to the Department, in which the final closure and rehabilitation works are outlined, for approval.

**\*0277 COMPENSATION PAYMENTS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—**

During the last term of this Parliament how much did the State of NSW pay in compensation to victims of accidents or injury within the NSW health care system?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Claims for compensation against NSW public health organisations (relating to post 1986 incidents) are managed by the NSW Government's self-insurance scheme (as are claims against other government agencies). The NSW Treasury manages the scheme through the Self Insurance Corporation (SIcorp). The claims management function is handled by GIO.

GIO maintains a database which can provide an indication of the costs incurred in relation to compensation claims.

**\*0278 DENTAL HEALTH—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—**

What responsibility does the State Government accept for public dental health care?

Answer—

I am advised:

The range of oral health services provided through the NSW public health system broadly includes dental services to children and adults according to criteria that target emergency situations and those in most need, screening services targeted at specific schools and education and promotional services.

Since July 2001, the NSW Government's recurrent spending on oral health programs in NSW has increased from \$72.5 million in 2000/01 to approximately \$130 million per annum in 2006/07 and by an additional \$8 million to \$138 million in 2007/08.

**\*0279 MANAGEMENT PLANS—ROCKY RESERVE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—**

In relation to the concern of Hastings Point residents regarding development at Rocky Reserve:

(1) What is the full list of current management plans that are being considered by the Minister?

(2) (a) Will the public and local residents of Hastings Point be asked for input in the management plan?

(b) If no, why not?

(3) On what date will the Minister release the management plan to the public?

Answer—

- (1) It is proposed that a plan of management, under the Crown Lands Act 1989, be prepared for Rocky reserve at Hastings Point.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Preparation of the plan of management is to be overseen by an Advisory Committee which should be established by the end of July this year. Invitations will be extended to the Department of Primary Industries (NSW Fisheries), Tweed Shire Council, Hastings Point Marine Environmental Field Study and Resource Centre and the local community to be represented on the Committee.

\*0280 UNLEADED FUEL BOWSER—SOUTHERN BOAT HARBOUR—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

In relation to the calls for installation of unleaded fuel bowzers at Southern Boat Harbour, Tweed Heads by users of the Harbour, due to concerns related to the movement of over 5,000 litres of unleaded fuels by jerry can each week, which relate to hazards to the public, environment and marine wildlife:

- (1) Why has it taken so long for the Department of Lands to process and address these potentially harmful issues?
- (2) Why has the existing diesel supplier only been granted an extension of 4 years to their lease, whilst at the same time being required to make significant capital investments into the supply of unleaded fuel?
- (3) Why have hundreds of signatures of complaint been ignored by the Department of Lands?
- (4) On what date will this issue be resolved so that this hazardous practice is brought to a halt and no longer compromises the health and safety of the public and the environment?

Answer—

- (1) In early 2005 a stakeholders group including representatives from the Tweed Marine Industry Association, the Tweed Economic Development Corporation, Tweed Shire Council, NSW Fisheries, NSW Maritime agreed that the priority issues to be addressed at the Southern Boat Harbour were firstly, refurbishment of the slipway and secondly, provision of an unleaded fuel supply. Accordingly, the Department of Lands focussed its efforts on achieving a refurbished slipway as its first priority.
- (2) The stakeholders also noted that this whole precinct should be redeveloped to better support the maritime industry. In the circumstances, the term of Tweed River Refuellers licence was restricted to six years, commencing on 1 April 2005, so as not to adversely impact on future planning proposals.
- (3) The Department of Lands is not aware of any such petition.
- (4) Subject to obtaining development consent from Tweed Shire Council, Tweed River Refuellers could install portable above ground storage systems on the site to cater for the distribution of unleaded fuel. The Department of Lands has invited Tweed River Refuellers to submit a detailed proposal and development application for consideration. Nothing has been received to date.

\*0281 LOT 490—PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

In relation to the proposed development of Lot 490 at Kingscliff by Leighton Property, and the Management Committee that has been established to ensure minimum impact on the environment and to create income for further maintenance of the area:

- (1) What are the terms of the proposed development?
- (2) What are the lengths of these agreements?
- (3) How many square metres of public space will be created?
- (4) What is the number of car spaces that will be allocated to the public at the beach?
- (5) How much revenue will be raised each year as a result of this development?
- (6) Will the terms of the agreement with Leighton Properties be disclosed to the public?

Answer—

- (1) Expressions of interest were invited to develop a quality eco-tourism resort in a natural setting combining a range of passive and active recreational opportunities and economic benefits to the local community while ensuring protection and enhancement of the site's environmental values. Interested proponents were afforded the opportunity to design, construct and operate such a resort, consistent with the adopted plan of management, and incorporating sub-tropical coastal design under a long-term lease arrangement. The plan of management identifies approximately 10 hectares within lot 490 as suitable for development as an eco-style tourist resort.
- (2) Although Leighton Properties (Brisbane) Pty Ltd has been selected as the preferred proponent, the

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contractual arrangements of the proposed development agreement have not yet been finalised.

- (3) About 20,000 square metres of lot 490 will remain as public space. This represents about two-thirds of the whole of the site.
- (4) Car spaces that will be allocated to the public at the beach will be determined as part of the community consultation and development consent process.
- (5) and (6) Routine public disclosure of the contractual arrangement will occur within 60 days of the contract being executed consistent with Government guidelines that support the Freedom of Information Amendment (Open Government – Disclosure of Contracts) Act 2006.

\*0282 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—BULAHDELAH—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When will the Roads and Traffic Authority commence construction on the upgrading of the Pacific Highway at Bulahdelah which will connect the freeway north of Bulahdelah, bypassing the township of Bulahdelah, to the section of dual carriageway under construction from Bulahdelah south to Karuah?
- (2) What year will the bypass at Bulahdelah be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The 2007-08 State budget provided \$20 million to commence the next phase of the Pacific Highway upgrade – Bulahdelah bypass, including land acquisition, detailed design and preliminary earthworks.

The Bulahdelah bypass is an AusLink project and information is available at [www.auslink.gov.au](http://www.auslink.gov.au)

Information on roads projects across NSW is publicly provided in annual reports, budget papers and in policy documents such as the State Infrastructure Strategy. Information is also regularly updated on the RTA website at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au) and is available in community newsletters distributed by the RTA.

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\*0283 SUSPENSION CENTRES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many "Suspension Centres" have been established by the Department of Education in New South Wales?
- (2) How many of these are in Western Sydney?
- (3) What is the criteria for referring a student to such a centre?
- (4) What has been the success rate of these centres in returning students to mainstream schools?

Answer—

(1) As at Term 1 2007, 22 suspension centres were operating in New South Wales.

(2) There are two suspension centres established in Western Sydney Region.

(3) Students referred to a suspension centre must be on a long suspension from school. The students must also be identified by their school as likely to benefit from a structured program to assist their successful return to schooling as soon as possible. As part of the suspension resolution process, students are nominated by the principal to participate in the suspension centre program. The suspension centre placement is agreed to by the student and the student's parents or caregivers.

(4) Suspension centres are a new initiative and the Department of Education and Training is monitoring their effectiveness. Data collated in 2006 and 2007 indicates that positive lessons are being learnt in suspension centres and 88 per cent of students who were sent to a suspension centre had learned their lesson and were not referred back again.

\*0284 NAVIGATORS COMMITTEE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When was the Minister first made personally aware of the high level navigators committee meeting held on 16 February 2007 regarding safety issues on Sydney Harbour and what action have you taken since that meeting?

Answer—

I am advised:

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Ports and Waterways and should be directed accordingly.

\*0285 EASY ACCESS RAILWAY STATIONS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to "Easy Access" at Railway Stations across NSW:

- (1) Which stations have easy access?
- (2) Which stations do not have easy access?
- (3) Will any stations have new "Easy Access" facilities by the end of the year?
- (4) When do you intend all railway stations across NSW to have Easy Access?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Information on station access and facilities for each CityRail Station can be found at [www.cityrail.info](http://www.cityrail.info)

\*0286 NAVIGATORS COMMITTEE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Small Business and Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

When were you first made personally aware of the high level navigators committee meeting held on 16 February 2007 regarding safety issues on Sydney Harbour and what action have you taken since that meeting?

Answer—

I was formally advised in April 2007 of the Navigators Committee meeting held on 16 February 2007.

NSW Maritime has accepted the recommendations from the Office of Transport Safety Investigation's (OTSI) report into the collision of the of the Sydney Ferry – Dawn Fraser and a dinghy under the Sydney Harbour Bridge on 5 January 2007.

\*0287 ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to advertising expenditure by Government-owned electricity retail businesses:

- (1) What was the advertising expenditure and the name of each advertising campaign funded by each of the Government-owned electricity retail businesses in the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06 in the following media:
  - (a) television
  - (b) radio
  - (c) newspaper, and
  - (d) internet?
- (2) What is the advertising budget and the mane of each advertising campaign funded by each of the Government-owned electricity retail businesses in the financial year 2006-07 in the following media:
  - (a) television
  - (b) radio
  - (c) newspaper, and
  - (d) internet?
- (3) Other than the advertising identified in questions (1) and (2) above, what funding was spent on electricity-related advertising by the NSW Government in the financial years:
  - (a) 2004-05 (actual)
  - (b) 2005-06 (actual), and
  - (c) 2006-07 (budget)?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The three Government-owned electricity retailers have advised their campaign advertising expenditure, including GreenPower, is compliant with relevant Government guidelines and is as follows:

	EnergyAustralia (inc. energy efficiency)	Country Energy (inc. energy efficiency)	Integral Energy (inc. energy efficiency)
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2004-2005	\$1,517,859	\$875,000	*
2005-2006	\$4,333,187	\$1,045,000	\$194,515
2006-2007 Budget	\$4,178,691	\$1,296,000	\$622,786

\*Integral advises no campaign advertising expenditure for this period.

(3) The NSW Government invested \$1,982,608 on a media campaign in 2006-2007 to raise awareness and increase uptake of accredited GreenPower. The campaign has been an outstanding success resulting in a 91 per cent increase in NSW GreenPower customers during the first quarter of 2007, compared to the last quarter of 2006. An additional 61,697 customers signed on to an accredited GreenPower product in the first three months of the year almost 700 people per day.

\*0288 ENERGY COMPANIES—CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to energy industry capital and maintenance expenditure:

- (1) What was the annual budget for capital and maintenance expenditure for each year between 2002-03 and 2006-07 for the following energy companies:
  - (a) Macquarie Generation;
  - (b) TransGrid;
  - (c) Delta Electricity;
  - (d) Snowy Hydro;
  - (e) Eraring Energy;
  - (f) EnergyAustralia;
  - (g) Integral Energy; and
  - (h) Country Energy?
- (2) What was the annual actual capital and maintenance expenditure for each year between 2002-03 and 2006-07 for the following energy companies:
  - (a) Macquarie Generation;
  - (b) TransGrid;
  - (c) Delta Electricity;
  - (d) Snowy Hydro;
  - (e) Eraring Energy;
  - (f) EnergyAustralia;
  - (g) Integral Energy; and
  - (h) Country Energy?
- (3) What is the annual forecast capital and maintenance expenditure for each year between 2007-08 and 2011-12 for the following energy companies:
  - (a) Macquarie Generation;
  - (b) TransGrid;
  - (c) Delta Electricity;
  - (d) Snowy Hydro;
  - (e) Eraring Energy;
  - (f) EnergyAustralia;
  - (g) Integral Energy; and
  - (h) Country Energy?

Answer—

Information on capital and maintenance expenditure is available in publications such as Annual Reports and Budget Papers.

\*0289 ISOLATED PATIENTS TRANSPORT ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Peter Draper asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

With regard to the Isolated Patients Transport Accommodation Assistance Scheme for mental health clients:

What level of funding assistance is available for a mental health patient and their carer to travel from Tamworth to Randwick when accessing treatment from the Black Dog Institute at the Prince of Wales Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government provides non-emergency health related transport and financial assistance to assist people who are disadvantaged by distance, or have difficulty in using public or private transport, to access the health services that they need.

The Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) IPTAAS assists patients living in isolated areas by subsidising the travel and accommodation expenses they incur travelling to specialist medical services, not available locally.

If the patient meets the Transport for Health – IPTAAS eligibility criteria they are entitled to receive assistance through the Scheme. The associated guidelines are accessible through the Area Health Services.

If the Member has a specific case in mind I can suggest contact be made with the Area Health Service for advice.

\*0290 NSW FOOD AUTHORITY—Mr Peter Draper asked the Minister for Health—

With regard to the NSW Food Authority:

- (1) What notice is given by NSW Food Authority inspectors to owners/managers prior to visiting butcher shops in Tamworth?
- (2) What notice is given by NSW Food Authority inspectors to owners/managers prior to visiting abattoirs in Tamworth?
- (3) Are smokehouses located outside a butcher shop still legal to operate in NSW?
- (4) (a) Is a sample from each batch of bacon or ham produced by a country butcher required to be sent away to be tested for quality?
- (b) If yes:
  - (i) Where will the samples be sent?
  - (ii) What cost is involved for the butcher?
  - (iii) How quickly will the results be made available to country butchers?

Answer—

The NSW Food Authority falls within the Ministerial responsibility of the Minister for Primary Industries and the question should be re-directed accordingly.

\*0291 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN COUNTRY NSW SCHOOLS—Mr Peter Draper asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

With regard to mental health services in country NSW schools:

- (1) What training is required for new teachers in the NSW public education system to enable them to recognise mental health issues in students?
- (2) What training is provided for existing teachers to provide mental health assistance to students?
- (3) What mental health qualifications are needed by School Counsellors to provide student services at public schools in NSW?

Answer—

As a result of the Institute of Teachers Act 2004 one of the elements pre-service teacher education programs are required to meet is that they prepare teachers to understand how the diverse social, emotional, cultural and intellectual needs and the individual differences of students can impact on student learning. Teachers are required to identify and cater for individual needs by using a range of teaching and behaviour management strategies.

Pre-service teacher education programs are also required to ensure that teachers have understood the likely impact that a disability, behaviour disorder or difficulties in learning might have on a student's access to and participation in learning.

A professional development module for teachers on depression and related disorders in adolescence is available to school staff through their school counsellor, and a second module on self-harm will be available in Term 3 2007.

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A professional development module for teachers on mental health has been developed under the Australian Government Quality Teaching Program which provides teachers with an understanding of common mental health issues experienced by children and young people. This module has been trialled in schools and is ready for publication.

The diagnosis of mental health problems is made by appropriately qualified medical professionals, not teachers. School counsellors are available to all schools in NSW to support teachers in the management and support of students with mental health problems.

School counsellors are experienced teachers who have a degree in psychology and post-graduate qualifications in school counselling. This includes training in the assessment and management of mental health problems. They have also been trained in collaboration with NSW Health, through the School-Link program, in the management of depression and related disorders in young people, the management of self harming and the support and management of students with drug abuse in association with mental health problems. School counsellors also facilitate referral to other mental health professionals for assessment and support.

\*0292 BOWRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Will the Minister advise of the Government's decision to either upgrade or relocate Bowral Primary School and when the upgrade or relocation is due to commence?

Answer—

The school community has held discussions with the Department of Education and Training regarding options for upgrading or relocating Bowral Primary School. The Department is now considering a way forward on this matter.

\*0293 BOWRAL HOSPITAL—CHILDREN'S WARD—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

What is the Government's commitment to upgrade the Children's Ward of Bowral Hospital, in particular:

- (a) intended start-up date for renovations to the Children's Ward;
- (b) anticipated cost of renovations to the Children's Ward;
- (c) role of BDCU's Children's Trust in contributing to these renovations?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) Planning for the redevelopment of the Children's Ward is well advanced. Concept plans were signed off by key clinicians and hospital management in June 2006. A Service Provision Plan/Project Definition Plan for the Children's Ward has been completed by Sydney South West Area Health Service and was submitted to NSW Health for approval on 19 June 2007. Commencement of the proposed work will depend on the allocation of funding within the priorities for capital works across the State.
- (b) It is anticipated that the cost of the intended work, including other areas that require relocation to accommodate the refurbished Children's Ward, will be approximately \$3.2 million.
- (c) The Berrima District Credit Union Children's Foundation has undertaken to raise money to support the refurbishment of the Children's Ward. The funds raised will be directed towards the purchase of equipment required to fit out the refurbished ward area.

\*0294 FLASHING LIGHTS—MARULAN PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will the Government install flashing lights at Marulan Public School, George St, Marulan?
- (2) Why does the Government declare Marulan Public School to have a 40 kmh zone but is not prepared to ensure motorists have this actively drawn to their attention?
- (3) What would the cost of a set of flashing lights at Marulan cost?
- (4) Can the Government confirm it has a plan to install lights?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

\*0295 ROAD WIDENING—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When will work commence on additional major road widening in the Gosford City Council area as promised in March 2007, prior to the state election?
- (2) How much will the work cost?
- (3) When will the work be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

There will be an investment of more than \$205 million in additional funding over the next four years for Central Coast roads.

This funding package includes \$140M to construct dual carriageways on the Central Coast Highway (The Entrance Road) from Erina to Wamberal over the next four years. I am advised the design for the project has commenced and will be followed by extensive community and stakeholder consultation.

This work will complement existing projects currently underway on Avoca Drive, the Central Coast Highway between Terrigal Drive and Carlton Road and between Ocean View Drive and Tumbi Road.

\*0296 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How much is the budget for the emergency department at (a) Gosford Hospital, (b) Wyong Hospital, (c) Royal North Shore Hospital and (d) Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) What is the number of (a) doctors and (b) nurses employed in each of the above hospitals' emergency departments?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) For the 2006-2007 financial year:

(a) Gosford Hospital	\$16,374,138
(b) Wyong Hospital	\$13,295,621
(c) Royal North Shore Hospital	\$16,294,247
(d) Hornsby Hospital	\$7,525,971

(2)

(a) Gosford Hospital	Medical 53.9 FTE
	Nursing 78.8 FTE
(b) Wyong Hospital	Medical 35.5 FTE
	Nursing 66.7 FTE
(c) Royal North Shore	Medical 60.3 FTE
	Nursing 88.7 FTE
(d) Hornsby Hospital	Medical 24.85 FTE
	Nursing 43.03 FTE

\*0297 TERRIGAL HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

When will the State Government honour its 1995 election promise to construct a performing arts space at Terrigal High School?

Answer—

A project to construct a performing arts space at the school is not currently being considered for inclusion in a future capital works program. In 1997 the then Minister for Education and Training informed the school's Parents and Citizens Association that the school did not meet the criteria for the provision of a performing arts space.

\*0298 POLICE STAFFING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many of the police graduates that passed out of the Police College on 30 January 2007 were posted to the:

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- (a) Canobolas Local Area Command;
- (b) Cootamundra Local Area Command;
- (c) Goulburn Local Area Command?
- (2) What is the authorised strength of each of these three commands?
- (3) How many police officers are actually attached to each of these commands?
- (4) Of these police officers how many are on:
  - (a) long term sick leave;
  - (b) restricted duties?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) (a) 4.
- (b) 4.
- (c) 5.
- (2) and (3) Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Force internet site, [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au)
- (4) Staffing allocations and leave management within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

\*0299 CHILDREN BELOW AGE OF CONSENT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Does the Department of Community Services have a policy to investigate the concerns of the parents of female children aged between 14-16 years who leave home to reside with an older male?
- (2) How many reports has the Department of Community Services received from the parents of children in these situations in the past (a) 12 months and (b) 24 months?
- (3) In how many of these situations has the child been returned to her family, following investigation by the Department of Community Services?

Answer—

- (1) These concerns would be considered as part of the risk of harm assessment process.
- (2) and (3) Data is not available in terms of the nominated age grouping, specified risk of harm factors and specified outcome.

\*0300 BOWNING DEVIATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Were businesses in Bowning informed of the intent of the RTA to close that part of the old Burley Griffin Way (now called Bowning Road) between the new Burley Griffin Way and the new Bowning turnoff?
- (2) Has any study been done on the effect of the closure of the above portion of road on the viability of businesses in Bowning?
- (3) Will the Minister direct placement of improved signage on the approaches to the new Bowning turnoff to the west of the village indicating services available in Bowning?

Answer—

I am advised:

The permanent closure of Bowning Road from the old Burley Griffin Way to the new intersection with the new Burley Griffin Way formed part of the concept design for the Bowning Deviation project.

Traffic now has access to Bowning via the new signposted T- intersection on the Bowning Deviation.

The Roads and Traffic Authority has arranged to install an additional sign indicating Bowning services at the intersection connecting the new Burley Griffin Way Road to Bowning Road, for motorists travelling from Binalong.

\*0301 WATER INFRASTRUCTURE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How much has Sydney Water spent on water pipe infrastructure in the past 4 years?
- (2) What are the spending plans on water pipe infrastructure in the Hornsby electorate over the next few years?

Answer—

- (1) Expenditure on capital and maintenance for water pipe infrastructure in Sydney Water's area of operations over the last four years was \$395 million.
- (2) Expenditure forecast for capital and maintenance in the Hornsby Local Government Area over the next four years is \$2.538 million.

\*0302 HORNSBY TAFE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What are the enrolment figures for the Hornsby TAFE campus for each year between 1996 and 2006 inclusive?
- (2) Over the past 5 years:
  - (a) What courses have been lost from Hornsby TAFE and to which TAFE was each course transferred?
  - (b) What courses have been introduced to Hornsby TAFE and from which TAFE was each course introduced, if applicable?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Enrolment figures for TAFE NSW – Northern Sydney Institute, Hornsby College have increased from 6,144 in 1996 to 7,926 in 2006, representing a 29 per cent increase.

Five courses were moved from Hornsby College to Crows Nest College in 2003 due to falling demand: No courses have been transferred from other colleges to Hornsby College.

However, 35 new course offerings have been introduced at Hornsby College in the past five years to address the identified training requirements of the community, industry and individuals.

\*0303 GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What is being done to encourage utilities such as Energy Australia and other entities such as State Transit to expeditiously remove graffiti from their property?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your question:

The NSW Government recognises that graffiti is a financial and social problem with complex causes and is committed to its reduction.

In May 2006 the NSW Attorney General announced a comprehensive strategy for reducing the incidence of graffiti vandalism. An interagency Anti Graffiti Action Team was formed with members from 14 organisations, including a number of government utilities such as Energy Australia and State Transit, and led by the Crime Prevention Division of the NSW Attorney General's Department.

The Honourable Member may wish to contact the Attorney General if she would like further information, as the Attorney General's Department is the lead agency for the implementation of the Government's response to graffiti vandalism.

\*0304 CRONULLA WATER INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How much has Sydney Water spent on water pipe infrastructure in the Cronulla electorate over the last 4 years?
- (2) What are the spending plans on water pipe infrastructure in the Cronulla electorate for the next four years?

Answer—

- (1) Expenditure on capital and maintenance for water pipe infrastructure in the Sutherland Local Government Area over the last four years is \$17,427,000.
- (2) Expenditure forecast for capital and maintenance in the Sutherland Local Government Area over the next four years is \$21,719,000.

\*0306 SCHOOL FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will the school 40 kph zones in the Cronulla electorate which currently do not have flashing lights have these lights installed?

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(2) In what order will these flashing lights be installed, school by school?

Answer—

This matter falls under the portfolio of responsibilities of the Hon Eric Roozendaal, Minister for Roads and Minister for Commerce.

\*0307 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many demountables are waiting to be refurbished in Cessnock, Goulburn and Maroubra?
- (2) How much does it cost to refurbish a demountable classroom?
- (3) How much has been spent refurbishing demountable classrooms and how many have been refurbished in each of the following years:
  - (a) 2004?
  - (b) 2005?
  - (c) 2006?
- (4) How much does it cost to transport a demountable classroom from its place of refurbishment to Wagga Wagga?
- (5) How many are ready to transport, in case of an emergency, from Cessnock, Goulburn or Maroubra?

Answer—

There are 277 demountable buildings at Cessnock and 51 demountable buildings at Goulburn which are currently being refurbished or are awaiting refurbishment. There are currently 81 demountable buildings, including classrooms, libraries, staff studies, toilets, canteens and other re-locatable facilities, at Cessnock and Goulburn which are ready for transport. These buildings are ready in case of an emergency and for deployment as part of the annual movement of demountables at the start of the school year.

The Department of Education and Training does not have a demountable refurbishment facility at Maroubra.

The average cost of refurbishing a demountable classroom is approximately \$75,000. In 2004/2005, 151 buildings were refurbished at a cost of \$6.8 million. In 2005/2006, 152 buildings were refurbished at a cost of \$7.8 million. In 2006/2007, 145 buildings were refurbished at a cost of \$8.6 million.

The cost of transporting a demountable classroom varies depending on the location of the demountable and the destination school site, the size of the demountable, accessibility at the destination school site and the condition of the destination school site.

\*0308 EMERGENCY STORES OF DEMOUNTABLES—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Given the fact the Premier in August last year told ABC radio "as part of our plan to support schools, we do store demountable classrooms in cases of emergencies", why were two demountable classrooms taken from The Rock Central School and Willans Hill School for the Young Public School instead of demountables being taken from the demountables held in emergency storage?

Answer—

A stock of demountable classrooms is being maintained at Goulburn and Cessnock Gaols in preparation for the annual movement of demountable classrooms at the start of the school year, based on enrolment trends.

The Department of Education and Training also enables schools to retain demountable classrooms that are surplus to their enrolment quota, on the understanding that the classrooms will be moved at short notice if a local emergency need arises.

The demountable classrooms removed from The Rock Central School and Willans Hill School were the only standard 4-module demountable classrooms which were available to provide emergency accommodation to Young Public School. At the time of the fire at the Young Public School, there was no standard 4-module primary demountable at either Goulburn or Cessnock Gaols which was in a condition suitable for use at Young Public School.

\*0309 HEALTH RISKS OF ROAD TUNNEL PORTALS AND VENTILATION STACKS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health—

Given increased new and expanded tunnel roads in NSW and the growing community concern about the health impacts of living adjacent to road tunnel portals and unfiltered ventilation stacks:

- (1) What research has the Government undertaken on the health risks associated with living close to tunnel portals and ventilation stacks?
- (2) What are the findings of the research?
- (3) What recommendations has the Department of Health made to the RTA for action to reduce health risks to residents living close to road tunnel ventilation stacks and portals?
- (4) What further studies does the Government plan to undertake on health risks associated with living close to tunnel portals and ventilation stacks?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1), (2) and (4) The Department of Health has undertaken the M5 East Health Investigation that looked at the association between M5 East stack emissions and a variety of health outcomes in the local community. This investigation did not reveal any association between modelled stack emissions and health outcomes.

The Department, through its participation in the Collaborative Research Centre for Asthma and Airways, has contracted the Woolcock Institute for Medical Research to undertake a prospective study on the health of the community around the Lane Cove Tunnel.

(3) The Department of Health advises the Roads and Traffic Authority that emissions from road tunnels should be managed so they do not contribute to a significant increase in exposure to air pollution for the local community.

\*0310 WATER EFFICIENT HOMES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

Given that bathrooms and toilets are responsible for around 40 per cent of all water consumed in homes:

- (1) Is the State Government aware that Victoria is banning the sale of homes with water inefficient showerheads and single flush toilets?
- (2) What assessment has the State Government undertaken on potential water savings if similar legislation were introduced in NSW?
- (3) What are the results of the assessment and what water savings have been identified?
- (4) What consideration has the State Government given to introducing legislation to ban the sale of homes with water inefficient showerheads and single flush toilets?

Answer—

- (1) Yes
- (2) to (4) The Government's Metropolitan Water Plan contains a wide variety of demand management measures to assist property-owners improve the water efficiency of their properties.

\*0311 BICYCLE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that the State Government's Metropolitan Strategy includes aims to encourage more sustainable forms of travel such as cycling and public transport:

- (1) What assessment has the NSW Government undertaken into allowing cyclists to take their bikes on CityRail trains free of charge during peak hour (6am 9am and 3.30pm 7.30pm weekdays) as it does outside these hours, to encourage residents to cycle rather than drive to stations on their way to work or education?
- (2) Will the NSW Government change policy and allow cyclists to take their bikes on CityRail trains free of charge during peak hour?
- (3) What assessment has the NSW Government undertaken in to only purchasing new train carriages for CityRail that have adequate provision for cyclists to take their bikes on board?
- (4) Will the NSW Government ensure that all new train carriages purchased by CityRail include adequate provision for cyclists to take their bikes onboard?
- (5) What assessment has the NSW Government undertaken into purchasing buses with adequate provisions for cyclists to take their bikes on board?
- (6) Will the Government ensure that all new buses purchased in NSW include adequate provision for cyclists to take their bikes onboard?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Transport.



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\*0312 NORTH COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health—

Can the Minister provide both as a percentage and as an actual dollar figure, the level at which the North Coast Area Health Service has been below equity on the Resource Distribution Formula for each year, since the amalgamations of health services took place?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Resource Distribution Formula (RDF) is a guide used by the Department of Health for allocating funding to Area Health Services. The Formula is intended to identify shares of available resources to enable Area Health Services to provide their local communities with comparable levels of access to health services, taking into account factors such as:

- the assessed health needs of the local population;
- the local population's utilisation of private health services; and
- additional cost components in providing services to specific populations (such as additional transport and infrastructure costs in rural areas and the cost of interpreter services).

The RDF is one of a number of tools used in assessing allocations. It is not and has never been the sole tool.

Since the mid 1990's the RDF, and its various predecessors first introduced in the 1970's, have been used successfully by the NSW Government to assist in achieving a more equitable distribution of health resources across the state, as follows:

- In 1989-90, on average, Area Health Services were 13.7% away from their RDF target share.
- In 1994-95, they were 11% from their RDF target share.
- In 1998-99, the average was 5%.
- In 2005-06, the average was 2.5%
- Preliminary modelling undertaken in the allocation of funds for 2006-07 indicates that the average will be around 2%. This figure when finalised is published each year in the Department of Health's Annual Report.

In respect of North Coast, its 2007/08 initial budget as announced on 19 June 2007 is \$681 million, which is an 8.6% or \$53.9 million increase on 2006/07.

In percentage terms, this is above the eight area health service average of 5.8% and the rural and regional average of 6.5%.

When compared to 1994/95 the increase is even more significant, as follows:

- North Coast has increased by 226.3% or \$472.3 million
- The increase for all 8 areas (including North Coast) average 157.8%
- All rural and regional health services (including North Coast) average 173.5%.

In other words, North Coast is some 70 percentage points ahead of all Areas and some 50 percentage points ahead of all regional health services.

\*0313 UNLICENSED TRADESPEOPLE—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) Why are unlicensed painters allowed to advertise for work in NSW for work under \$1,000?
- (2) Why are there no annual accreditation courses for licensed painters outside of the CBD of Sydney?
- (3) Why does it state in the Department of Fair Trading "Consumer Building Guide" that "all builders and tradespeople must be licensed to practice their trade", when the Department of Fair Trading is also allowing unlicensed painting work under \$1000.

Answer—

- (1) Clause 9(1)(a) of the Home Building Regulation 2004 specifically excludes any residential building work from the licence requirement where the reasonable market cost of labour and materials is less than \$1000, inclusive of GST.

It was determined that exclusion of such 'minor work' would benefit home owners and builders by reducing compliance costs and, thereby, the cost of the work. Although home owners would not be protected by the Act for such work, in practice, it was rarely needed for minor jobs and they would still have access to the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal in the event of a dispute.

- (2) There is no necessity in NSW for licensed painters to undertake further training or accreditation once they have been granted their licence. Only builders and swimming pool builders must undertake continuing professional development.
- (3) This is a selective quote. The full paragraph in the Consumer building guide reads: "All builders and tradespeople must be licensed to practise their trade where the value of the work (including labour and materials) is over \$1,000 (except the specialist trades of electrical, plumbing, draining, gasfitting, air-conditioning and refrigeration work, which must be licensed regardless of value of work)". This reflects the legislation.

\*0314 CYCLING—MOTOR PACING—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

With increased interest in NSW in road cycling, what rules are in place for 'motor pacing' in the bicycle lane, with its increased frequency of use on public road?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are no specific road rules dealing with 'motor pacing'. The Australian Road Rules make it an offence for a vehicle to travel in a bicycle lane except for a maximum of 50 metres when leaving the road. The Australian Road Rules also make it an offence for a driver to travel to the left of an edge line, unless driving a slow moving vehicle.

The document 'NSW Guidelines for Bicycle Road Races' was produced by the RTA, NSW Police & Cycling NSW and addresses bicycle racing in this State.

\*0315 BENTINCK STREET ROUNDABOUT—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Is the \$50,00 allocated by the RTA to build a median strip on Bentinck Street at the corner of Bentinck and Grant streets, Ballina also available for the proposed construction of a roundabout at that site if Ballina Shire Council makes up the difference for the more costly roundabout?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The \$50,000 allocated to Ballina Shire Council is a part of the Federal Government's Blackspot funding program. Any change to the purpose of the funding would require approval from the Federal Government.

In this regard, Council would need to prepare a submission for consideration by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) which would then make a recommendation to the Federal Government.

\*0316 SCHOOL BUS SERVICE—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the increase in the number of school children using the school bus service in the Tweed Electorate:

- (1) What number of school children use this service on a daily basis?
- (2) What is the criteria used to determine the current and future levels of school bus usage?
- (3) In the last 12 months, has there been any increase in school bus numbers and services to relieve pressures on the system resulting from overcrowding?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) There are many school bus services being provided throughout the Tweed electorate with additional services provided as the need arises. Information on school bus services is available on the Ministry of Transport website.

\*0317 ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY—SCHOOL BUS TRAVEL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to students of St Anthony's Primary travelling by bus to and from school along the Tweed Coast Road from Pottsville:

- (1) What is the number of children travelling on this service per day?

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- (2) What is the number of school buses used to service this route?
- (3) Was an extra bus service created for this route in the last 12 months?
  - (a) If yes, how long did this service last?
  - (b) If yes, will the Government guarantee the continuation of this service for school students?
  - (c) If no, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 159 students have passes to use morning school bus services from the Pottsville area to Kingscliff.  
127 students have passes to use afternoon school bus services from Kingscliff to the Pottsville area.
- (2) Information regarding St Anthony's school bus services is available at [www.surfside.com.au](http://www.surfside.com.au).
- (3) Yes. Afternoon School Bus 1015 was introduced at the end of the 2006 school year and will continue to operate commensurate with passenger demand.

\*0318 TRAFFIC CROSSING SUPERVISION—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provost asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to traffic crossing supervision in school areas which is provided to infant and primary school students only:

- (1) Why, in co-located schools such as primary and high schools, has the RTA not extended the provision of this service to high school students?
- (2) What is the number of traffic crossing supervisors in the Tweed electorate?
- (3) What is the total budget for this service in the Tweed electorate?
- (4) What is the list of current supervised traffic crossing sites in the Tweed electorate?
- (5) What is the criteria used for selecting these sites?

Answer—

I am advised:

The supervised traffic crossings program contributes to the safety of infants and primary school students throughout NSW, by providing school crossing supervisors to help them use the crossing facilities on roads adjacent to schools, or the nearest crossing facility.

Primary and infants schools in NSW may apply to the RTA for a school crossing supervisor, if certain criteria are met.

There are five school crossing supervisors located in the Tweed electorate, with supervised traffic crossings located at Eucalypt Drive, Banora Point, Enid Street, Tweed Heads and Pearl Street, Kingscliff.

Further information about the school crossing supervisor program is publicly available on the RTA website at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0319 OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many representations from Members of Parliament to the department are outstanding with respect to an answer for the following periods:

- (a) Over one month?
- (b) Over three months?
- (c) Over six months?
- (d) Over one year?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Ministry of Transport endeavours to resolve all correspondence matters in a timely manner.

\*0320 OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many representations from Members of Parliament to the department are outstanding with respect to an answer for the following periods:

- (a) Over one month?
- (b) Over three months?
- (c) Over six months?

(d) Over one year?

Answer—

I am advised:

The roads portfolio processes around 12,000 items of correspondence annually.

\*0321 CASHLESS BUSES—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What provisions have been made for pension card holders who want to catch "cashless buses"?
- (2) Will they be required to purchase tickets before boarding, and if so, where will they be available?

Answer—

I am advised that alternative bus services are available on each of the cashless service routes for customers needing to pay cash. For example, the alternate service to the 333 is the 380.

\*0323 WATER TANK REBATE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

When will households on Scotland Island be eligible to receive the water tank rebate?

Answer—

As previously advised in question number 1133, Sydney Water wrote to the Scotland Island Residents Association to confirm the residents' eligibility for Rainwater Tank Rebates under Sydney Water's Rainwater Tank Rebate Policy.

The policy is publicly available on Sydney Water's website.

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\*0325 SCHIZOPHRENIA—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What information is available from the Department of Health on the prevalence of the schizophrenia disorder in the State of New South Wales?
- (2) What is the percentage of these cases that have been linked to cannabis use?
- (3) How does this percentage compare to published overseas data?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Between September 1997 and January 1998, the University of Western Australia undertook the Low Prevalence (Psychotic) Disorders component of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing.

This study found the treated prevalence of psychotic disorders in the adult population to be between 4 and 7 persons per 1,000, depending on catchment area. Schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorders were reported for over 60% of the people identified with psychotic disorders (Jablensky et al. 1999).

It is believed that this study will be repeated as part of the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing.

[www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/content/36BC6012E3F468B4CA25723E00053E4C/\\$File/psych.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/content/36BC6012E3F468B4CA25723E00053E4C/$File/psych.pdf)

Further information about schizophrenia data sources can be found in 'Mental Health Services in Australia 2002-2003' (p 221).

[www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10101](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10101)

- (2) Page 42, section 13.3, of the study referred to above describes street drug use levels of study participants. Of the 48.5% of participants in the study who used street drugs on one or more occasions, 72.2% (35% of the sample) used cannabis.
- (3) Matters of international concern are primarily a Commonwealth Government responsibility. Therefore, the Honorable Member is referred to the Commonwealth Minister for Health & Ageing.

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\*0326 PRINCES HIGHWAY ROADWORKS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Why has the RTA not addressed the intersection of the Snowy Mountains Highway and the Princes Highway despite it being identified as a blackspot?
- (2) When will the Minister rectify the intersection of Brushgrove Lane and the Princes Highway?
- (3) (a) What is the plan to upgrade the Princes Highway at Victoria and Dignams Creek?  
(b) When will this work be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

Road safety improvements – including installing signs and improving line markings - were implemented at the intersection of the Snowy Mountains Highway and the Princes Highway in June 2000. In 2005/06 State Blackspot funding was allocated to the junction.

Work has been undertaken at the intersection of Brushgrove Lane and the Princes Highway as part of the Princes Highway Road Safety Strategy program. The last remaining section of chain wire fencing is being replaced and guard rails are being installed as hazard protection measures.

Information on roads projects across NSW is publicly provided in annual reports, budget papers and policy documents such as the State Infrastructure Strategy. Information is also regularly updated on the RTA website at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au) and is available via community newsletters distributed by the RTA.

\*0327 ENERGY DISTRIBUTORS—FINANCIAL GUARANTEES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to financial guarantees required by energy distributors from energy retailers:

- (1) Are New South Wales non-Government energy retailers required to guarantee network service charges to energy distributors three months in advance?
- (2) Are Government-owned energy retailers required to guarantee network service charges to energy distributors three months in advance?
- (3) Are non-Government energy retailers required to guarantee credit support to energy distributors three months in advance?
- (4) Are Government-owned energy retailers required to guarantee credit support to energy distributors three months in advance?
- (5) Are non-Government energy retailers required to guarantee network services charges for consumers who incur bad debt or non-payment?
- (6) Are Government-owned energy retailers required to guarantee network services charges for consumers who incur bad debt or non-payment?
- (7) Are Government-owned energy retailers required to provide any form of advance guarantees to energy distributors, and if so, how does each Government-owned energy retailer fund these guarantees?
- (8) What is the Minister's response to the March 2006 EnergyAustralia submission to the Victorian Essential Services Commission, which submission was highly critical of advance credit support arrangements that are particularly onerous, reduce the likelihood of competition and increase the cost for electricity consumers?
- (9) What strategies will the Minister implement to ensure that the problems identified by EnergyAustralia in its March 2006 submission about the disadvantage small or independent entrants have to the energy market in Victoria due to credit rating requirements does not occur in New South Wales?
- (10) What initiatives will the Minister consider to ensure that the issues raised by EnergyAustralia in its March 2006 submission, that the default credit support requirement gives the distributor excessive credit protection at no cost to the distributor, but at a significant cost to the retailer, which is ultimately borne by the electricity consumer, do not affect electricity consumers in New South Wales?
- (11) Given EnergyAustralia's March 2006 submission also stated that advance credit guarantees from non-Government energy retailers are a "significant hurdle" that "reduced competition and therefore consumer choice and potential customer savings", what will the Minister do to address these inequalities in the energy retail marketplace?

Answer—

(1) to (4) All electricity retailers, irrespective of ownership, are subject to the same credit support provisions provided for under the NSW Market Operations Rule (Network Use of System Agreements) No.2 of 2001. These provisions are set out under sections 11 to 16 of the Rule.

(5) to (7) All electricity retailers, irrespective of ownership, are subject to the same obligations to pay for electricity network use of system charges under the NSW Market Operations Rule (Network Use of System Agreements) No.2 of 2001.

(8) to (11) Issues related to the contractual relationship between distributors and retailers, including those outlined by EnergyAustralia, are being considered and reviewed as NSW prepares to transfer to a national market for energy.

\*0328 MOUNT PIPER POWER STATION UPGRADE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the upgrade of Mount Piper power station [State Infrastructure Strategy, pg 43]:

(1) What work will be undertaken as part of the Mount Piper power station upgrade?

(2) How much of the upgrade has been completed and what is the completion date?

Answer—

(1) Delta Electricity is planning to modify the two generating units at Mt Piper to ensure the plant is able to operate reliably at 700MW. The items to be replaced include some of the steam turbine blades, some of the system pumps and items associated with the combustion of coal.

(2) Work is planned to commence in 2008.

\*0329 CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In each of the last four years what actions, funding or projects has the Government initiated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through clean coal technology?

Answer—

In July 2003, an integrated study of the existing data on the Darling Basin was carried out by SRK Energy Services for the NSW Department of Primary Industries. This structural modelling study, using SEEBASE (Structurally Enhanced View of Economic Basement), highlighted basinal areas and troughs considered most prospective for petroleum. This information has since been re-processed to identify prospective areas for geosequestration of carbon dioxide.

The NSW Government has been a participant in Coal21, represented by the NSW Department of Primary Industries since March 2003 when Coal21 was established. The Coal21 group is a partnership between the coal and electricity industries, unions, federal and state governments and the research community. A key output of the group was the development of the Coal21 Action Plan that covers a range of opportunities for reducing emissions, with the primary focus on emerging or 'breakthrough' technologies, including those with the potential to deliver major reductions or even eliminate emissions.

The 'COAL21 Fund' was set up in March 2006 to demonstrate promising technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power stations.

In 2006, NSW was accepted as a member of the Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC). This Centre is one of the world's leading collaborative research organisations focused on carbon dioxide capture and geological storage (geosequestration).

The NSW Government last year established the NSW Clean Coal Technologies Working Group. This group includes representatives from NSW government agencies, the coal and electricity generation industry and research organisations and will identify priorities and projects in NSW that would bring about reduced carbon emissions from coal.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries is also working with the Department of Environment & Climate Change, the Department of Water & Energy and the NSW Minerals Council to identify fugitive emissions of greenhouse gases from coal mines and develop strategies to reduce these into the future.

On 2 March 2007, the NSW Government announced funding and support of \$22 million towards two clean coal technology projects.

The first project, costing a total of \$60 million, aims to capture and store carbon dioxide emissions in underground rock formations (geosequestration). The NSW Government's contribution of \$20 million

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will be supported by a matched contribution from the coal industry's COAL21 Fund. This fund was voluntarily established and funded by coal producers to support the development of low emission technologies for coal.

The first stage in this project is to identify potential carbon dioxide storage sites in NSW. This will be followed by a pilot project to capture and store emissions.

The NSW Government is also providing support through the grant of freehold land to allow construction of a demonstration plant at Cessnock for an Ultra Clean Coal project. This project is being conducted by UCC Energy Pty Ltd and is a wholly Australian owned technology that will produce high purity, cleaned coal for direct burning in gas turbines to generate electricity.

In 2006/07, the NSW Department of Primary Industries, under the New Frontiers Initiative and in collaboration with a consortium of power generating companies operating in the upper Hunter Valley, undertook a reservoir assessment and prediction study in the Darling Basin. This structural/stratigraphic study will identify future carbon dioxide storage sites by using the proprietary SEEBASE modelling program. Currently there are 16 areas of interests delineated where potential traps are associated with identified and predicted reservoir units favourable for geosequestration.

A similar study of the geosequestration potential of the Sydney Basin is currently being undertaken.

The NSW Government has also recently initiated a study of deeper coal seams in the Sydney and Gunnedah Basins both for coal seam methane and geosequestration potential.

**\*0330 ELECTRICITY GENERATION**—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to electricity generation:

- (1) What is New South Wales' current generation capacity:
  - (a) for base load;
  - (b) for peak load?
- (2) What generators and capacity are scheduled to come online in each of the next four years?
- (3) When will those generators and capacity come online?
- (4) What generators are scheduled to be offline, either for maintenance or decommissioning, and for what time periods will they be offline over the next four years?
- (5) What is the planned capacity of the base load generator being considered by the Owen Inquiry?

Answer—

(1) to (3) Information on NSW current and planned future generation capacity is available in the National Electricity Market Management Company (NEMMCO) Statement of Opportunities report.

(4) The information sought is of a technical and operational nature and is a matter for the individual electricity generator participants in the National Electricity Market to advise the market operator, NEMMCO.

(5) The terms of reference are open in regard to the future technology, including fuel source, suitable for new baseload generation. Only nuclear power is ruled out. The Inquiry will report its findings to the Government in August.

**\*0331 PATIENTS ADMITTED TO ACT HOSPITALS**—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

What is the number of patients from Goulburn and the Southern Highlands (in the electorate of Goulburn) who were admitted to hospital in the ACT in the financial year 2005-06?

Answer—

The information sought is not routinely collected and reported on an electorate basis and to answer the question would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department from the exercise of its core functions.

**\*0332 GOULBURN BASE HOSPITAL**—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

What is the financial status of Goulburn Base Hospital for 2005-06, in particular:

- (a) the extent of operating losses for 2005-2006;
- (b) the contribution of wages and salaries to this operating loss;
- (c) the contribution of linen management to this operating loss?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Budgets are allocated and audited on an Area Health Service basis.

Financial information for 2005-06 is contained in the annual report, which is on the Greater Southern Area Health Service website.

\*0333 TARALGA PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to Taralga Public School which has composite class sizes of K/1 19 students, 2/3 22 students, 4/5/6 33 students, and of which 16 children at the school require a special learning assistant and 2 require behavioural support::

Will the Minister review composite staffing policy for country schools to ensure better educational outcomes so that students in country schools, particularly those with a high percentage ratio of students with special needs, are not disadvantaged?

Answer—

Principals have flexibility within their staffing allocation to determine the actual organisation of classes. In making these decisions, the curriculum requirements of the school, the educational needs of the students and the expertise of teachers, are taken into consideration.

\*0334 KINCUMBER AND WAMBERAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When will flashing lights be installed on Avoca Drive outside of Kincumber Public School?
- (2) When will a street crossing supervisor (lollipop person) be engaged in Aldinga Drive outside Wamberal Public School?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to improving the safety of children on our roads.

New flashing lights warning systems have been installed at 100 schools, to increase motorists' awareness of 40km/h school zones. These innovative systems include:

- High visibility school zone signs with a flashing "40" built into the device;
- Flashing signs which hang off mast arms over the road;
- And flashing high-visibility lights built into the road pavement similar to an airport runway.

The 100 school zone sites were selected by the RTA based on criteria including traffic volume and pedestrian activity.

An evaluation group led by the RTA and including the NRMA are in the process of assessing the effectiveness and reliability of the flashing lights warning systems.

The new warning systems form part of an ongoing process of improving child road safety in NSW.

There is no excuse for bad and dangerous driving behaviour in school zones. That's why new penalties have been introduced for driving offences committed in school zones, during school zone hours.

The tough new penalties introduced in May this year target offences including speeding and double parking in school zones as well as motorists who disobey school crossing supervisors.

The supervised traffic crossings program contributes to the safety of infants and primary school students throughout NSW, by providing school crossing supervisors to help them use the crossing facilities on roads adjacent to schools, or the nearest crossing facility.

Primary and infants schools in NSW may apply to the RTA for a school crossing supervisor, if certain criteria are met.

The RTA will arrange for a pedestrian and traffic study to be undertaken following the school holidays in July 2007.

\*0335 PRETTY BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—



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- (1) What new buildings are proposed for Pretty Beach Public School?
- (2) What is the enrolment at the School?
- (3) How many staff are engaged at the School?

Answer—

Pretty Beach Public School has been included in the Government's Building Better Schools Program and will receive four new classrooms, an administration building and library. Under this program, \$2 billion will be invested over the next four years in schools and TAFE colleges across New South Wales to improve the learning environment for students and teachers. Funding for new buildings at the Pretty Beach Public School has been included in the 2007/08 budget.

As at the census date of 7 February 2007, when Eastern Division schools confirmed their actual student enrolments, there were 164 students enrolled at Pretty Beach Public School.

Pretty Beach Public School has a staffing entitlement of 11.016 full time equivalent positions.

\*0336 S.430 REPORT—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Why was the s.430 report into Port Macquarie Council not tabled in Parliament when the s.430 report into Wagga Wagga City Council was tabled?
- (2) How many other s.430 reports have previously been tabled in Parliament?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

The section 430 report into Port Macquarie Hastings Council was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 29 May 2007. The section 430 report into Wagga Wagga City Council was tabled on 10 May 2007.

The Department does not keep a centralised register of reports that are tabled. However I can advise that there is no statutory requirement for s.430 reports to be tabled.

\*0337 YOUTH WELFARE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Has the Department of Community Services done any research regarding the need for a Youth Worker or Drop-in-Centre in the Young Shire Council Area?
- (2) Has the Department of Community Services been approached to provide funding for a Youth Worker or Drop-in-Centre in Young?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Representations from the Member for Burrinjuck on this matter were referred to the Minister for Youth on 28 June 2007.

\*0338 GENERAL SUPPORT OFFICER AT GUNDAGAI—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Will you give Gundagai Shire Council and the residents of Gundagai a commitment that the temporary 3-month transfer of the GSO position at Gundagai Police Station to Cootamundra Local Area Command will not become permanent?
- (2) What is the authorised strength of (a) General Duties Police Officers and (b) Highway Patrol Police officers at Gundagai Police Station?
- (3) How many (a) General Duties Police Officers and (b) Highway Patrol Police officers are actually attached to the Gundagai Police Station?
- (4) Of these officers how many are on (a) long term sick leave or (b) restricted duties?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

The Gundagai General Support Officer has been seconded to Cootamundra police station for 3 months to meet operational demands. The secondment will be reviewed at the end of that period.

Gundagai police station is currently operating at full strength. There are currently no officers on long term sick leave or restricted duties.

\*0339 RAIL LINES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is the Cowra-Blayney rail line scheduled to cease being used by rail traffic from 1 July 2007?
- (2) Are there also any plans to cease using the Cowra-Demondrille and Greenethorpe-Koorawatha rail

lines?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Rail Infrastructure Corporation (RIC) suspended operations on the Cowra to Blayney rail line due to safety concerns.
- (2) The suspension was effective from 4 July, 2007.

\*0340 DENTAL STAFF—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many full time equivalent public dentists work at Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) How many are listed positions, filled or otherwise, of the staff establishment?
- (3) How many patients are seen by the public dental clinic at Hornsby Hospital?
- (4) How many of these are children under 16 years of age?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) There are 3.6 FTE positions at the Dental Clinic at Hornsby Hospital. All positions are filled.
- (3) 13,112 (May 2006 - May 2007).
- (4) 3,807 (May 2006 - May 2007).

\*0341 NURSE NUMBERS—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many full time equivalent registered nurses are working at Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) How many full time equivalent enrolled nurses are there?
- (3) How many part-time positions are registered and enrolled nurses?
- (4) How many assistant nurses work at Hornsby Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that Hornsby Hospital employs:

- (1) 259.25 FTE.
- (2) 92.18 FTE.
- (3) 113.7 FTE Registered Nurses and 21.99 FTE Enrolled Nurses.
- (4) 8.28 FTE.

I am advised that figures provided are as at 31 May 2007 and do not include staff employed by Area-wide services located at Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital.

\*0342 GRAFFITI REMOVAL—HORNSBY ELECTORATE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

How much will be spent on the removal of graffiti in the Hornsby electorate in 2007-08?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

The Department of Local Government does not collect this information. The Honourable Member might wish to contact the local councils in the Hornsby electorate directly to ascertain information about how much money is spent on the removal of graffiti.

\*0343 OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many representations from Members of Parliament to the Minister for Police are outstanding with respect to an answer for the following periods:

- (a) Over one month?
- (b) Over three months?
- (c) Over six months?
- (d) Over one year?

Answer—

The far-ranging issues of the police portfolio impact on many people's lives. I am advised this results in correspondence in the order of 4 - 5,000 letters or more, on an annual basis. My office strives, with the

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assistance of the Ministry for Police, to respond to all representations from both Members of Parliament and members of the public in a timely manner.

On many occasions, specific and detailed information is required to be obtained from the NSW Police Force in order to provide a personalised, comprehensive and meaningful response.

\*0344 OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many representations from Members of Parliament to the Attorney General are outstanding with respect to an answer for the following periods:

- (a) Over one month?
- (b) Over three months?
- (c) Over six months?
- (d) Over one year?

Answer—

The Attorney General's Department endeavours to provide a timely response to all correspondence. If the Member has a query about any particular correspondence, he should contact my office.

\*0345 LEVEL CROSSINGS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How much money is allocated to improve safety at level crossings in New South Wales per year?
- (2) How much was spent in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (3) How many crossings have been improved as a result?
- (4) How many level crossings on high speed corridors have been protected by boom gates?
- (5) Where are crossings with new boom gates located?
- (6) Has a website been created to allow the public to access information regarding the safety upgrades at level crossings?
- (7) How many recommendations have been implemented as a result of the report into level crossings?

Answer—

I am advised:

This matter falls under the portfolio responsibilities of my colleague the Hon John Watkins MP.

\*0346 CARBON TAX EXEMPTION DEALS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

With regard to the NSW Government's deal with Bluescope Steel which exempts the company from future carbon taxes for 20 years:

- (1) How will the Government prevent the deal being used as a precedent by other companies considering business in NSW?
- (2) Have other companies approached the NSW Government to ask for similar deals?
- (3) What commitments has the NSW Government made to other companies to provide exemptions from future NSW Government programs and requirements aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions?
- (4) Is the NSW Government wholly committed to precluding indemnifications and exemptions for conventional coal-fired power stations or other energy intensive projects against future carbon costs?
- (5) If not, to what extent is it committed?
- (6) Is the NSW Government wholly committed to precluding any other form of indemnification or exemption for energy intensive industries?
- (7) If not, to what extent is it committed?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) to (7) The NSW Government is committed to addressing climate change, and has long led the country in adopting innovative approaches to encourage investment in projects and practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The NSW Government was the first administration in Australia to set a long term target of a 60 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and a cut in greenhouse emissions to year 2000 levels by 2025.

We also established a world's first mandatory greenhouse gas emissions scheme for electricity

retailers, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme (GGAS), in 2003.

The NSW Government has not introduced a carbon tax, because emissions trading enables the market to determine which new or existing technologies will reduce emissions at least cost. That's why we have led the design and development of a national emissions trading scheme.

Under the NSW Government's agreement with BlueScope Steel, BlueScope Steel has the necessary certainty to invest almost \$1 billion in a co-generation electricity plant and relining its No.5 blast furnace, which will utilise waste gases from the steelmaking process to generate electricity and technologies to improve energy efficiency. This will reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from the steelmaking process by 800,000 tonnes per annum - the equivalent of taking 185,000 cars off the road.

BlueScope Steel has also agreed to continue to monitor iron and steelmaking technological developments and, where commercially feasible, implement best practice greenhouse gas reducing technology.

When proposals of significant economic and environmental benefit are presented to the Government, such as BlueScope Steel, we will engage with industry on a case-by-case basis to maximise investor certainty and protect the environment.

The Government's agreement with BlueScope Steel is publicly available at [www.bluescopesteel.com](http://www.bluescopesteel.com)

\*0347 CAMPAIGN POSTERS DURING THE MARCH 2007 STATE ELECTION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Given that State legislation completely bans the display of election posters on public property:

- (1) What resources did the State Government allocate to removing campaign posters on telegraph poles?
- (2) How did the State Government monitor breaches of the ban on the display of election posters by election candidates?
- (3) How many posters did the State Government remove from telegraph poles?
- (4) What consideration has the State Government given to changing legislation to permit the display of candidate posters in public places such as telegraph poles in line with current practice, for a limited period before and after election days?

Answer—

The Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act prohibits election posters being affixed to premises controlled by the Crown. The Crown does not control electricity poles. These poles are under the control of electricity distributors, which do not represent the Crown. It is therefore a matter for a distributor to take action against any candidate who uses these poles without its permission, should it wish to do so.

Parliament has recently re-established a Joint Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Matters, which will be reviewing the conduct of the 2007 elections, including the need for amendments to electoral legislation.

\*0348 UNDERGROUND MINING INQUIRIES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

With regard to the reviews into potential underground coal mining impacts in the southern coalfield and the Dooralong and Yarralong valleys of Wyong:

- (1) What date is the inquiry into underground coal mining in the Southern Coalfields expected to commence?
- (2) What date is the inquiry into underground coal mining in the Dooralong and Yarralong valleys of Wyong expected to commence?
- (3) To what extent did the NSW Government consider putting a moratorium on all underground mining approvals in NSW during the review process?
- (4) To what extent will the NSW Government apply a precautionary response to review findings that ensures no more damage is done to river systems and streams and water resources across NSW by coal mining?

Answer—

- (1) The inquiry into underground mining in the Southern Coalfield has commenced. The public has been invited to make written submissions to the inquiry secretariat by 30 July 2007. Public hearings will commence in the week beginning 17 September.

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- (2) The inquiry into underground mining in the Dooralong and Yarramalong valleys near Wyong has commenced. The public has been invited to make written submissions to the inquiry secretariat by 30 July 2007. Public hearings will commence in the week beginning 17 August in Wyong.
- (3) The Government does not believe any purpose would be achieved by placing a moratorium on underground mining approvals during the course of the review process.
- (4) The recommendations from the two independent inquiries into underground mining will provide a sound technical foundation for the assessment and long term management of underground mining in NSW.

\*0349 APPREHENDED VIOLENCE ORDER—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

If no police charges are involved in an apprehended violence order, what reasons are given for not making a mandatory step in the process a referral to mediation or Community Justice Centre in an effort to lessen court time, as well as deal with the issues of concern in a more informal and detailed manner?

Answer—

I am advised:

I refer the Honourable Member to the answer to his previous question on notice no 98 in the Legislative Assembly.

\*0350 RENAL DIALYSIS BEDS—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health—

How many renal dialysis beds are located at each of the following locations:

- (a) Tweed Base Hospital;
- (b) Lismore Base Hospital;
- (c) Coffs Harbour Hospital; and
- (d) Port Macquarie Base Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) 12.
- (b) 9.
- (c) 9.
- (d) 2.

\*0351 LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT LEVY—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Does the Motor Accidents (Lifetime Care and Support) Act 2006 No. 16, section 50, provide that the fund levy is determined by the Lifetime Care and Support Authority?
- (2) Does subsection 4 provide that the levy can be determined using criteria according to Part 2.3 Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999?
- (3) Does Part 2.3 outline how premiums in general are calculated but not how they are to be applied to the Lifetime Care and Support Levy?
- (4) If all of the above are correct, does subsection 5 state that the Lifetime Care and Support Authority is to notify each licensed insurer of the fund levy, implying that the authority determines the levy?
  - (a) If so, how often is this done and by what means is this done?
  - (b) If not the authority, who exactly is determining this Government levy?

Answer—

I am advised:

This matter falls under the portfolio responsibilities of my colleague the Hon John Della Bosca MLC.

\*0352 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway and the access to the South Tweed commercial area, which is restricted to Minjungbal Drive and Greenway/Machinery Drive, resulting in traffic congestion and other local traffic problems:

Is there community demand for the immediate construction of the Kirkwood Road interchange as part of Option C for the Pacific Highway upgrade at Sexton Hill?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Kirkwood Road overbridge and extension is a local road issue and a matter for Tweed Shire Council.

\*0353 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Has the Minister informed the Federal Minister for Roads that previous costing variances of \$120 million between the preferred option and Community Option C for the upgrade of the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway have since been reduced to \$59 million, when reviewed by RTA independent consultants?
- (2) Does the independent consultant assessment document state: "We noted advice via the R.T.A. that, Parsons Brinkerhoff had not prepared a 'stand alone' cost estimate for the 'deep tunnel' option in a format similar to that for the July 2006 preferred concept"?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2007/08 the State Government has committed \$45 million to continue the planning, design and land acquisition for a number of key Pacific Highway projects, including the Banora Point upgrade.

The Banora Point upgrade will provide a high standard 2.5 kilometre dual carriageway and will connect the completed Chinderah Bypass with the Tweed Heads bypass.

The upgrade will significantly improve safety and relieve traffic congestion on this section of the Pacific Highway.

Further information on the project can be found at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0354 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

Will environmental damage occur to the East Banora Valley ecological community if the hydrology is altered during or after the construction of the preferred option for the upgrade of the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding the Banora Point upgrade, including the environmental assessment, is available at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0355 DISABLED PEOPLE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

What steps have you taken to change the attitudes of State Debt Recovery officers towards disabled people like Ahmedul Chowdhury and to ensure that disabled people are treated with respect and compassion in their dealings with the Government?

Answer—

I'm advised

The State Debt Recovery Office has reviewed its procedures to ensure that people with disabilities are given priority and receive compassionate treatment.

\*0356 DISABLED PEOPLE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What steps have you taken to change the attitudes of the State Transit officers towards disabled people like Ahmedul Chowdhury and to ensure that disabled people are treated with respect and compassion in their dealings with the Government?

Answer—

I am advised:

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RailCorp has introduced comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures for use by Transit Officers, which includes improved guidelines on use of good judgement and discretion, including dealing with vulnerable people.

Persons that may be considered as "vulnerable" are children under 14 years of age, elderly persons, persons who have impaired intellectual and/or physically functioning, and homeless persons.

\*0357 OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Will the Minister advise as to when my representations with the following ministerial letter references will be responded to:

ML07/03274, ML07/02632, ML07/03369, ML07/03490, ML07/02413, ML07/02412, ML07/02535, ML07/02768, ML07/03484, ML07/00623, ML07/03523 and another concerning G Anschau dated 2 April 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

Response letters have been sent as follows:

Ref.	Reply Sent Date
ML07/00623	11/07/07
ML07/02412	21/06/07
ML07/02413	21/06/07
ML07/02535	26/06/07
ML07/02632	11/07/07

Responses for the remaining matters will be forwarded shortly.

\*0358 OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) Will the Minister advise as to when my representations with the following reference numbers will be responded to:

M05/8977, M05/11512, M07/0277, M06/24765, M06/21615, M07/2464, M05/11521, M06/22390, M06/21898, M07/1342, M07/2073?

(2) How many other representations from Members of Parliament, outstanding for more than one year, are still with the department?

Answer—

I am advised:

Responses have either been sent or are being prepared.

\*0359 DENTAL PROFESSIONS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

(1) At which facilities in NSW are the following currently being trained:

- (a) dental nurses;
- (b) dental assistants;
- (c) dental prosthetists;
- (d) dental hygienists; and
- (e) oral health graduates?

(2) How many of each of the above classes of professionals are trained annually?

(3) What are the current number of vacant positions in the public dental system for:

- (a) dental nurses;
- (b) dental assistants; and
- (c) dental prosthetists?

(4) What provisions are being made to fill current vacancies for dental therapists, and future vacancies for oral health graduates in the public dental system?

(5) How many school dental services are currently available statewide, and how many dental professionals (FTE) are currently employed at each facility?

(6) Are there plans to phase out the School Dental Services?

- (a) If so, why?

(b) If not, what steps are being taken to ensure children can access free dental care?

Answer—

I refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 0201.

\*0360 UK NURSES—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

Why is it taking the NSW Nurses and Midwives Board up to three months to process UK nurses registration for NSW?

Answer—

The NSW Nurses and Midwives Board is the independent authority responsible for registration of nurses and midwives in this State.

\*0361 SUPREME COURT—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In relation to the Supreme Court:

- (1) How many Justices of the Supreme Court are in an acting capacity?
- (2) How many Registrars of the Supreme Court are in an acting capacity?
- (3) How many employees of the Supreme Court are currently engaged in an acting or temporary capacity?
- (4) With respect to Justices engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a full-time basis?
- (5) With respect to Registrars engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a full-time basis?
- (6) With respect to employees of the Supreme Court engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a full-time basis?
- (7) With respect to Justices engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a part-time basis?
- (8) With respect to Registrars engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a part-time basis?
- (9) With respect to employees of the Supreme Court engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a part-time basis?
- (10) With respect to Justices engaged in acting capacity, what is the longest amount of time a present Justice has served in an acting capacity?
- (11) With respect to Registrars engaged in acting capacity, what is the longest amount of time a present Registrar has served in an acting capacity?
- (12) With respect to employees of the Supreme Court engaged in acting capacity, what is the longest amount of time a present employee of the Supreme Court has served in an acting capacity?
- (13) With respect to Justices engaged in acting capacity, what is the average amount of time served in an acting capacity from June 2004 to the present?
- (14) With respect to Registrars engaged in acting capacity, what is the average amount of time served in an acting capacity from June 2004 to the present?
- (15) With respect to employees of the Supreme Court engaged in acting capacity, what is the average amount of time served in an acting capacity from June 2004 to the present?

Answer—

I am advised:

Acting Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 37 of the Supreme Court Act 1970.

Registrars of the Supreme Court are appointed in accordance with section 119 and 120 of the Supreme Court Act.

Employees of the Supreme Court are employed in accordance with Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. The Attorney General's Department may employ persons for temporary purposes.

The number of Acting Judges, registrars and employees varies over time according to the operational needs of the Court.

\*0362 DISTRICT COURT—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In relation to the District Court:

- (1) How many Judges of the District Court are in an acting capacity?
- (2) How many Registrars of the District Court are in an acting capacity?
- (3) How many employees of the District Court are currently engaged in an acting or temporary capacity?
- (4) With respect to Judges engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a full-time basis?



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- (5) With respect to Registrars engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a full-time basis?
- (6) With respect to employees of the District Court engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a full-time basis?
- (7) With respect to Judges engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a part-time basis?
- (8) With respect to Registrars engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a part-time basis?
- (9) With respect to employees of the District Court engaged in acting capacity, how many are engaged on a part-time basis?
- (10) With respect to Judges engaged in acting capacity, what is the longest amount of time a present Judge has served in an acting capacity?
- (11) With respect to Registrars engaged in acting capacity, what is the longest amount of time a present Registrar has served in an acting capacity?
- (12) With respect to employees of the District Court engaged in acting capacity, what is the longest amount of time a present employee of the District Court has served in an acting capacity?
- (13) With respect to Judges engaged in acting capacity, what is the average amount of time served in an acting capacity from June 2004 to the present?
- (14) With respect to Registrars engaged in acting capacity, what is the average amount of time served in an acting capacity from June 2004 to the present?
- (15) With respect to employees of the District Court engaged in acting capacity, what is the average amount of time served in an acting capacity from June 2004 to the present?

Answer—

I am advised:

Acting Judges of the District Court are appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 18 of the District Court Act 1973.

Registrars of the District Court are appointed in accordance with section 18G and 18K of the District Court Act.

Employees of the District Court are employed in accordance with the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. The Attorney General's Department may employ persons for temporary purposes.

The number of Acting Judges, registrars and employees varies over time according to the operational needs of the Court.

\*0363 EPPING WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Greg Smith asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to Epping West Public School:

- (1) What scoping works have been undertaken for the building of a new school hall at Epping West Public School?
- (2) What is the budgeted amount for the completion of the school hall at Epping West Public School?
- (3) How is the near \$300,000 raised by the Parents and Citizens of Epping West Public School going to be used in funding the school hall?
- (4) When is construction to begin on building the school hall at Epping West Public School?
- (5) When is construction of the school hall at Epping West Public School anticipated to be completed?

Answer—

A new school hall at Epping West Public School has been included in the Government's Building Better Schools Program. The hall is fully funded by the Program and the funds raised by the Parents and Citizens may be used for other purposes as determined by the school community.

Funding for the hall has been included in the Department of Education and Training's budget for 2007/08.

\*0364 EXPLORATORY GAS MINING—UPPER HUNTER—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to Sydney Gas Ltd's exploratory gas mining near Wollombi Brook:

- (1) What is the Government's involvement in the planning of mining wells in the Upper Hunter in relation to Sydney Gas Ltd's exploratory mining near Wollombi Brook?
- (2) Why was Sydney Gas Ltd allowed to commence exploratory drilling without notifying its immediate neighbours in the area?
- (3) How does the Government intend to consult community groups, including wineries, farms and horse

studs, before allowing further developments of gas mining wells at Wollombi Creek?

- (4) What social and environmental impacts of the gas mining near Wollombi Brook have been considered before the commencement of the current mining?
- (5) What preventative measures are in place concerning the mining through the water table near Wollombi Brook and the likelihood it will pollute the scarce water supply of the Upper Hunter, in particular the groundwater levels?
- (6) What impact will the drilling through the Upper Hunter water table have on the drinking water levels for the citizens of the Upper Hunter?

Answer—

- (1) The Sydney Gas/AGL Joint Venture has approval to explore for coal seam methane gas in this area, not to mine it. The joint venture holds two Petroleum Exploration Licences in the Hunter - PEL 4 and PEL 267. The licences incorporate comprehensive sets of conditions that control the activities the joint venture undertakes and the impacts of those activities.

Sydney Gas/AGL sought additional approval, as it is required to do, for the drilling of exploratory wells in the Bulga area. Approval was granted after due consideration of the impacts of the proposed drilling.

- (2) It is a condition of the Petroleum Exploration Licences that a land access and compensation agreement must be in place with any landowner who will be impacted by the joint venture's exploration activities before the joint venture can enter the land to conduct its authorised exploration activities, including exploratory drilling. The joint venture is also required to communicate with the local community.
- (3) The joint venture is required to consult with its neighbours and the local community as a condition of its Petroleum Exploration Licences.
- (4) No mining of gas is occurring at Wollombi Brook, and the exploration being conducted by the joint venture is stringently controlled by the conditions of the petroleum exploration licences it has been granted.
- (5) See answer to (1).
- (6) See answer to (1).

\*0365 SCONE LEVEL CROSSING—Mr George Souris asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the status of the rail level crossing of the New England Highway at Scone?
- (2) Are the Roads and Traffic Authority and State Rail Authority currently considering approaching the Federal Government for funding for an overhead bridge so as to eliminate the level crossing?
- (3) Is the level crossing referred to above, the last remaining level crossing on the New England Highway between Newcastle and the Queensland border?
- (4) Are there any proposals to upgrade the level crossing to an overhead bridge?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The Scone level crossing on the New England Highway has been the responsibility of the Australian Rail Track Corporation since mid-2004.

The matter of grade separation of level crossings falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

\*0366 PENINSULA COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Will funding be provided to support a Primary Coordinator and Secondary Coordinator for the Peninsula Community of Schools initiative?

Answer—

I am very proud of the work that is happening within the Peninsula Community of Schools. An additional deputy principal has been appointed to the schools to support this initiative. The Department of Education and Training will consider additional staffing for the Peninsula Community of Schools in line with other staffing priorities across the State.

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\*0367 MONTESSORI SCHOOL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What funding is available to support the Montessori School in Avalon?

Answer—

The Barrenjoey Montessori School at Avalon is eligible for State Government per capita funding at the Category 1 level.

The State Government provided the school with per capita funding of over \$7,700 in 2005/06 and over \$7,300 (to date) in 2006/07.

\*0368 PITTWATER HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What are the details of any State Government funding available to assist Pittwater High School's plans to install solar panels to contribute to its goal of becoming a carbon neutral establishment?

Answer—

Through the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the NSW Government is establishing a Climate Change Fund. This new program is being developed and will include a \$20 million School Energy Efficiency Program initiative to upgrade lighting and implement student-based energy efficiency projects. Pittwater High School may wish to consider applying for a grant through the Climate Change Fund.

The design and construction of new and refurbished government schools in NSW are based on well established ecologically sustainable design features.

In addition, the Department of Education and Training has recently established a Standards and Innovation Unit which will provide advice and deliver services to schools. The Unit will focus on energy and water management.

\*0369 DENTAL PROFESSIONS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) At which of the current facilities in NSW are dental nurses, dental assistants, dental prosthetists, dental hygienists and other oral health graduates being trained?
- (2) How many of each of the above professionals are trained annually?
- (3) How many vacant positions for dental nurses, assistants and prosthetists are there currently in the public dental system?
- (4) What provision is being made to fill current vacancies for dental therapists and future vacancies for oral health graduates in the public dental system?
- (5) How many school dental services are there in operation statewide and what is the level of staffing at these facilities?
- (6) Is the School Dental Service being phased out?
- (7) If so, why?
- (8) If so, how will children continue to access free dental care especially in low socio-economic areas that have no dentist?

Answer—

I refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 0201.

\*0370 SAM'S CAMP—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Can the Wootton community be assured that State Forests will not demolish the picnic area known as Sam's Camp in the Bulahdelah State Forest?

Answer—

Yes.

\*0371 TRESTLE RAILWAY—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Is the area known as the "Trestle Railway" in the Bulahdelah State Forest classed as a culturally significant site?
- (2) Are there toilet and picnic facilities at the site known as the "Trestle Bridge Picnic Area" in Bulahdelah State Forest?
- (3) If so, who built the picnic facilities and toilets at this site and when?
- (4) Have the picnic facilities and toilets been demolished?
- (5) If so, when?
- (6) If so, by whom?
- (7) If so, why?
- (8) If they were demolished because of the state of repair, what was the condition of the structures and who assessed the state of repair?
- (9) Did residents from the Wootton area help look after the picnic area including the walking track, picnic facilities and toilets?
- (10) Were any members of the Wootton community or the Wootton Community Network Group consulted about any demolition of the facilities and toilets?
- (11) If so, whom?
- (12) If not, why not?
- (13) If demolition has occurred, what happened to the material from the demolition?
- (14) If the material was burnt, why was it burnt?
- (15) Does the Minister or his department intend to close the track to the Trestle Bridge or Sam's Camp?
- (16) If so, why?
- (17) If so, when?
- (18) If the Minister is not going to close the trail will he or his department authorise the reinstatement of picnic facilities and environmentally friendly toilets?
- (19) If so, when?
- (20) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1), (2), (4), (7) and (10) I direct the Honourable Member to my answer to his question on 10 May 2007 on the same subject.

(3) I am advised that facilities associated with the site were originally built by Forests NSW in the 1980s and supplemented by the local community in the 1990s.

(5) The old pit toilet and some unsafe picnic tables were demolished earlier in 2007.

(6) Forests NSW.

(8) Forests NSW made an assessment that the toilet was unsanitary and too close to a major creek line and that the tables were unsafe.

(9) Yes.

(11) For reasons of privacy, I do not consider it appropriate to record the name of the person. It was a person who advised Forests NSW they were a member of the Wootton Community Network.

(12) Not applicable.

(13) and (14) Materials which could be reused were reused, other material was destroyed or removed.

(15) No.

(16) and (17) Not applicable.

(18), (19) and (20) Forests NSW is undertaking a strategic review of recreation facilities and community requirements across the entire region from the Central Coast to the Mid North Coast and tablelands, during 2007 and 2008. In line with the review, funding opportunities will be considered to ensure that available funds are directed to areas of community importance.

Forests NSW will liaise with the Wootton Community Network in regard to future opportunities for the Wootton Historical Railway Walk as part of this review.

\*0372 RAIL CORRIDORS—PROPOSED USES—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a proposal to construct a walking and cycling track on the disused Wagga to Tumbarumba and Tumut to Batlow rail corridors?
- (2) If so, what is the current position in relation to this proposal?
- (3) If so, has the Minister or his department consulted with landholders adjoining the rail corridor?

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- (4) If so, is the Minister aware that the vast majority of adjacent landholders oppose the proposal?
- (5) If the Minister has not consulted with landholders adjoining the rail corridor, will he do so before making any decisions on the matter?
- (6) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (6) Most proposals for the development of rail trails usually include the removal of the existing rail infrastructure, including sleepers and steel rails, in order to improve the amenity of the walking track.

Under section 99A of the Transport Administration Act 1988, an Act of the NSW Parliament is required to declare a railway line closed before infrastructure such as tracks and sleepers can be removed.

At this time, there is no intention to pursue a course of action of amending the Act or moving to permanently close disused lines.

This does not mean that rail trails cannot be developed, as the rail corridors are often wide enough to accommodate both the remaining rail infrastructure and the recreational trail.

In such circumstances, an incorporated body such as a Council could be granted a suitable lease or license for the construction of a recreational trail. However, this would be subject to the relevant body contracting and maintaining the proposed trails at their cost and effecting suitable insurance.

Any future recreational trail must take into consideration the views of adjacent land holders. Therefore, final approval from the relevant rail entity will be assessed on a case by case basis, and be predicated on the use of the disused rail line being for a safe and fit purpose.

\*0373 PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many private dentists participate in the Oral Health Treatment Voucher Scheme within the boundaries of the Greater Western Area Health Service?
- (2) Of those practitioners participating in the Oral Health Treatment Voucher Scheme within the Greater Western Area Health Service, how many provided services in:
  - (a) pain relief;
  - (b) general dental work;
  - (c) provision of dentures; and
  - (d) all of the above?
- (3) What is the annual monetary value of dental services provided by those dentists participating in the Oral Health Treatment Voucher Scheme within the Greater Western Area Health Service?
- (4) In monetary terms, what percentage of the total services provided by the NSW Public Dental Service is contracted out to private dentists participating in the Oral Health Treatment Voucher Scheme?

Answer—

I am advised that to answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the department away from the exercise of its core functions.

However, I can advise that all eligible public patients requesting dental services including denture services are first prioritised through the Priority Oral Health Program (POHP), which operates across NSW using a triage questionnaire.

Those in most urgent need of care are given priority of access to treatment be it in our own clinics or through the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme (OHFFSS) vouchers to private dentists. Where possible patients are offered appointments at the nearest facility to their residential location.

Further information on NSW Health dental health services, including the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme, is available at: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/dental.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/dental.html)

**7 JUNE 2007**

(Paper No. 10)

\*0374 NEW RAIL LINE—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Has the Minister announced a new rail line for North West Sydney?
- (2) Will this line have new stations?
- (3) Have the names of these stations been finalised?
- (4) If so, will the Minister consider renaming one of these stations "Darnick" in memory of the historic country rail station closed by the previous Government?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding the North West Rail Link can be found at [www.tidc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tidc.nsw.gov.au)

\*0375 PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many private dentists participate in the Oral Health Treatment Voucher Scheme within the Albury electorate?
- (2) Of those practitioners participating in the Oral Health Treatment Voucher Scheme in the Albury electorate, how many provided services in:
  - (a) pain relief;
  - (b) general dental work;
  - (c) provision of dentures;
  - (d) all of the above?
- (3) What percentage of the total services provided by the NSW Public Dental Service is contracted out to private dentists participating in the Oral Health Treatment Voucher Scheme?

Answer—

I am advised that, to answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department away from the exercise of its core functions.

However, I can advise that all eligible public patients requesting dental services including denture services are first prioritised through the Priority Oral Health Program (POHP), which operates across NSW using a triage questionnaire.

Those in most urgent need of care are given priority of access to treatment be it in our own clinics or through the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme (OHFFSS) vouchers to private dentists. Where possible patients are offered appointments at the nearest facility to their residential location.

Further information on NSW Health dental health services, including the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme, is available at: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/dental.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/dental.html)

\*0376 RENAL DIALYSIS SERVICES—ALBURY ELECTORATE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What renal dialysis services are available to patients in the Albury electorate?
- (2) What arrangements are in place for residents of Tumbarumba, Corowa and Greater Hume shires to access renal dialysis services?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Residents of Albury undergo renal dialysis at the Wodonga District Health Service.
- (2) Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) has established a network of specialist renal dialysis satellite centres across the Area to provide the highest possible quality of care as close as possible to where people live.

The aim of the GSAHS renal plan is for patients to be able to access treatment within a reasonable distance from their homes, with consideration of the patient's preferences and general practitioner referral patterns.

In the last five years, GSAHS has established and expanded renal dialysis satellite centres in Goulburn, Griffith and Moruya and has doubled capacity at Wagga Wagga to improve access to care for as many people as possible. Arrangements are also in place with Canberra and Wodonga renal dialysis services to provide treatment to GSAHS patients.

\*0377 SYDNEY FERRIES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to Sydney Ferries:

- (1) What are the passenger patronage figures to and from the following wharves for each month from

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July 2004 to April 2007:

- (a) Darling Point;
  - (b) Double Bay;
  - (c) Rose Bay;
  - (d) Watsons Bay?
- (2) Has the Minister been advised of any prospective changes to the timetable of any ferry servicing any of these wharves?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Sydney Ferries Corporation patronage data is gathered from ticket sales and end-point ticket validation figures at Circular Quay and Manly. Due to the range of points of origins and destinations covered by ticket types, accurate patronage figures for Eastern Suburbs wharves is not available.
- (2) There are currently no plans to change Eastern Suburbs services. However, it should be noted that Sydney Ferries Corporation has already responded to a growth in demand on this route by adding an extra morning peak hour direct service between Circular Quay and Rose Bay.

\*0378 ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY RENEWABLE ENERGY—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to electricity generated and sold to the New South Wales grid by renewable energy, grid-interactive systems installed in households and businesses, omitting commercial energy companies:

- (1) How much electricity in NSW has been generated and sold to the grid for each of the last three financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 by:
  - (a) solar photovoltaic systems;
  - (b) wind turbine systems; and
  - (c) micro-hydro systems?
- (2) What was the annual average price paid for electricity units generated for each of the last three financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 by:
  - (a) solar photovoltaic systems;
  - (b) wind turbine systems;
  - (c) micro-hydro systems?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Information on sources of electricity generated and sold in NSW, as well as prices, is available from the National Electricity Marketing Management Company (NEMMCO).

\*0379 ERARING COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the Eraring coal-fired power plant [Eraring Energy Annual Report 2006, pg 19]:

- (1) What is the definition of the 'hourly maximum' measure used to record emissions of particulates, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides in the 2006 Annual Report of Eraring Energy?
- (2) What has been causing the hourly maximum of nitrogen oxides emissions from Eraring to steadily increase since 2003?
- (3) What has been causing the hourly maximum of sulphur dioxide emissions from Eraring to steadily increase since 2003?
- (4) What caused the peak in the hourly maximum of particulate emissions from Eraring in 2004?
- (5) What are the hourly average and hourly maximum carbon dioxides emissions from Eraring in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005?
- (6) What instruments are used to measure emissions of particulates, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide from Eraring and when were they last calibrated?

Answer—

- (1) The highest hourly value in any hourly period collated for all operating hours in a year.
- (2) The change from intermediate to base load generation, hence the power station is generating at higher load for longer periods of time.
- (3) Varying coal blends.
- (4) Premature fabric filter bag failures, which have been replaced.

(5) Eraring Power Station does not continuously monitor carbon dioxide emissions on an hourly maximum or average basis. Carbon dioxide emissions per generating unit are reported in the station's annual operating licence return to the EPA.

(6)

- Particulates – SICK – optical density monitor, two instruments per unit. Instruments auto calibrate every 24 hours and auto compensate for changes in optical density on standardisation. A weekly calibration check is done that inserts calibrated optical filters into the instrument system to check actual figures recorded against expected results.
- SO<sub>x</sub> – SO<sub>2</sub> Monitor Lab ML9850B analyser utilising ultra-violet chemilluminescence technology.
- NO<sub>x</sub> – NO<sub>x</sub> Monitor Lab ML9841B analyser utilising gas phase infra-red photometry.
- SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> instruments use an extraction dilution process to supply the sample gas to the analyser. All instruments are calibrated automatically on a daily basis using standard calibration gases. Additionally, a multi-point calibration is performed by specialist accredited technicians on a six monthly basis.

\*0380 STORMWATER HARVESTING—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to your statement in the House in Question Time on 7 June 2007 that the State Government has 69 stormwater harvesting projects in Sydney, will the Premier give:

- (a) a list of the projects;
- (b) the cost of each of the projects;
- (c) the amount of water harvested by each project; and
- (d) the location of each project?

Answer—

The information sought by Mr Hartcher is publicly available through the websites [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au), [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au) and [www.deus.nsw.gov.au](http://www.deus.nsw.gov.au). The combined projects are expected to save around 2.2 billion litres every year.

\*0381 NSW CARBON CREDIT TRADING SCHEME—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Has the NSW Government provided any information to Country Energy about the costs and structure of the proposed NSW Carbon Credit Trading Scheme?
- (2) If so when will this scheme be introduced?
- (3) Has Country Energy been authorised to offer contracts for the supply of electricity to businesses citing the NSW Carbon Trading Credit Scheme as the reason for the increase in costs, which provide for at least a 30% increase in costs to start on 1 July 2007?
- (4) Will any increased costs for the supply of electricity due to the proposed NSW Carbon Trading Credit Scheme be required to be approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal?

Answer—

In 2003, the NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme (GGAS) Scheme was established to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and use of electricity. GGAS was one of the first carbon trading schemes in the world. Extensive information about it is publicly available.

Since April 2004, the States and Territories, led by New South Wales, through the National Emissions Trading Taskforce has been undertaking detailed design work for a national emissions trading scheme. On 9 February 2007, all State and Territory Governments agreed to implement a national emissions trading scheme if the Commonwealth Government did not commit to doing so.

In June 2007, the Commonwealth Government following release of the report of the Prime Ministerial Task Group on Emissions Trading belatedly announced its intention to introduce a domestic emissions trading scheme in 2011 or 2012.

Although the Prime Minister's Task Group has recommended a scheme similar to the model proposed by the States and Territories, much of the details about the Commonwealth scheme including emissions targets are still to be determined.

In contrast, the National Emissions Trading Taskforce's model is more detailed and its design considerations have been subject to extensive stakeholder consultation.

Since 1 January 2002, all customers in NSW have been able to choose their retail electricity supplier.



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Small customers can elect to negotiate a retail supply contract or remain with their standard retailer, namely Country Energy, Energy Australia or Integral Energy, on regulated tariffs.

The regulated retail electricity tariffs are set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). In June 2007, IPART released its determination on tariff increases for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2010.

Contract offerings for customers who do not purchase within the regulated tariffs are determined by market forces, and are a matter for energy suppliers and customers to determine.

The specific information the Member refers to is publicly available in IPART's 2007 Final Report and Final Determination: 'Promoting Retail Competition and Investment in the NSW Energy Industry'.

\*0382 BOOROWA PUBLIC TRANSPORT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Will you confirm that the town of Boorowa is the largest town in NSW that is not serviced by a CountryLink Bus Service?
- (2) Has CountryLink conducted any study as to passenger numbers or the commercial viability of including Boorowa in an existing or new CountryLink Bus service?
- (3) If so, when was this study done and what were the results?
- (4) Will the commencement of a CountryLink Bus route between Boorowa and Yass Junction or Harden be investigated?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Any changes to Countrylink services are based on demand.

\*0383 COMMUNITY SERVICES MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Why are representatives of Foster Care providers not represented on the Ministerial Advisory Committee chaired by Ms Leonie Manns?
- (2) Have you or your predecessor been approached by Foster Care Peak Bodies seeking representation on this Committee?
- (3) If so, what was the reason that this representation was refused?

Answer—

- (1) The Ministerial Advisory Committee was established in 2002 comprising a small core membership with expertise in the human and community services sector. The committee was set up to provide advice to the Minister for Community Services on specific issues, rather than to provide a forum for representation of different components of the community services sector.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) See answer to (1) above.

\*0384 HORNSBY HOSPITAL MENTAL HEALTH INTENSIVE CARE UNIT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) When will the Hornsby Hospital Mental Health Intensive Care Unit (MHICU) officially begin its operation?
- (2) What is the staff allocation to the facility?
- (3) How many of the planned 12 beds will be opened?
- (4) Will it be necessary to employ agency staff to fill the staffing needs?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) It is estimated that, contingent on staffing availability, the Unit will commence operating by September 2007.
- (2) The staff establishment is currently under review.
- (3) A graduated bed opening strategy will be implemented, increasing to 12 beds contingent on staffing availability.
- (4) It may be necessary to use agency staffing.

\*0385 RENAL DIALYSIS UNIT—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Are there plans to establish a dialysis unit at Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) What is available to transport renal dialysis patients from their homes/hospital beds to renal dialysis units?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) The next stage of planning is likely to consider the need for such a service.
- (2) Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Area Patient Transport Services co-ordinate the transport of hospitalised patients requiring renal dialysis from one facility to another.

While transportation arrangements for renal dialysis patients in the community is self-managed, in some areas of the community there is a Neighbour Aid service which offers transport of the frail and elderly to medical appointments at GP Services and hospitals.

In the Hornsby area these services exist at Pennant Hills (which is run independently), and Galston and Berowra (which are operated by the hospital).

\*0386 BROOKLYN POLICE STATION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What are the future plans for the police station located at Brooklyn?
- (2) How many police are allocated to the Brooklyn Police Station?
- (3) When there is no allocated police presence, how often are patrols driving into Brooklyn?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that Brooklyn police station is a single officer station. The Brooklyn area is patrolled on a regular basis by both general duties police from Kuring-Gai Local Area Command and Highway Patrol officers. No changes to this arrangement are currently planned.

\*0388 ONE-MAN POLICE STATIONS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What are the locations of the three one-man police stations in the Sutherland Shire?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that there are two single officer police stations in the Sutherland Shire. These are Engadine and Menai. The stations are both manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week and supported by mobile car crews.

\*0389 ANTI-HOMOPHOBIA RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

With respect to NSW school students learning about acceptance of diversity, discrimination related to sexuality, and homophobic vilification and violence:

- (1) What resource materials have been updated in the five years since 2002?
- (2) What new resources have been provided to schools since 2002?
- (3) What evaluation has the Government carried out on these resources and their effectiveness for promoting acceptance and understanding?
- (4) How does the Government monitor use of these programs in schools?
- (5) What plans does the Government have for new or updated resources in this area?

Answer—

Since 2002, new resources have been developed rather than updating the previous resources. These include the Machismo Program implemented in high schools since 2004 and teaching ideas called Difference and diversity published on the Department's website in 2006.

Classroom programs, including those addressing homophobia and discrimination, are regularly evaluated at the school level to ensure that they are effective and up-to-date meeting the needs of the students and the school community.

The Personal Development, Health and Physical Education syllabus for Years 7 to 10 specifically includes content about sexual diversity and homophobia including affirming diversity, building inclusion, homophobic bullying, anti-discrimination, harassment and vilification. School principals are responsible for ensuring that the mandatory content is covered by teachers in their classroom programs.

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The Department of Education and Training continues to look at developing and distributing resources to support strategies for affirming diversity and addressing homophobia, including support to the NSW Anti-homophobia Interagency for a second conference to be held in 2008; 14 teacher professional development workshops to be presented across NSW in Terms 3 and 4, 2007; and the NSW Sexual health in schools project to produce an online professional development module, including sample units of work to support the teaching of sexuality.

In addition, under the respect and responsibility plan announced last year by the Premier and former Minister, from 2006 annual school reports will include a section on the ways they have developed safe, respectful and inclusive school environments for all students.

**\*0390 PACIFIC HIGHWAY FATALITIES**—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What are the actual fatality numbers for accidents on the Pacific Highway between Taree and the Queensland border between the years 1997 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

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

**\*0391 FUNDING MODEL—OXLEY HIGHWAY**—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In regard to the dual carriageway on the Oxley Highway in Port Macquarie between the Port Macquarie TAFE and Wrights Road:

- (1) What was the funding model used for these completed works?
- (2) In particular, did the State agree to upgrade two centre lanes and the median strip, whilst the council used their section 94 contributions to do all other work?

Answer—

I am advised:

The State Government remains committed to funding the proposed realignment of the Oxley Highway with works to begin in 2007/08.

The 2007/08 Budget includes \$5 million for the Oxley Highway project.

This funding will be used for pre-construction work, including drainage, utility adjustments and clearing of vegetation.

The road is planned to be built in stages and join the existing urban four lane road near Wrights Road, Port Macquarie.

Local council funding contributions are a matter for the relevant council.

**\*0392 HIGHWAY PATROLS**—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Is the RTA significantly cutting its funding allocation to highway patrols?
- (2) What is the magnitude of these cuts in dollar terms?
- (3) What impact will these cuts have on the ability to conduct extra highway patrols such as Operation Northroads on the Pacific Highway?
- (4) Have you objected to the Minister for Roads regarding these cuts?
- (5) If not, why not?

Answer—

The Roads and Traffic Authority has advised that there will be no decrease in the Enhanced Enforcement Program budget for 2007-2008.

**\*0393 LAKE MACQUARIE LOCAL AREA COMMAND**—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Given a recent media report (Newcastle Herald 2/6/2007) quoting an experienced Hunter detective as saying "The politicians like to say crimes are being cleaned up and the figures look good, but what the numbers don't show are the ones we can't even get to":

- (1) What percentage of reported crimes in the Lake Macquarie Area Command are not investigated?
- (2) Are clean-up rates expressed as a portion of cases investigated and not as a portion of all crimes

reported?

- (3) Is a shortage of detectives leading to some crimes not being investigated by the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command?
- (4) Is there a threshold in dollar value below which the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command will not investigate crimes?
- (5) What are the constraints on the allocation of detectives to the investigation of crime in the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The recording criteria, nature of incidents reported and the varying police response required make it difficult to quantify such a figure. For example, incidents involving an immediate arrest are deemed to have not been investigated as further investigation is not necessary.
- (2) No. Clear up rates are measured as a percentage of all reported crime in a particular crime category.
- (3) Serious matters involving a threat to public safety are accorded a high priority. In every Local Area Command (LAC), matters are assessed on a range of criteria when prioritising and allocating investigative resources in accordance with accepted police guidelines.
- (4) No.
- (5) It has recently been determined that 3 additional positions will be allocated to Lake Macquarie LAC to boost detective numbers. A broader examination of policing issues in the Hunter is also continuing as part of ongoing analysis into police LAC boundaries and the allocation of resources in the region, to best serve the anticipated growth areas of the Hunter. I trust the briefing that has been provided to your office was of assistance.

\*0394 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) What is the number of heavy vehicles (including rigid frame, semi-trailer and B and/or A-double combinations) in the Annual Average Daily Traffic Flow for the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill?
- (2) What is the projected increase for the number referred to in (1) above that will come about as the port facility in Brisbane and the Yatala industrial area comes online?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Banora Point Preferred Concept Report and the associated Traffic and Transportation Study working paper made available to the public as part of the preferred concept display in October 2006 provides traffic data from the 2004/2005 traffic investigation which includes information on heavy vehicles and traffic modelling.

These reports are available at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au) or by contacting the project information line on 1800 012 611.

Further information on the traffic and transportation studies will be made available to the public for comment as part of the environmental assessment display for the preferred concept.

\*0395 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Does the RTA Option for upgrade of the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill include a section of new roadway with an embankment five metres high, across the natural flood-path from the Lake Kimberly residential area?
- (2) Has a hydraulic survey been completed for the Lake Kimberley outflow area?
  - (a) If yes, on what date will the survey be released to the public?
  - (b) If no, will a hydraulic survey be undertaken?
    - (i) If yes, on what date?
    - (ii) If no, why not?
- (3) Has the maximum probable flood level been taken into account in any surveys conducted?
  - (a) If yes, on what date will these findings be released?
  - (b) If no, why not?

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Answer—

I am advised:

A hydraulic study is in progress as part of the environmental assessment for the preferred concept. The hydraulics assessment will be made available to the public for comment as part of the environmental assessment display for the preferred concept.

Further information regarding the Banora Point upgrade is available at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0396 PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES BRANCH—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many private clinics have been authorised by the NSW government to dispense methadone?
- (2) How many pharmacies have been authorised to dispense methadone?
- (3) How many other dispensing agencies are there?
- (4) How many staff are employed within the Pharmaceutical Services Branch and how many of them are actively engaged in monitoring the operations of the private clinics, pharmacies and dispensaries that are dispensing methadone?
- (5) What is the recurrent budget of the Pharmaceutical Services Branch?
- (6) How many outlets are audited by the Pharmaceutical Services Branch each year?
- (7) How many clinics, pharmacies and dispensaries have had their licences suspended or revoked as a result of deficient methadone, biodone and buprenorphine security controls?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 12.
- (2) 688 of which 547 are currently participating.
- (3) 9 plus any public hospital.
- (4) 30 staff are employed within the Pharmaceutical Services Branch. The Branch has seven inspectors with responsibility for administering and investigating complaints that relate to the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods legislation.
- (5) The 2006-07 budget is \$2.161M.
- (6) 42 outlets have had audits completed since January 2004.
- (7) Nil.

\*0397 WAKEHURST PARKWAY UPGRADE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

What action has the Department of Health taken to ensure that the Wakehurst Parkway is upgraded to facilitate quick access for Pittwater residents to the proposed Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest?

Answer—

In March 2006, the former Minister for Health announced that Frenchs Forest will be the site for the new Northern Beaches Hospital.

I am advised that the site selection process identified sections of the Wakehurst Parkway that will require upgrade.

I am further advised that these ancillary works will be considered in consultation with the relevant agencies as detailed planning for the Hospital is progressed.

\*0398 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

When will the renovations and extensions currently underway at Mona Vale Hospital's Emergency Department be completed?

Answer—

I am advised that the renovations and extensions are expected to be completed by the end of July.

\*0399 ENERGY SUPPLY—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

What plans have been made to ensure that local energy supply will be sufficient to meet increased demand as a result of any large scale residential subdivision at Ingleside?

Answer—

EnergyAustralia has had initial discussions with Pittwater Council and current planning for the Ingleside

development is based on a staged development with approximately 5,000 residential homes.

EnergyAustralia has committed to approximately \$2.3m for additional and replacement 11,000V power lines in the area and has commenced a \$7.8m project to upgrade equipment (transformer and switchgear) at the Mona Vale substation.

\*0400 OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

In relation to complaints by Mr and Mrs John Clarke of West Kempsey, that their health is being seriously affected by a neighbouring Department of Housing tenant:

- (1) When will you respond to my representations to you and the department of 8 November 2006, 21 November 2006, 23 January 2007, 5 February 2007, 23 April 2007, 2 May 2007, 4 May 2007 and 7 May 2007?
- (2) Are you aware that despite numerous requests no one from your department or office has contacted Mr Clarke to discuss the situation with him?
- (3) When will you take appropriate action regarding this tenant?

Answer—

- (1) The matter has now been responded to.
- (2) The Department's records indicate staff from the department's Kempsey office have been in contact with Mr Clark on at least 10 occasions relating to this matter.
- (3) We are taking action to address this tenant's concerns.

\*0401 VISIT TO FORSTER BY MINISTER—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to the proposed visit to Forster to meet with residents and the police on the issues of police numbers and the need for a 24-hour police station:

When will the Minister make such a visit?

Answer—

In my role as Minister for Police it is my intention to visit as many Local Area Commands across the State as I can.

I can advise that I will be visiting the Mid North Coast, including Forster, as and when my diary permits.

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(Paper No. 11)

\*0402 TENDER PROCESS—SCHOOLS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What are the details of the tender process undertaken by the Department of Commerce for capital works for schools including:

- (a) list of approved tender parties;
- (b) contractual arrangements including financial terms;
- (c) any review process (i.e. how often tenderers are reviewed);
- (d) any external party benchmark processes (including turnaround times)?

Answer—

I am advised:

Some 84 contractors are pre-qualified for works valued at \$0.5M or more, and over 400 pre-qualified for works valued less than \$0.5M.

Information Relating to Procurement is available at:

[http://www.managingprocurement.commerce.nsw.gov.au/system/index\\_procurement\\_method\\_selection.doc](http://www.managingprocurement.commerce.nsw.gov.au/system/index_procurement_method_selection.doc)

\*0403 UNOCCUPIED BUILDINGS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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For how long were Coffs Harbour buildings in Little St and Max Murray Mall left unoccupied after leases were signed for them for the Legal Aid Commission and Department of Community Services respectively?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government Leasing Services (formerly part of the Department of Commerce and now incorporated in the State Property Authority) was only engaged to register the leases.

Matters relating to the operation of the Legal Aid Commission lease and occupation of the premises should be referred to the Attorney General.

Matters relating to the operation of the Department of Community Services lease and occupation of the premises should be referred to the Minister for Community Services.

\*0404 ICT STRATEGIC PLAN—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Can the Minister provide an update on the status of programs introduced to achieve goals set out in the Department of Commerce's 2006 NSW Government ICT Strategic Plan?

Answer—

I am advised:

People First, the NSW Government's ICT Strategic Plan, takes a coordinated approach to ICT investment and aligns planning and expenditure with service delivery priorities.

People First initiatives already underway include standardising Government service and product requirement and implementing ICT aggregated procurement. This initiative supports People First goals of ICT infrastructure amalgamation and consolidation.

New contracts standardising Government requirements for personal computers, laptops and file servers are expected to save \$30 million annually. Contracts for personal computers were announced on 4 May 2007.

New Government Telecommunications Agreement contracts for voice and mobile were executed in March 2007 and are expected to save \$50 million annually across participating agencies.

\*0405 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What is the breakdown of all government expenses on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) over the past five years?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Commerce does not hold whole of Government information for the particular period referred to.

\*0406 SHARED CORPORATE SERVICES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What is the timeline for the review into shared corporate services?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government has introduced a shared corporate services strategy with the aim of achieving administrative efficiencies across Government. The reform of shared services across government has already achieved major benefits, including:

- From 2004 to 2006 corporate services costs have fallen by around 10 percent or \$130 million;
- Since the implementation of new whole-of-government contracts the number of corporate applications across the sector have fallen from over 40 to 14;
- The number of corporate services clusters has fallen from over 40 to 25;
- New shared services providers have been created with BusinessLink being brought within the Department of Commerce structure, which will drive future efficiencies.

- \*0407 SPIT/MILITARY ROADS CORRIDOR—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What are the terms of reference for the review set up to examine transport options for the Spit/Military roads corridor and what is the timeline for its findings?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Spit Road and Military Road are identified in the Government's Urban Transport Statement for improvement.

The Government has set up a working group to investigate initiatives to improve traffic flows on this corridor. The group consists of the Roads and Traffic Authority, State Transit, the Ministry of Transport and the Premier's Infrastructure Implementation Group.

The Group is examining traffic flows, intersection improvements, bus prioritisation and the potential for additional tidal flow to facilitate better traffic movement on the corridor.

- \*0408 PAYROLL SYSTEMS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many payroll systems are currently used by the NSW Government?

Answer—

I am advised:

Across sixty-seven NSW Government departments and agencies nine payroll systems are used.

- \*0409 FITOUT AND RENTAL COSTS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What total sum has been spent on the fitout and rent of the building in Max Murray Mall Coffs Harbour which was leased for the Department of Community Services, and the building in Little Street Coffs Harbour which was leased for the Legal Aid Commission?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government Leasing Services (formerly part of the Department of Commerce and now incorporated in the State Property Authority) was only engaged to register the leases.

Matters relating to the terms of the Department of Community Services lease and fitout of the premises should be referred to the Minister for Community Services.

Matters relating to the terms of the Legal Aid Commission lease and fitout of the premises should be referred to the Attorney General.

- \*0410 CLEANING OF TRAINS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How often is each train carriage cleaned and how often is each train window washed?

Answer—

I am advised:

RailCorp reports on the CityRail fleet cleaning schedule as required in its annual report.

- \*0411 SCHEDULED TRACKWORK—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Why did Cityrail schedule track work on the Central Coast, Newcastle and Hunter line during the June long weekend given the impact this decision will have on families and small businesses relying on travel to and from Sydney?

Answer—

CityRail undertook more than \$16 million of major upgrade and maintenance works over the weekend 9-11 June which affected North Shore, Northern, Newcastle & Central Coast and Hunter Line services.

In addition to regular track and infrastructure maintenance, work on major capital projects and Rail Clearways continued.



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This included:

- interface works at Epping and Chatswood as part of the construction of the Epping to Chatswood Rail Link;
- ongoing construction of the fifth platform at Hornsby Station - this additional platform will relieve congestion by providing a dedicated terminating platform for Northern Line trains;
- the North Sydney Station Redevelopment;
- the Waverton Substation Power Supply Upgrade; and
- the Eastwood Station Easy Access Project.

This comprehensive work ensures service disruptions in the future are kept to a minimum as it improves the reliability of the track and signalling equipment.

This work meant that buses replaced services on the following lines:

- North Shore Line trains between Berowra and Wynyard.
- Northern Line trains between Hornsby and Strathfield.
- Newcastle & Central Coast Line trains between Newcastle and Central.
- Hunter Line trains between Scone and Newcastle and between Dungog and Newcastle.

\*0412 SECURITY AT POWER STATION—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to security measures at power stations:

- (1) Since September 2001, what reviews have been undertaken to assess security measures at power stations?
- (2) Do all employees at power stations undergo police background checks?
- (3) Are all employees and visitors required to display identification whilst on site at power stations?
- (4) Are all visitors required to pass through metal detectors and x-ray baggage checks before entering power stations?
- (5) How often are security measures at power stations audited, by whom, and when was the last time all power stations were audited?
- (6) Have all power stations in New South Wales passed auditing of their security measures, and if not, which power stations are yet to comply?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) Questions regarding power station security arrangements fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Police.

\*0413 GROSS POLLUTANT TRAPS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In relation to gross pollutant traps on stormwater outlets:

- (1) When was the most recent survey of the effectiveness of gross pollutant traps on stormwater outlets in the Sydney Metro area last made?
- (2) Has it been publicly released, and if not why?

Answer—

- (1) Sydney Water operates 64 Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices, which include gross pollutant traps, trash racks and litter booms. Since 1990, these devices have prevented 27,679 cubic metres of litter and 25,732 tonnes of sediment from entering waterways.
- (2) Sydney Water publishes the amount of litter and sediment collected from its stormwater network in its Annual Report.

\*0414 POWER STATION EMISSIONS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

For the following coal-fired power stations, what volumes of particulates, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide were emitted over every year from 2001 to 2006:

- (a) Bayswater;
- (b) Eraring;
- (c) Liddell;

- (d) Mt Piper;
- (e) Munmorah;
- (f) Redbank;
- (g) Vales Point;
- (h) Wallerawang?

Answer—

Information on emissions by coal-fired power plants is available in publications including annual reports and environmental reports.

\*0415 ORAL HEALTH TREATMENT VOUCHER SCHEME—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many private dentists participate in the Oral Health Treatment Voucher Scheme in the following Local Government Areas:
  - (a) Cowra;
  - (b) Weddin;
  - (c) Young;
  - (d) Upper Lachlan;
  - (e) Boorowa;
  - (f) Yass Valley;
  - (g) Harden;
  - (h) Cootamundra;
  - (i) Gundagai?
- (2) For each of these LGAs what level of service, such as pain relief, general dental work or dentures, is provided?
- (3) What is the value of services provided by private dentists under the Oral Health Treatment Voucher Scheme in each of these LGAs during:
  - (a) 2004/05;
  - (b) 2005/06;
  - (c) 2006/07?
- (4) What is the total value of services provided by private dentists under the Oral Health Treatment Voucher Scheme in the Greater Southern Area Health Service during:
  - (a) 2004/05;
  - (b) 2005/06;
  - (c) 2006/07?

Answer—

I am advised that, to answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department away from the exercise of its core functions.

However, I can advise that all eligible public patients requesting dental services including denture services are first prioritised through the Priority Oral Health Program (POHP), which operates across NSW using a triage questionnaire.

Those in most urgent need of care are given priority of access to treatment be it in our own clinics or through the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme (OHFFSS) vouchers to private dentists. Where possible patients are offered appointments at the nearest facility to their residential location.

Further information on NSW Health dental health services, including the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme, is available at: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/dental.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/dental.html)

\*0416 BINALONG 50 KPH SPEED LIMIT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the Roads and Traffic Authority release the new guidelines for the assessment and determination of appropriate speed zoning enabling a decision on the appropriateness of declaring a 50 kph speed zone in the village of Bowning?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA regularly reviews speed limits to ensure they remain appropriate, based on criteria including the surrounding conditions, road usage and vehicle types and volumes.

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An assessment of the speed limit through the village of Binalong will be carried out by the RTA in coming weeks.

\*0417 CHILD PROTECTION REPORTS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What are the specific criteria used by the Department of Community Services Helpline to allocate a category one, two or three to initial child protection reports?
- (2) What are the specific criteria for a stage one assessment of a child protection report that triggers a stage 2 assessment?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) This information is available on the Department of Community Services' website at [http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/documents/interagency\\_guidelines/chapter3.pdf](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/documents/interagency_guidelines/chapter3.pdf)

\*0418 PARKING SPACES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many parking spaces will be available (once all work is completed) at:

- (a) Hornsby Railway Station;
- (b) Berowra Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) Upon completion of the Hornsby Station Platform 5 and Stabling Project there will be a total of approximately 471 dedicated commuter car parking spaces.
- (b) The Berowra Station Platform 3 Project was completed in August 2006.  
There are 136 commuter car parking spaces, including three disabled carparking spaces available at Berowra Station.

\*0419 REPLACEMENT OF PIPES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) In light of the sewerage connection in Brooklyn, will Sydney Water be replacing the water mains pipes?
- (2) If yes, when will that take place?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) There is no planned renewal of water mains in Brooklyn associated with the Brooklyn and Dangar Island Sewerage Scheme.

\*0420 WATER TANK REBATES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many people in the Hornsby electorate have been recipients of the water tank rebate since January 2006?
- (2) How many applications are still being considered?
- (3) Has anyone been refused?
- (4) If so, for what reason?

Answer—

As at 25 June 2007, for the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai local government areas combined:

- (1) 1,538.
- (2) 51.
- (3) Yes, 4.
- (4) In two cases the applicants are required to fit backflow prevention devices. In the other two cases the applicants provided incorrect account numbers. These customers are asked to reapply.

\*0421 GRAFFITI PHONE LINE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Does the Government run any central phone line services for the public to call to initiate prompt action from relevant authorities to address graffiti?
- (2) What potential support would be available from the Government should a regional organisation of

councils initiate such a service?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me :

Reports can be made to the Police Assistance Line (131 444). In addition to the Police Assistance Line, members of the public can report graffiti vandalism to any police station or to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, or the police website, [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au).

The NSW Government has also established a new graffiti website, [www.graffiti.nsw.gov.au](http://www.graffiti.nsw.gov.au), which includes information for community members, businesses and government agencies.

Local councils are welcome to submit proposals for the management of graffiti to the Anti-Graffiti Action Team.

\*0422 AMBULANCE SERVICE FEE STRUCTURE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

When the Ambulance Service of NSW reviewed and changed the fee structure for ambulance services from 1 July 2006, how were regular users of the service personally advised of the changes in the fee structure before being charged?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Ambulance Service implemented a communications strategy about the new fee structure including media releases on 30 May 2006 and 27 June 2006. A further media release directed towards towns on the Queensland/New South Wales border was issued on 13 October 2006.

This information is also available on the Ambulance Service website, including information about liability for payment of ambulance charges in NSW and other States, and private insurance options.

\*0423 SEWERAGE CONNECTIONS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many residents do not have public sewerage connections in the Warringah Council part of Davidson electorate?
- (2) By what date(s) is it planned to connect such services?

Answer—

- (1) In the Warringah Council part of the Davidson electorate, approximately 128 dwellings do not have public sewerage connections. Most of these dwellings are in the Oxford Falls area.
- (2) There are currently no plans to provide sewerage services to these properties, as this area is not included in the NSW Government's Priority Sewerage Program.

\*0424 CRACKED WATER PIPES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many cracked water pipes have been detected in Davidson electorate since January 2005?
- (2) How many of these remain unfixed?
- (3) How much has been spent in that time on replacing old pipes with new pipes?

Answer—

As at end May 2007, in the Ku-ring-gai and Warringah Local Government Areas combined:

- (1) There have been 1,847 water leaks detected on Sydney Water mains and/or reported since January 2005.
- (2) Of these, only 2 recently detected leaks have not yet had repairs completed.
- (3) Since January 2005, \$1.6 million has been spent replacing 4,030 metres of water main.

\*0425 REGISTERED NURSE NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many of the full time equivalent Registered Nurses who are on the NSW Nurses and Midwives Roll are currently working in the NSW public and private health system?
- (2) What percentage of those full time equivalent Registered Nurses who are on the NSW Nurses and Midwives Roll are actually working in the public sector frontline including those provided by the private nursing agencies?
- (3) What percentage of full time equivalent Registered Nurses are being supplemented by the private nursing agencies to the NSW public health sector frontline?

Answer—

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I am advised that the answer to your question is as follows:

(1)

2005	
No. of Registered Nurses on NSW Register	82,053
Estimated RNs (headcount 2005) working in NSW	56,601
% of Registered Nurses (headcount) working in NSW	69.0%
FTE workforce:	
Estimated RN (FTE 2005) working in NSW	51,162
RN FTE working in public health system (HIE data)	30,121

(2)

2005	
RN FTE working in the public health system 'frontline workforce'	28,845

(3) Agency nurses made up 1% of the total registered nurse workforce (386.9 FTE) as at June 2006.

\*0426 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What educational institutions have been closed in Northern Sydney (including the north shore and northern peninsula) in the last 12 years?
- (2) What new educational institutions have been opened in Northern Sydney (including the north shore and northern peninsula) in the last 12 years?
- (3) What extra educational institutions, if any, are planned to open in Northern Sydney in the next four years?

Answer—

Under the New South Wales Education Act 1990 and Technical and Further Education Commission Act 1990 there is no definition or reference to educational institutions. The Member for Davidson will need to clarify which categories of educational institutions he is referring to.

\*0427 FRENCHS FOREST/BELROSE TAFE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

When is construction of the planned TAFE on Forest Way at Frenchs Forest scheduled to commence and be completed?

Answer—

Given that TAFE NSW – Northern Sydney Institute, Northern Beaches College, is operating within capacity and that enrolments at the College have risen by less than 1 per cent since 2001, there is no plan to construct a new TAFE college on Forest Way, Belrose.

\*0428 UNION MEMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What percentage of workers in NSW are members of a union and how does this differ between public and private sector workers?

Answer—

This information is collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

\*0429 HIGHWAY PATROL FUNDING—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given concerns raised with me about reduced funding by the RTA for highway patrols:

- (1) Can the Minister confirm that there will be no cuts to the RTA funding of highway patrol activity by the police?
- (2) If cuts have already been made, what is the magnitude of these cuts?

- (3) Have you discussed the issue of enhancement funding by the RTA for extra police highway patrol activity with the Minister for Police?  
 (4) If so, what was the outcome of those discussions?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to improving the safety of all road users.

The Enhanced Enforcement Program is a key road safety initiative. Regular meetings are held between the RTA and the NSW Police Force to ensure the program remains effective.

Funding for the Enhanced Enforcement Program has been maintained in the 2007/08 financial year.

\*0430 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—BANORA POINT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

With respect to the RTA's engagement of independent consultants (Flagstaff Consulting) for the assessment of a tunnel option for the Pacific Highway Banora Point Upgrade:

- (1) Was Flagstaff Consulting issued with full cross sections at a number of chainages?
- (2) Was Flagstaff Consulting provided with digital survey data or computer generated quantity information?
- (3) How independent is the independent consultancy, if the figures and drawings used were provided by the RTA and their consultants, Parsons Brinckerhoff?
- (4) Was the 6-week time frame of the independent consultation adequate, given that the RTA consultancy had a 3-year time frame?
- (5) In light of the deficiencies in the drawings and information provided to Flagstaff Consulting, will a new fully independent consultation be arranged?

Answer—

I am advised:

Flagstaff Consulting was provided with a series of plans, longitudinal sections and typical cross-sections, which were prepared as part of route options phase of the Banora Point project.

Further information on the Banora Point upgrade is available at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0431 MEDICAL WORKERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

From where will the doctors, nurses and allied healthcare workers for the new hospital at Frenchs Forest be recruited or redeployed?

Answer—

I am advised that when the new hospital at French Forest opens, the existing workforce of Northern Beaches Health Service will provide services at the new hospital, at Mona Vale Hospital, and other sites within the health service, as required. Any vacancies to meet the increased demand and vacancies will be recruited in accordance with NSW Health policy.

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\*0432 WILLMOT DWELLINGS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many dwellings are in the suburb of Willmot?
- (2) What is the number of dwellings that are under the management of:
  - (a) the Department of Housing;
  - (b) another housing authority such as a co-operative?
- (3) How do the above current figures compare to Willmot five years ago?

Answer—

(1) 847 according to the 2006 census.

(2) (a) 365.

(b) 0.

(3) 855 according to the 2001 census, including 364 Department of Housing properties.

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\*0433 MACQUARIE GENERATION—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to Macquarie Generation:

- (1) Does National Electricity Market data show Macquarie Generation's supply bids for electricity during the two hours before the evening peak period between 11 June and 17 June 2007 averaging less than \$200 per MW/hr?
- (2) Does National Electricity Market data show Macquarie Generation's supply bids for electricity during the evening peak period between 11 June and 17 June 2007 range between \$500 to \$10,000 per MW/hr?
- (3) What is the financial impact on energy retailers of one or more New South Wales base load generators bidding such high prices for the supply of electricity during evening peak periods?
- (4) Does the financial impact of such high bids prove to be significantly more disadvantageous for privately-owned retailers than Government-owned retailers because of the moderating effect of the Electricity Tariff Equalisation Fund?
- (5) Will the Minister investigate:
  - (a) whether given the fragile nature of the NSW electricity market such bidding is a responsible use of concentrated market power by NSW generators during evening peak periods, and does this bidding behaviour distort the electricity market;
  - (b) whether the net result of generators' use of concentrated market power to reap super profits during evening peak periods, will be to force private retailers from the market and significantly reduce the profitability of Government-owned retailers?
- (6) If this market behaviour continues, will the net result also be electricity price rises to consumers beyond IPART's recent pricing decision?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) The Australian Energy Regulator (the AER) is responsible for monitoring the National Electricity Market (the NEM).

As part of the AER's market monitoring role, under the National Electricity Rules (Rule 3.13.7) it is required to prepare a report into events where the "spot price exceeded \$5,000MWh in a trading interval or trading intervals, prepare and publish a report which must for each trading interval in which the spot price exceeded \$5,000MWh in that week:

- (1) describe the significant factors that contributed to the spot price exceeding \$5,000MWh, including the withdrawal of generation capacity and network availability;
- (2) assess whether rebidding pursuant to clause 3.8.22 contributed to the spot price exceeding \$5,000MWh; and
- (3) identify the marginal scheduled generating units for the dispatch intervals in the relevant trading interval and all scheduled generating units for which any dispatch offer for the trading interval was equal to or greater than \$5,000MWh and compare these dispatch offers to relevant dispatch offers in previous trading intervals".

The AER has released its report into price events over the period 12-28 June 2007, finding that bidding behaviour by Macquarie Generation and other generators "did not involve a breach of the National Electricity Rules".

\*0434 COAL AND WATER USAGE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to water and coal use by each electricity power station:

- (1) In 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 what was the volume of fresh water used in the following power stations:
  - (a) Bayswater;
  - (b) Eraring;
  - (c) Liddell;
  - (d) Mount Piper;
  - (e) Munmorah;
  - (f) Redbank;
  - (g) Vales Point;
  - (h) Wallerawang?

- (2) In 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 what was the tonnage of coal used in the following power stations:
- Bayswater;
  - Eraring;
  - Liddell;
  - Mount Piper;
  - Munmorah;
  - Redbank;
  - Vales Point;
  - Wallerawang?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Information in relation to water and coal usage by power stations is available in publications such as annual reports.

\*0435 SOLAR PROJECT—LIDDELL POWER STATION—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the John Marcheff Solar Project at Macquarie Generation's Liddell power station:

- Is the solar project fully operational?
- What are the benefits of this solar-thermal technology?
- How many tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions are saved through this project?
- Is the technology used at other power stations?
  - If so, which power stations?
  - If not, why not?

Answer—

- Macquarie Generation has advised the project is currently under construction, and it expects the first stage to be operational by the end of 2007 or soon thereafter.
- Some of the expected benefits are:
  - Greenhouse gas reduction
  - Promotes the development of new solar technology
  - Can be integrated with existing infrastructure
  - Reduced coal consumption
  - Assists during summer midday demand periods
  - Proving the technical viability of this technology
  - Educational role for community
- When in operation, the first stage of the project will prevent approximately 4,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> being emitted each year.
- (a) and (b) The Liddell project utilises technology that is unique to it, therefore this project is providing a demonstration of solar-derived steam technology internationally.

\*0436 BABY JOAN—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- Is the report in the Sunday Telegraph of 17 June 2007 correct in that Pastor Matthew Beckenham was told to stop visiting the abandoned infant known as "Baby Joan" by officers of the Department of Community Services?
- If the child's mother is not found, will Baby Joan be placed in long-term foster care or placed for adoption?
- If adoption is considered to be in the best interests of the child, will Pastor Beckenham and his wife be considered as suitable adoptive parents?

Answer—

- The Department of Community Services remains in contact with Pastor Beckenham and his family and keeps them updated on how Baby Joan is progressing. Any future contact arrangements between the Beckenham family and Baby Joan will be assessed in terms of Baby Joan's needs.
- and (3) Because Baby Joan's parents or relatives have not come forward, the Department of Community Services is looking at a more permanent placement for her, including adoption, with prospective parents who have already gone through a rigorous process.

\*0437 UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—



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- (1) Has the report to Mr D McIntre of the Office of Fair Trading's Home Building Service by Mr T Smith of Yass about the ACT company "The Climate Doctor" carrying out unlicensed electrical work in Yass on 27 March 2007 been investigated?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) In the past 12 months how many ACT companies have been prosecuted by the Office of Fair Trading for carrying out unlicensed electrical or refrigeration work in NSW?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) See above.
- (3) Although there have been no specific prosecutions of this type undertaken in the last 12 months, Fair Trading investigators have, in the past 18 months, issued 25 penalty notices to residents of the ACT for offences regarding unlicensed contracting in NSW.

\*0438 IPTAAS DISTANCE CRITERIA—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Was information provided by Department of Health staff to Ms M Miller of CANASSIST in Cootamundra that the distance criteria for IPTAAS is measured from the Cootamundra Post Office to the Wagga Wagga Post Office?
- (2) If not, what are the specific criteria for measuring distance to decide on eligibility for IPTAAS assistance?
- (3) Does the IPTAAS distance criteria make any allowance for travel by patients from homes located in Cootamundra that are more than 100 kilometres from the Riverina Cancer Care Centre in Wagga Wagga?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Greater Southern Area Health Service Health Transport Unit applies standard measurements between localities using GPS software to ensure a consistent and objective application of the distance criteria under IPTAAS.

The NSW Transport for Health policy clearly articulates that the distance is to be calculated using the most direct route from the claimant's usual residential address to the address of the treatment centre.

In all cases, the full address is to be used (ie street number and street name). Where the distance calculator cannot identify a street number, the street name is to be used as the point of origin or destination.

Where a claimant lives on a property and does not have a conventional street address, the IPTAAS application form asks the claimant to advise the distance from their property to the first town they reach on their journey. This distance information is then included in the calculation of their IPTAAS claim.

- (3) Any patient living 100km or more from the site of their nearest medical specialist, and who meets other IPTAAS eligibility criteria, are able to apply for reimbursement.

\*0439 CHERRYBROOK TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Given Cherrybrook Technology High School has nearly 2,000 students with a classroom capacity of 1,200 students, what plans are there for capital works funding to increase the student accommodation capacity of this school?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training's Northern Sydney Regional Asset Management Unit is working with Cherrybrook Technology High School to develop a proposal for an upgrade to the school's permanent accommodation for consideration in a future Major Capital Works Program.

\*0440 POWER OUTAGE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many homes and businesses lost power in the storms in the Hornsby electorate over the weekend 9-10 June 2007?
- (2) What is the longest time these homes and businesses were without power?
- (3) What difficulties were faced in attempting to reconnect power related to the above stoppage?

Answer—

I am advised by EnergyAustralia:

- (1) At the height of the storm there were 50,000 EnergyAustralia customers without power between the Parramatta and Hawkesbury River areas. Of these, 40,000 were on the Northern Beaches.
- (2) The longest outage in the Hornsby electorate affecting a section of low voltage mains was 56 hours and 56 minutes in Pennant Hills.

All customers in the Hornsby electorate, affected by interruptions on the EnergyAustralia network, had their power restored by Monday afternoon, 11 June 2007.

- (3) Difficulties included the unprecedented level of devastation across such a widespread area of the electricity network, and intermittent flooding, torrential rain and gale force winds during the restoration of supply.

\*0441 BROOKLYN SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Is the land currently occupied by the construction of the sewerage treatment plant at Brooklyn Crown land or council (Hornsby Shire) land?
- (2) If not, what is its classification?
- (3) If owned by Sydney Water Corporation, what classification did the land have prior to the sale?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The majority of the land occupied is freehold title land in the ownership of Hornsby Shire Council, being land classified as "Community Land" under the Local Government Act 1993. Sydney Water has commenced discussions with Hornsby Shire Council for acquisition of the required site and easements for Brooklyn Sewage Treatment Plant.

A small parcel of land (820.5 metres<sup>2</sup>) is freehold title land in the ownership of the Sydney Water Corporation.

(3) The 820.5 metres<sup>2</sup> parcel of land owned by Sydney Water Corporation was acquired by notification in Government Gazette dated 9 February 2007 and, at the time, was classified as Crown Land, being part of Crown Reserve R45642 for Public Recreation.

\*0442 WATER TANK REBATES—CRONULLA ELECTORATE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many people in the Cronulla electorate have been recipients of the water tank rebate since January 2006?
- (2) How many applications are still being considered?
- (3) Has anyone been refused?
- (4) If so, for what reason?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that as at 25 June 2007, for the Sutherland Local Government Area:

- (1) 1,228.
- (2) 12.
- (3) Yes, 2.
- (4) Both applicants provided incorrect account numbers. These customers have been asked to reapply.

\*0443 KIRRAWEE BRICK PIT—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) What price did Sydney Water receive for the sale of the former Kirrawee Brick Pit?
- (2) What is the name of the purchaser of the Kirrawee Brick Pit?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water:

- (1) The gross sale proceeds before deducting selling costs were \$22.5 million.
- (2) Kirrawee Centre Pty Ltd.

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\*0444 CRACKED WATER PIPES—CRONULLA ELECTORATE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many cracked water pipes have been detected in the Cronulla electorate since January 2005?
- (2) Where were these pipes located?
- (3) How many of these remained unfixed?
- (4) How much has been spent in that time on replacing old pipes with new pipes?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that as at the end of May 2007, in the Sutherland Local Government Area:

- (1) There have been 966 water leaks detected and/or reported on Sydney Water mains since January 2005.
- (2) These water mains were located throughout the Sutherland Local Government Area.
- (3) Of these, only three recently detected leaks have not yet had repairs completed.
- (4) Since January 2005, \$4.2 million has been spent replacing 10,470 metres of water main.

\*0445 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INCENTIVES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

With respect to providing incentives for households to switch to solar energy:

- (1) Is the NSW Government aware of South Australia's proposal to develop a feed-in mechanism for residential small-scale solar photovoltaic installations where households are guaranteed a reasonable price for electricity returned to the grid?
- (2) (a) What assessment has the NSW Government carried out on the increases in demand for photovoltaic installations that a feed-in mechanism could create in NSW?  
(b) What are the findings?
- (3) (a) What assessment has the NSW Government carried out on the increased supply of renewable energy achievable in NSW through residential photovoltaic installations?  
(b) What are the findings of the assessments?
- (4) (a) What assessment has the NSW Government carried out on introducing a feed-in mechanism with price requirements on electricity retailers purchasing electricity returned to the grid?  
(b) What are the findings?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government is aware of the proposal of the South Australian Government to introduce a feed-in tariff for electricity exported to the grid from small solar photovoltaic systems installed on residences.
- (2) (a) and (b) The NSW Government is not proposing a feed-in tariff as a support mechanism for residential solar photovoltaic systems. The NSW Government is implementing a Renewable Energy Target to support all renewable energy types, in a least-cost, market-driven scheme.
- (3) (a) The 2002 IPART "Inquiry into the Role of Demand Management and Other Options in the Provision of Energy Services" examined the potential in NSW for distributed renewable energy technologies, including solar photovoltaic systems.

In addition, the Owen Inquiry is considering the need for and timing of new baseload generation. The terms of reference are open in regard to the future technology, including fuel source, suitable for new baseload generation.

- (b) The IPART inquiry determined a capacity of around 400 megawatts of solar photovoltaic power in NSW. The Owen Inquiry is due to report by 31 August 2007.
- (4) (a) and (b) Depending on the particular retailer's policy on electricity buy-back arrangements, householders in NSW installing small solar photovoltaic systems may be able to be paid at the same rate for electricity exported from their house as their electricity purchase price, sometimes termed "net metering".

\*0446 STORM DAMAGE TO OVERHEAD CABLES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

With regard to the storms experienced in NSW on Friday 8 June and Saturday 9 June that are reported to have caused power outages for nearly 200,000 people:

- (1) How many homes in NSW experienced power outages as a result of damaged overhead power lines?
- (2) How many businesses in NSW experienced power outages as a result of damaged overhead power lines?
- (3) What assessment has the NSW Government done on the cost to fix the damaged power lines?
- (4) What are the results of the assessment?
- (5) What assessment has the NSW Government undertaken on the cost to NSW businesses due to power outages caused by damaged overhead power lines?
- (6) What are the results of the assessment?
- (7) Given the loss of power and associated costs caused by the damaged overhead power lines, what further consideration has the NSW Government given to implementing a plan to systematically underground overhead cables?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The storms on 8 and 9 June 2007 were the worst storms for 30 years causing widespread damage primarily to EnergyAustralia's network across the Hunter, Central Coast and Northern Sydney areas.

At the height of the storm there were overall 230,000 customers without power.

(3) and (4) The cost of the restoration effort in response to the storms was around \$10.8 million.

(5) and (6) The cost of power outages varies with each customer, the time of occurrence and the duration of the outage. The actual cost of power outages to customers has been the subject of many studies throughout the world, with many different results obtained.

(7) New South Wales already has the largest underground electricity network in Australia, with almost 30,000 km already in place. It is expected that this network will continue to expand to a stage where almost half of Sydney's network will be undergrounded in the next 20 years due to increased development and hence at no additional cost to householders.

\*0447 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

Why did the RTA advise the Banora Point community that the Community Option C would require drilling and blasting, but then failed to inform these people that the RTA's own preferred option requires blasting of up to 36,000 cubic metres in the proposed cutting for the Pacific Highway Upgrade at Banora Point?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding the Banora Point upgrade, including the environmental assessment, is available at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0448 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—BANORA POINT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Banora Point section of the Pacific Highway:

What measures is the RTA intending to implement to ensure the guaranteed protection of one the last remaining rain forest areas of its type on the eastern seaboard from pollutants during construction and operation of the proposed Pacific Highway Upgrade at Banora Point?

Answer—

I am advised:

Details of the Banora Point upgrade, including the environmental assessment, are available at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0449 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

Is there any arrangement between the RTA and Tweed Shire Council relating to the two bridges which require construction over the Terranora Inlet as part of the traffic management plan for South Tweed? Has the RTA promised Tweed Shire Council any financial assistance in the building of these two bridges?

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Answer—

I am advised:

Details on the Banora Point upgrade are available at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0450 WEEMALA RESIDENTS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

With respect to the residents of "Weemala", located at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney-Ryde and the proposal to relocate them from the RRCS-Ryde site to community housing:

- (1) Will an individual physiology assessment be carried out on each resident to ascertain the effect a change of Home/Domicile would have on them in view of their long-term residency?
- (2) (a) What benchmarks will apply to the proposed levels of care for the residents?  
(b) If nominated benchmarks are not achieved or maintained what remedial action is proposed?
- (3) Why were the plans for the relocation of Weemala abandoned?
- (4) Why was there no consultation with the residents and/or their families about any changes?
- (5) Why was it not until Mr Sartor approved the rezoning that the re-building of Weemala was abandoned?
- (6) What evidence is there to support the contention that the existing residents of Weemala are now suited to community housing when previously they and their families were informed that they were not so suited?
- (7) What assessments have been conducted to establish the effect of a move on residents particularly with regard to decimation of the family structure, moving to unfamiliar surroundings, changes to routine, changes to staff?
- (8) With respect to one of the "justifications" for the community housing "option" being that some of the residents do not get along with their fellow residents, what evidence do you have to support this alleged justification?
- (9) In what geographical radius from Weemala will the community housing be?
- (10) If the residents do not want to move into community housing what will their options be?
- (11) With respect to advice that the current staff will be offered employment in the community housing, of the community homes that are in existence how many of the staff from RRCS still work in these homes?
- (12) What additional training will be given to the staff if they agree to work in community homes to ensure that they are qualified to prepare meals and manage the house?
- (13) Who will be overseeing the care provided by the nursing staff?
- (14) What standards of care and management will be expected of these nurses?
- (15) How many staff (registered nurses) will be employed at a house (at one time) with 4 totally dependent residents?
- (16) How many other staff will be employed at a house (at one time) with 4 totally dependent residents?
- (17) What will the shift rotations for the staff be?
- (18) What evidence is there that the community housing is as safe as Weemala?
- (19) What assurances can be given that the residents will be secure?
- (20) How will the residents be transported back to RRCS for services?
- (21) Who will be responsible for the costs of the transport?
- (22) (a) Will carers be provided to travel with the residents?  
(b) What ratio of carers to residents?
- (23) Will the recreation services still be provided for the residents eg church services, Christmas carols and concerts?
- (24) What assurances can be given that the standard of rehabilitation services will be maintained?
- (25) What criteria will be used to determine which residents will be grouped together?
- (26) How much will it cost for the residents to live in community housing?
- (27) What are the expected sales proceeds?
- (28) (a) What will the sale proceeds be used for?  
(b) In particular what amount will be used for on-site recreational facilities, what amount will be used for research?
- (29) What is expected cost of the development of the existing site?
- (30) What would be the cost of building a new Weemala on-site?
- (31) What are the costs associated with acquiring and modifying the community housing?
- (32) What amount of funding will the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADAC) provide if a new Weemala is built on site?

- (33) What amount of funding will DADAC provide for community housing?
- (34) What percentage of funds from the sale of the land will be dedicated to Weemala residents in terms of relocation expenses and community housing?
- (35) What specifically is the "research" funding going towards?
- (36) How many of the board members have actually been to Weemala and asked the residents what they would like and have seen what the residents abilities are?
- (37) Why was it necessary for the chairman of the board and his party to go to Europe to see the community housing there if the community housing here is, according to the board, so appropriate?
- (38) If the board members are so concerned with the welfare of the residents why have they not (with the exception of Mr Austin) attended any of the meetings with the residents (whose interests they supposedly represent) regarding community housing?

Answer—

Questions (1) to (31) and (34) to (38) are more appropriately directed to the Department of Health, Department of Planning or the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney.

The Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney is a not-for-profit charitable organisation with an independent Board of Directors.

(32) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care will not contribute any funding to a 'new Weemala' on site.

(33) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care will not provide any new funding for community housing.

Ten people from the original Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement, Weemala Transition Plan, Disability Services Act Target Group remain in Weemala. Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care funded community based accommodation vacancies already exist for them within the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney Community Integration Program. Funding for community housing for other Weemala residents is the responsibility of New South Wales Health.

The original Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement Weemala Transition Plan identified 74 individuals as the Disability Services Act Target Group and the rest as requiring services from Health. Only ten of the original Disability Services Act Group remain in Weemala.

The Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney is not a DADHC funded service.

\*0451 WATER TANK REBATES—LANE COVE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many people in the Lane Cove local government area have been recipients of the water tank rebate since January 2006?
- (2) How many applications are still being considered?
- (3) Has anyone been refused?
- (4) If so, for what reason?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised that as at 25 June 2007:

- (1) 101.
- (2) 5.
- (3) and (4) No.

\*0452 WATER TANK REBATES—HUNTERS HILL—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many people in the Hunters Hill local government area have been recipients of the water tank rebate since January 2006?
- (2) How many applications are still being considered?
- (3) Has anyone been refused?
- (4) If so, for what reason?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised that as at 25 June 2007:

- (1) 63.
- (2) 3.
- (3) and (4) No.

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\*0453 DENTAL PROFESSION VACANCIES—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) At which facilities in NSW are the following currently being trained:
  - (a) dental nurses;
  - (b) dental assistants;
  - (c) dental prosthetists;
  - (d) dental hygienists; and
  - (e) oral health graduates?
- (2) How many of each of the above classes of professionals are trained annually?
- (3) What is the current number of vacant positions in the public dental system for:
  - (a) dental nurses;
  - (b) dental assistant; and
  - (c) dental prosthetists?
- (4) What provisions are being made to fill current vacancies for dental therapists, and future vacancies for oral health graduates in the public dental system?
- (5) How many school dental services are currently available statewide, and how many dental professionals (FTE) are currently employed at each facility?
- (6) Are there plans to phase out the School Dental Service?
  - (a) If so, why?
  - (b) If not, what steps are being taken to ensure children can access free dental care?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to the response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 0201.

\*0454 ORAL HEALTH FEE FOR SERVICE SCHEME—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) In each Area Health Service:
  - (a) How many private dentists participated in the Oral Health Treatment Voucher scheme for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (to date)?
  - (b) What is the breakdown of the number of participating dentists by the level of service provided; that is, how many dentists provided pain relief services, how many provided general dental work and how many provided denture services?
- (2) How many vouchers were issued to public patients for treatment by a private oral health provider through the Oral Health Fee For Service Scheme, for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (to date)?
- (3) What was the total expenditure in each Area Health Service on the Oral Health Fee For Service Scheme for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 (to date)?

Answer—

I am advised that, to answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department away from the exercise of its core functions.

However, I can advise that all eligible public patients requesting dental services including denture services are first prioritised through the Priority Oral Health Program (POHP), which operates across NSW using a triage questionnaire.

Those in most urgent need of care are given priority of access to treatment be it in our own clinics or through the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme (OHFFSS) vouchers to private dentists. Where possible patients are offered appointments at the nearest facility to their residential location.

Further information on NSW Health dental health services, including the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme, is available at: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/dental.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/dental.html)

\*0455 SYDNEY GAS—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Will the Minister release your department's analysis of any hydro or other water reports provided to your department on the impact of the proposed methane gas extraction project on ground water in the Bulga Valley?
- (2) Will the Minister release any analysis undertaken by your department on the environmental impacts of the proposed Sydney Gas methane gas extraction project in the Bulga Valley?
- (3) (a) Does Sydney Gas plan to drill up to 300 methane gas wells in the Bulga Valley as part of its methane gas extraction project?
- (b) What impact will this have on the local water table?
- (c) Will the Minister release any analysis undertaken by your department on the impact of this

drilling on ground water?

Answer—

The review of environmental impacts for gas extraction falls within the administration of the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Therefore, this question should be directed to my colleague the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for State Development.

\*0456 SYDNEY GAS—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Given that the Minister has indicated to both Sydney Gas Pty Ltd and to the Hunter Bulga community that the proposed methane gas extraction project in the Bulga Valley would not go ahead without community support:

- (1) How and why has the Government determined the project has community support?
- (2) What evidence is available to the State Government of that community support?
- (3) How was that evidence collected and by whom?
- (4) Will the Minister provide the economic analysis undertaken by Sydney Gas and/or your department demonstrating the economic benefits to the Hunter Bulga region of the proposed Sydney Gas methane gas extraction project in the Bulga Valley?
- (5) Will the Minister release details of Sydney Gas' remediation plans and your department's analysis of these plans for its proposed methane gas extraction project in the Bulga Valley?
- (6) (a) Will the Minister release all information provided by Sydney Gas to your department on the environmental impacts of the proposed methane gas project in the Bulga Valley?  
(b) Will the Minister also release your department's analysis of the environmental impacts claims made by Sydney Gas?

Answer—

- (1) Sydney Gas Pty Ltd, in joint venture with AGL, is exploring for coal seam methane in the Bulga Valley and is at a very early stage in assessing the commercial viability of developing the coal seam methane resources present in this area. If the joint venture's exploration is successful, and it decides to proceed towards commercial development of coal seam methane resources it will be required to submit a formal application for development approval, which will be subject to the Government's comprehensive development assessment and approval process. The Government's development assessment and approval process for mining or gas extraction proposals is extensive, transparent and rigorous and provides for full community input. There would be ample opportunity for the Bulga Valley community to express its views on any such proposal during the development assessment and approval process.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) See answer to (1).
- (4) See answer to (1).
- (5) See answer to (1).
- (6) (a) See answer to (1).  
(b) See answer to (1).

\*0457 SYDNEY GAS—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Will the Minister release the road and transport studies undertaken by your department assessing the impact of trucks and other vehicles associated with the proposed Sydney Gas methane mine on local roads in the Bulga Valley?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority does not hold these documents.

\*0458 CHURCH POINT MASTER PLAN—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the master plan for Church Point currently being prepared by Pittwater Council:

- (1) Will the RTA permit the construction of public angle-parking on the non-waterfront side of McCarrs



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Creek Road, to the west of the post office?

(2) If not, what are the reasons for the RTA's refusal?

Answer—

I am advised:

Discussions have previously been held between Pittwater Council and the RTA regarding angle parking on the non-waterfront side of McCarrs Creek Road west of the Post Office.

Due to traffic volumes and cycle traffic, particularly on weekends, parking on the foreshore side would create a far safer pedestrian environment and eliminate the need for pedestrians to cross McCarrs Creek Road.

For the RTA to consider the construction of public angle parking on the non-waterfront side of McCarrs Creek Road, Council would need to prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the RTA's approval.

The Traffic Management Plan would need to incorporate a pedestrian facility link which would allow pedestrians to either cross under or above McCarrs Creek Road.

\*0459 CHURCH POINT MASTER PLAN—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the master plan for Church Point currently being prepared by Pittwater Council:

What conditions would have to be met in order for the RTA to allow the construction of public angle-parking on the non-waterfront side of McCarrs Creek Road, to the west of the post office?

Answer—

Please see the answer to Question 0458.

\*0460 SCHEDULE 7 COMMENCEMENT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

When will Schedule 7 to the Water Management Act 2000 (NSW) commence?

Answer—

Schedule 7 commenced on 1 January 2001 in relation to 24 of the listed Acts.

\*0461 SURGICAL EQUIPMENT STERILISER—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the main surgical equipment steriliser at Macksville District Hospital:

- (1) Has this steriliser been taken out of service?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) If so, when will it be replaced?
- (4) If so, how will equipment be sterilised in the meantime?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Downward displacement sterilising accounts for around 55% of all sterilising undertaken at Macksville District Hospital. The downward displacement steriliser at Macksville is scheduled to be taken out of service in early July 2007.
- (2) A recent Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) accreditation survey recommended the use of the downward displacement steriliser at Macksville cease and alternative arrangements be made for the processing of instrument trays.
- (3) North Coast Area Health Service is conducting a review to see whether it is more efficient and effective to replace the current Macksville District Hospital steriliser with a new steriliser or to undertake sterilising of instruments for Macksville District Hospital offsite.
- (4) From early July 2007, the instruments previously sterilised by the downward displacement method of sterilising at Macksville District Hospital will be sterilised at Coffs Harbour Base Hospital as an interim measure. The remaining 45% of sterilising will continue at Macksville District Hospital.

\*0462 REMOVAL OF NATIVE VEGETATION—Mr Richard Torbay asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) Has the department or the Minister obtained legal advice in relation to all of the legal conditions and controls that currently apply to removal of native vegetation or timber from perpetual Crown leases?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide a copy of any such advice?

- (3) Will covenants placed on Crown leases after conversion provide at least an equivalent degree of protection to that provided by their current legislative context?
- (4) How this will be implemented?

Answer—

Tenure neutral legislation such as the Native Vegetation Act and the Threatened Species Conservation Act protect vegetation and conservation values on these holdings regardless of whether they are held under leasehold or freehold title. These are the prime mechanisms for protection of native vegetation and habitat and provide strong safeguards to protect environmental values.

Development and implementation of legislative changes put in place in 2004 and 2005 has involved policy, legal and operational areas of the Department. The covenants placed on title as part of the conversion process of high conservation value leases are generally designed to provide a higher level of protection specific to the particular environmental values on the land, where this is justified by the conservation values present, in a way which can be readily monitored and, where necessary, enforced. Restrictions on subdivision are also generally imposed on non-urban lease conversions. Implementation will be through the provisions of the Crown Lands Acts and the Conveyancing Act. Copies of written legal advices alone would provide only a partial view of the work that has been undertaken. In the circumstances those papers are not publicly available.

\*0463 EXPLORATION LICENCE—ROSEHILL AND/OR CASTLEROCK—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Has your department granted an exploration licence over an area known as Rosehill (EL5431) and/or Castlerock (EL5600) near Muswellbrook?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If so, for how long?
- (4) If so, was the exploration licence extended?
- (5) If so, when?
- (6) If so, for how long?
- (7) If so, why?
- (8) Are the licensees required to report to your department the outcomes of such exploration?
- (9) If so, have they?
- (10) If so, are these outcomes available to the public?
- (11) If so, when?
- (12) If so, where?
- (13) If not, why not?
- (14) What auditing process or any other accounting process is in place through the Minister's office or his department to ensure the licensees are complying with the exploration licence conditions?
- (15) If none, why not?
- (16) Is the Minister or his department aware of various residents in the area subject to the exploration licensee mentioned in (1) hereof wishing to have their properties acquired by the company undertaking the exploration licence?
- (17) If so, what actions has the Minister or his department taken to assist such residents in view of the fact that the exploration licence will span a period of 11 years, creating hardship for many residents in the area who wish to dispose of their properties for family, personal, health or financial reasons?
- (18) If the Minister or his department has taken no action, why not?
- (19) Does the Minister and/or his department believe it reasonable that landlords should be subjected to exploration licences for a period of up to in this case 11 years which sends a message to people that there could be a mine in the area but there is no certainty thus restricting the ability of residents to sell their properties?
- (20) Will the Minister and/or his department seek explanations from the Muswellbrook Coal Company as to why they will not expedite the exploration and the determination as to whether they will mine?
- (21) If not, why not?
- (22) Is the exploration licence for Muswellbrook Coal Company over the subject area of land due to expire in 2009?
- (23) If so, will the Minister or his department consider an extension?
- (24) If so, why?
- (25) If so, on what terms?

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- (26) If so, will there be a sunset clause contained in such terms, in view of the fact the present exploration licence has run for 11 years with no action being taken by Muswellbrook Coal Company to mine?
- (27) If not, why not?
- (28) If the Minister and/or his department intends to renew the exploration licence in 2009, will the Minister and/or his department consider insisting that any such renewal will be an assessment lease?
- (29) If not, why not?
- (30) If so, does an assessment lease mean that affected landholders can be purchased by the licensee?
- (31) If so, what will be the procedure for this to occur?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Rosehill (EL5431) was granted on 21 January 1998. Castlerock (EL5600) was granted on 26 July 1999.
- (3) 3 years each.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Rosehill (EL5431) was renewed on 27 June 2001 & 16 October 2006. Castlerock (EL5600) was renewed on 17 January 2003 & 17 October 2006.
- (6) The latest renewal for each licence was 3 years with both exploration licences due to expire on 20 January 2009.
- (7) The licence holder satisfied the renewal criteria.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) Yes, on relinquishment of the title. Companies may make representation to retain confidentiality on particularly sensitive commercial information.
- (11) On relinquishment of the title.
- (12) On request to the NSW Department of Primary Industries.
- (13) Findings of exploration activity remain the property of the licence holder until the licence expires, when it generally becomes available to the public. It should be noted that companies may make representation to retain confidentiality on particularly sensitive commercial information.
- (14) Exploration licence conditions require the lodgement of summary reports with the Department at or about the expiry of each 6 months during the currency of the licence. These reports cover prospecting, expenditure and the results and conclusions of all surveys and other operations as well as proposed exploration for the following 6 months. The reports are assessed for compliance with exploration programs. Random audits of exploration sites may be undertaken and complaints received regarding non compliance with licence conditions are rigorously investigated.
- (15) See answer to Q14.
- (16) Yes.
- (17) NSW Department of Primary Industries officers met with representatives from the Muswellbrook Coal Company and discussed residents' concerns and other issues relating to the exploration licence. Residents have been advised via the Castlerock Residents Action Group that any landholders within the potential mine area who are having difficulties and have been unsuccessful in selling their properties should approach the General Manager of the Muswellbrook Coal Company with regard to the company purchasing their property. The purchase of properties is a matter for commercial agreement between the landholder and the mining company.
- (18) See answer to Q17.
- (19) Large areas of NSW are subject to exploration licences for a variety of minerals. Companies need to carry out effective exploration to establish the economic value and extent of a resource before being able to commit to mining. Sometimes such exploration extends over a number of years for a variety of reasons, such as large exploration areas or complex geology such as is the case at Castlerock.
- (20) The NSW Department of Primary Industries will continue to liaise with the Muswellbrook Coal Company to ensure that the company makes a final determination as soon as possible.
- (21) See answer to Q20.
- (22) Yes, both exploration licences are currently due to expire on 20 January 2009.
- (23) Yes.
- (24) If the holder of the licences satisfies the renewal criteria.
- (25) For a maximum term of 5 years with appropriate conditions set at the time of renewal.
- (26) The NSW Department of Primary Industries will meet with the holder of the exploration licences six months prior to expiry to ascertain the holder's intentions. If applications are to be made to renew the titles, consideration will be given to adding a condition requiring the company to

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purchase affected land or suggesting to the company that an Assessment Lease under the Mining Act 1992 may now be appropriate. Assessment leases have a standard condition on land purchase.

(27) See answer to Q26.

(28) See answer to Q26.

(29) See answer to Q26.

(30) Yes, although it should be noted that Muswellbrook Coal Company has already made an offer to consider the purchase of properties of any landholders within the potential mine area who are having difficulties and have been unsuccessful in selling their properties.

(31) This a matter for direct negotiation between landholders and the Muswellbrook Coal Company.

\*0464 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget page 5-14 the following entries appear:

- (a) Accommodating Young People Relocated From Nursing Homes - to be determined
- (b) Accommodation Facilities For Clients - various
- (c) Asset Rationalisation - various
- (d) Fitout Costs (Clients With Challenging Behaviours) - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

- (a) The second year of the Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program is currently underway and the budget allocated for the Program includes a capital component of \$4,037,000 and \$6,077,000 for support services through Stronger Together: a new direction for disability services: 2006-2016.

The funds allocated for the Program will be used to provide a range of services, including alternate accommodation options to people applying for assistance through the YPIRAC Program across the state.

- (b) In relation to the Myall Lakes electorate, \$350,000 has been allocated for the construction of accommodation facilities for new clients in 2007/08.

In the 2006/07 financial year, three of two-bedroom villas were purchased in Taree, with the cost of \$850,000.

- (c) In relation to the Myall Lakes electorate, no premises are scheduled for replacement in 2007/08.
- (d) In relation to the Myall Lakes electorate, no premises are identified for fit-out in 2007/08.

\*0465 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-15 the following entries appear:

- Remote Witness Facilities - various
- Court Upgrades - various
- Video Conferencing - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

Funds are not allocated on an electorate basis.

**20 JUNE 2007**

(Paper No. 13)

\*0466 SOLAR IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) How much money was raised from voluntary contributions from electricity consumers for the Solar in Schools Program in:

- (a) 2005;
- (b) 2006;
- (c) 2007 to date?

- (2) What schools have been provided with funds from this program?

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- (3) Are schools advised about the scheme and how to apply for funds?  
(4) How can schools apply for funds from this program?

Answer—

Integral Energy raises voluntary contributions by asking electricity consumers to agree to have their electricity bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. The total contribution since 2005 is \$59,821.41.

These monies are used to install solar panels on schools, which is one of the elements of the Solar in Schools Program.

Details of the Solar in Schools Program, including participating schools, can be found at [www.solarschools.net](http://www.solarschools.net). Schools wanting to know more about this and related programs under the Climate Change Fund can email [sustainability@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@environment.nsw.gov.au)

- \*0467 STRICKLAND HOUSE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to Strickland House at Vacluse:

- (1) What is the status of the Conservation Management Plan for Strickland House?
- (2) What are the current arrangements for bookings for the use of Strickland House?
- (3) What are the contractual arrangements, revenues and duration of filming during the current financial year?
- (4) For how many days was the property hired during the periods 2004-05, 2005-06 and to date from 2006-07?
- (5) What are the detailed revenue and expenses, including a breakdown of revenue by type of event (e.g. weddings, charity functions, filming), for the periods 2004-05, 2005-06 and to date from 2006-07?

Answer—

- (1) The Conservation Management Plan for the site was completed in September 2003. The NSW Heritage Office endorsed the Plan in December 2003.
- (2) All bookings are made on an approved booking form direct with the live-in site manager.
- (3) All applicants must agree to and comply with the set of Special Conditions attached to the booking form for the care and use of the premises.
- (4) 168.
- (5) Total revenue for 0405, 0506 and 0607 was \$177,784.65.

Total expenses for 0405, 0506 and 0607 was \$892,770.

- \*0468 DIVIDENDS AND TAX EQUIVALENTS PAID—ENERGY COMPANIES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

What were the dividend and tax equivalents paid to NSW Treasury by each of the following energy companies in each financial year from 2001-02 to 2006-07:

- (a) Macquarie Generation;
- (b) Transgrid;
- (c) Delta Energy;
- (d) Snowy Hydro;
- (e) Eraring Energy;
- (f) EnergyAustralia;
- (g) Integral Energy; and
- (h) Country Energy?

Answer—

Information on dividends and tax equivalents is available in publications such as annual reports.

- \*0469 JEWISH PRIVATE SCHOOLS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Will the Government provide funding for the current level of security guards at Jewish private schools?

Answer—

The NSW Government is providing more than \$773 million in funding for non-government schools in 2007/08, including over \$665 million in student per capita grants. Schools are required to spend this

funding in the following areas, according to their own priorities: teaching and ancillary staff salaries, professional development, curriculum development, maintenance and general school operations.

\*0470 KIAMA POLICE STATION—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

When will the refurbishment of the Kiama Police Station take place as promised prior to the State election in 2007?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

United Group Services expects to finalise the delivery schedule for the capital works program over the next three months. This will include details relating to the renovation of the Kiama police station.

\*0471 SHOALHAVEN HOSPITAL—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health—

When will mental health acute care beds be provided at Shoalhaven Hospital?

Answer—

This question should be directed to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental health).

\*0472 ULLADULLA HIGH SCHOOL INVESTIGATION—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will investigations into Mr Michael Cvetkovic of Ulladulla High School be completed in order to allow him to return to the classroom?
- (2) Why have Employee Performance and Conduct (EPAC) investigations taken more than 9 months to complete?
- (3) Why are 50 per cent of mathematics staff at Ulladulla High School not trained to teach mathematics?

Answer—

- (1) The allegations concerning the conduct of Mr Cvetkovic are being investigated by the Department of Education and Training as a priority and it is anticipated that this investigation will be completed shortly. A date for finalisation is unable to be provided as it will depend on what action may need to be taken.
- (2) Initial allegations in relation to the conduct of Mr Cvetkovic were received in mid 2006. During the course of the investigation, additional and more serious allegations were received resulting in a more complex investigation. Timeframes are influenced by a number of factors including allowing time for the teacher to respond to allegations.
- (3) All permanently appointed teachers in the Mathematics faculty are qualified to teach mathematics.

\*0473 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMUNITIES DIVISION OUTPUTS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many clients received assistance under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (2) What is the estimated number of clients who will receive assistance under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program during 2007-08?
- (3) What percentage of clients of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program returned to a SAAP service within 12 months of exit during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (4) What is the estimated percentage of clients of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program who will return to a SAAP service within 12 months of exit during 2007-08?
- (5) What was the average EFT of the Communities Division of the Department of Community Services during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (6) What is the estimated average EFT of the Communities Division of the Department of Community Services during 2007-08?

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Answer—

- (1) to (6) The most up-to-date information on such matters will be provided in program statements to be published shortly, as explained on page (iii) of Budget Paper 3, Budget Estimates 2007-08.

\*0474 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES OUTPUTS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many services were licensed by the Department of Community Services to provide prevention and early intervention services during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (2) What is the estimated number of services that will be licensed by the Department of Community Services to provide prevention and early intervention services during 2007-08?
- (3) How many licensed places were available in these children's services during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (4) What is the estimated number of licensed places that will be available in these children's services during 2007-08?
- (5) What was the average EFT staffing for prevention and early intervention services of the Department of Community Services during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (6) What is the average EFT staffing for prevention and early intervention services of the Department of Community Services during 2007-08?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) The most up-to-date information on such matters will be provided in program statements to be published shortly, as explained on page (iii) of Budget Paper 3, Budget Estimates 2007-08.

\*0475 COOTAMUNDRA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIONS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Why have you not replied to my representations dated 21 February 2007 seeking assistance for Cootamundra Council following the 12 January 2007 grain silo fire that were forwarded to you by the Minister for Emergency Services on 23 March 2007 under cover of MIN07/937?
- (2) Why have your ministerial staff ignored repeated requests from my office for information as to when a response for this letter will be sent?
- (3) When will you reply to this representation?

Answer—

I'm advised a response was forwarded to the Minister for Emergency Services on 2 May 2007.

\*0476 WAITING LISTS—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many people (adults and children) are on waiting lists for surgery at Hornsby Hospital for March, April, May and June to current?
- (2) For what specialities are they waiting?

Answer—

I am advised that Hospital specific waiting list data is released quarterly on the NSW Website at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/waitingtimes/byhosp.html>

The final quarter data for 2006/2007 will be available in the near future.

\*0477 SEWER CONNECTION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

How many residents in Brooklyn/Dangar Island have agreed to have the sewer services currently underway connected to their home/premises?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised that based on meetings with 497 property owners in Brooklyn and Dangar Island, 90 per cent or 447 owners have indicated that they would connect to the new sewerage system.

\*0478 POLICE STATEMENT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Is there any occasion when a police statement is not given to a person who made it even when that person requests it?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

It is the practice of the NSW Police Force to provide to a suspect, their legal representative or a witness, copies of their own statements. However, if a police officer considers that providing a copy of the statement may jeopardise a current investigation in any way, then police may decline to release the document.

In such cases, a direction regarding the release of the statement may be sought from the Deputy Director, Criminal Law Division, Legal Services. Consideration may be given to allowing such statement to be viewed by the person who made it, or their legal representative, until such time as it is released.

\*0479 VANDALISM AND GRAFFITI—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What Sydney railway line has the highest incidence of vandalism and graffiti?
- (2) How many incidences of graffiti damage are removed weekly from trains at Mortdale Maintenance Depot?
- (3) Is immediate graffiti removal undertaken from railway stations between Sutherland and Cronulla?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) RailCorp has committed significant resources to combat graffiti vandalism on CityRail trains and stations.

The RailCorp graffiti abatement program continues to aim to reduce, remove and prevent incidences of graffiti on RailCorp property.

New cleaning products which meet environmental standards – allow for the immediate remediation of the graffiti in the majority of instances. Intelligence suggests the rapid removal of graffiti provides a deterrent to graffiti vandals.

The better reporting and new cleaning methods mean the published website statistics now reflect a much greater number of tags being removed.

RailCorp has taken a number of other actions to help deter incidences of graffiti and vandalism. RailCorp has:

- Worked with police to establish the Police Rail Vandalism Task Force to target vandalism and graffiti vandals on the rail network.
- Introduced regionalised Transit Officer Task Forces, which focus specifically on vandalism and trespass.
- Engaged in intelligence-based deployment of its Transit Officers. This ensures that RailCorp's security personnel are deployed where and when they are needed, including to known graffiti hot spots.
- Rolled out CCTV cameras across the CityRail railway network. CCTV cameras both enhance passenger security and protect railway property.
- Introduced a program of security dog patrols into stabling yards and maintenance centres.

RailCorp continues to work cooperatively with the NSW Police Force in the detection, apprehension and prosecution of graffiti vandals.

\*0480 CARINGBAH HIGH SCHOOL LAND—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Are there any plans to sell a portion of Caringbah High School land as part of the site consolidation?

Answer—

When the major upgrade works at Caringbah High School are completed, a portion of the site will become surplus to educational needs and the Department of Education and Training will develop a disposal strategy.

The school community has been consulted and supports the sale of the land and the reinvestment of funds



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obtained from the sale in public education.

\*0481 GREEN POWER—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many residential customers in the Sutherland Shire have purchased green power?
- (2) How many business customers in the Sutherland Shire have purchased green power?
- (3) What is the name of the largest green power customer in the Sutherland Shire?
- (4) Does Sydney Water use green power in the operation of the Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plant?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The GreenPower campaign has been an outstanding success, resulting in a 91 per cent increase in NSW GreenPower customers during the first quarter of 2007. The Department of Water and Energy collates overall numbers of GreenPower customers, but is unable to provide a breakdown of customers by suburb or their consumption as this is commercial information held by the retailers who operate in NSW.

(4) Sydney Water purchases 2.5 per cent GreenPower for all of its electricity consumption, which includes Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plant.

Additionally, Sydney Water generates around 650 megawatt hours of renewable energy annually at the existing biogas cogeneration plant at Cronulla.

Sydney Water has pledged that all its operations will be carbon neutral by 2020.

\*0482 TUMUT PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will the amalgamation of Tumut Public School's two campuses begin?
- (2) How much will it cost?
- (3) When will the project be completed?

Answer—

A multi-million dollar project to consolidate the two campuses is expected to commence in late 2007. The Department of Education and Training will consult with the school community throughout the project. The project is scheduled for completion in late 2010.

The details of the estimated total cost and proposed expenditure for this year were not included in the 2007/08 Budget Papers due to their commercially sensitive nature. The Department of Education and Training does not release cost estimates for major capital works projects until contracts have been let, consistent with practice in previous years.

\*0483 GOCUP ROAD—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Has the Minister been approached by the relevant authorities to declare the Gocup Road a State road with appropriate funding to modify the road?
- (2) Has the Minister approached the Federal Government to assess the possibility of accessing Federal roads funding to assist?
- (3) What work has your department conducted to progress the prospect of converting the Gocup Road to a State road?
- (4) Have industry stakeholders provided projected traffic increases on the Gocup Road?
- (5) How many accidents have occurred on the Gocup Road in the past 4 years?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government recognises an increasing amount of freight is carried on Gocup Road and in 2003 allocated \$4 million over four years to allow improvements to the road.

The Government also provides annual funding to local councils through its Block Grant and REPAIR programs. This funding is determined on a merit basis by regionally based consultative committees of councils.

In 2007/08 the NSW Government is providing Tumut Shire Council with \$703,000 and Gundagai Council with \$572,000 in Block and REPAIR grant funding.

\*0484 NSW GREENHOUSE GAS ABATEMENT SCHEME—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

With regard to the current NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme (GGAS):

- (1) What consideration has the NSW Government given to expanding the scheme to cover more than just the stationary energy sector, such as the mineral industry and other industrial plants, as the EU ETS does?
- (2) What consideration has the NSW Government given to linking the scheme, or the proposed multi-state scheme, with the EU ETS?
- (3) Given the scheme has a population-based cap, what increases to pollution have occurred under the GGAS due to increases in population and consumption?
- (4) What consideration has the NSW Government given to changing the GGAS to prevent total amount of pollution growing with the population in view of calls for a 60 per cent or more reduction of 1990 pollution levels?
- (5) (a) If the scheme is expanded, will the NSW Government remove the process of "grandfathering", allowing certain firms to be exempt from new regulations, in older heavily polluting firms?  
(b) If not, why not?
- (6) (a) If a new multi-state scheme is introduced, will the NSW Government promote a model that excludes "grandfathering" in older firms?  
(b) If not, why not?
- (7) How much revenue has been collected from greenhouse penalties?
- (8) How much of this revenue has been put towards projects to reduce carbon, as set out in the GGAS?
- (9) What projects have been funded out of this revenue?

Answer—

- (1) GGAS already extends beyond the stationary energy sector. Eligible abatement activities include forest carbon sequestration, methane capture and destruction from putrescible wastes or from coal mining operations, as well as reduction of industrial process emissions.
- (2) It is intended that GGAS will transition into a national emissions trading scheme, whether operated by the Commonwealth Government or multi-State. A developer of the national scheme will no doubt explore linkages to other schemes.
- (3) GGAS targets are linked to population but not consumption. Targets have been met in each of the first three years of GGAS reported to date. Emissions from the NSW electricity sector as measured under GGAS were 57,812,803 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent in 2003 (population 6,678,400); 56,251,859 tonnes in 2004 (population 6,752,100); and, 54,451,109 tonnes in 2005 (population 6,812,300).
- (4) Given that GGAS will end when a national emissions trading scheme is implemented, which now seems likely in the period 2010 to 2011, this is a question for the National Emissions Trading Scheme.
- (5) (a) and (b) Large users are not exempt under GGAS. However, given the likelihood of a national emissions trading scheme in the period 2010 to 2011 there are no plans to expand GGAS.
- (6) (a) and (b) The proposed multi-State scheme includes an agreed position that trade exposed carbon price sensitive industries would be provided with permits to restore them to the profit level they would have achieved without such a scheme, until such time as their global competitors faced the same greenhouse obligations.

The firms proposed to receive this treatment are price takers in international markets for the commodities they produce. Were these firms to be faced with the additional costs of a domestic emissions trading scheme, their production would be reduced and replaced with output from countries not covered by such a scheme, with potential worse global greenhouse outcomes.

- (7) to (9) The Government's intention is that all GGAS participants comply with the greenhouse emission targets. This means that the penalty is set at a level that it is more cost-effective for the participants to comply rather than not comply and pay the penalty.

GGAS has been successful in encouraging maximum compliance. This success has meant that there has only been \$21 of penalty revenue collected, which was returned to the Consolidated Fund. In turn, revenue from the Consolidated Fund is spent on communities across the State.

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\*0485 ACTION FOR BIKES—BIKEPLAN 2010—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

With respect to the Government's BikePlan 2010, which was approved in 1999:

- (1) What progress have the annual reviews of this plan identified and how is the community informed about BikePlan 2010 and the outcome of these reviews (page 2)?
- (2) What funds have been spent to date from the 10-year planned \$251 million announced in 1999 (page 3)?
- (3) What action has been taken on regional Cycleway Route 17 from the Sydney Harbour Bridge to Woolloomooloo due in 2005 (page 5), and when will this cycleway be completed?
- (4) What action has been taken on regional Cycleway Route 28 from the University of NSW to Sydney University due in 2006 (page 5), and when will this cycleway be completed?
- (5) What has been the outcome of the plan's proposal to provide cycling facilities as part of all major road construction (page 6)?
- (6) What proportion of the planned 200km of cycle facilities across NSW (page 9) have been completed?
- (7) What private funding opportunities (page 9) have been identified as part of this plan?
- (8) What improvements to bicycle detection at signalised intersections (page 13) have been made as part of this plan?
- (9) What research has been carried out to help prevent cyclist deaths and accidents, and what action has been taken to prevent cyclist road trauma (page 13)?
- (10) What community bicycle skills programs have been developed as part of this plan (page 13)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA website provides information on cycleway projects and bicycle promotion programs. The RTA also monitors delivery of cycleway projects funded by the RTA and estimates the total lengths of cycleways completed.

BikePlan 2010 outlined a NSW Government commitment to spend \$251 million over 10 years to deliver an average of 200 km of cycling facilities per year.

The outcomes of this program to date include:

- An average of 233 km of cycling facilities provided each year since 1999;
- \$292.6 million allocated to cycling facilities, education and promotion since 1999.

Private consortia have spent approximately \$70 million on cycling infrastructure.

There are now more than 3900km of cycleways in NSW.

The RTA bicycle program prioritises cycleways to link with the provisions made by the major infrastructure projects to ensure regional network coherence. This has significantly improved regional bicycle networks. Some of the cycling facilities delivered include:

- On-road and off road cycling facilities in Surry Hills and East Sydney as part of the Eastern Distributor project;
- On-road and off-road cycling facilities from Beverly Hills to Bexley North as part of the M5 East project;
- On-road and off-road cycling facilities as part of the Westlink M7 project;
- Off-road shared paths as part of the Lane Cove Tunnel project;
- On-road cycling facilities in the Sydney CBD;
- Off-road shared paths as part of Bus Transitway from Liverpool to Hoxton Park;
- On-road and off road facilities as part of the Windsor Road and Great Western and Pacific Highway upgrades ;
- On-road facility as part of North Kiama bypass.

During the 2007/08 financial year design development of the cycleway link from the eastern end of the Lane Cove Tunnel cycleway towards the Sydney Harbour Bridge cycleway is also being undertaken.

The RTA bicycle program also continues to support local councils with funding for the development and implementation of cycleway networks. During 2007/08, \$3.8 million has been allocated to 78 councils for 93 local cycleway projects.

With regard to bicycle lanterns at traffic signals, the Australian Road Rules (ARR) and NSW traffic regulations have now been amended to allow bicycle lanterns at traffic signals. The RTA now provides bicycle lanterns at traffic signals as required, particularly where cycle paths are included.

The ARR have also been amended to allow bicycle storage boxes, and these will be incorporated into traffic signals as required.

The RTA has completed a research study into Bicycle Detection at Traffic Signals, and continues to investigate other vehicle detectors that would be suitable for bicycles. Where required, the RTA provides detection at traffic signals at exclusive bike lanes, and the use of push buttons at cycle paths.

The Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) released the Australian National Cycling Strategy 2005-2010. The Strategy has a key priority of road safety for cyclists and includes a series of 10 actions to encourage safe cycling.

NSW is represented by the RTA at the ABC. The RTA participates in the implementation of the national cycling strategy and supports the research projects carried out for the ABC. Completed research projects include:

- Bus-Bicycle Interactions within the Road Network;
- Pedestrian Cyclist Conflict Minimisation on Shared Paths and Footpaths;
- Cycling Data and Indicator Guidelines;
- Bikeability Toolkit for local government;
- Bicycle Safety summary of some publications pertaining to cyclists safety.

In metropolitan Sydney, bicycle education is provided through the Community and Road Education Scheme (CARES) Program. CARES is a road safety education program designed to teach school children in years 4 to 6 about the road rules. There are currently five CARES centres in metropolitan Sydney: St Mary's, Prospect, St Ives, Bass Hill and South Sydney.

In regional NSW, bicycle education centres similar to CARES centres are run by local councils and Police and Community Youth Clubs.

The RTA provides funding assistance and education resources to bicycle education centres.

In addition there are a number of accredited bicycling instructors who can provide cycling courses. Cycling skills courses are also available from the Sydney Community College.

**\*0486 BOARDING HOUSES**—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

Following the emergency closure of a Chippendale boarding house late on Friday 14 June, leaving 14 people needing emergency accommodation, and noting that these low income residents had to try to get reimbursement of rent paid in advance, find alternative accommodation and storage for their fridges and other belongings all outside normal office hours:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of this closure?
- (2) What advocacy will the Government provide for boarding house tenants who are in similar unstable accommodation?
- (3) Will the Government provide tenancy protection for boarding house residents?
- (4) What is the Government's long-term plan to retain low cost accommodation such as boarding houses, especially in the inner city?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

- (1) The Office of Fair Trading does not regulate boarding houses.
- (2) The Government funds the Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program under which non-profit organisations provide information, community education, advice and advocacy to public and private tenants in NSW. The Program's guidelines define tenants as all types of residential renters, including boarding house residents.
- (3) The Government is looking at options in the area, but the Government is concerned that specific regulation in the unlicensed boarding house sector may be counter productive to the continued provision of this kind of accommodation, and end up hurting the people it is intended to help.
- (4) This question should be directed to the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Planning.

**\*0487 POLICE—DAVIDSON ELECTORATE**—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

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- (1) How many police stations exist in the Davidson electorate?
- (2) How many full-time equivalent policepersons are stationed on long-term appointments in the Davidson electorate?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Police stations are allocated to Local Area Commands (LACs), not electorates. However, there are 3 LACs with a total of 9 stations in the postcodes covered by the Davidson electorate. The stations are Lane Cove and Chatswood in North Shore LAC; Hornsby, Gordon, Berowra and Brooklyn in Kuring-Gai LAC; and Dee Why, Frenchs Forest and Mona Vale in Northern Beaches LAC.
- (2) The number of full-time equivalent officers on 'long-term appointments' in the Davidson electorate cannot be ascertained because these numbers are not collated by electorate.

\*0488 COMMUTER PARKING—RAILWAY STATIONS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many commuter parking spaces are available at Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, Pymble and Gordon railway stations?
- (2) What plans are in place to increase these spaces in the next four years?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Information on facilities for each CityRail Station can be found at [www.cityrail.info](http://www.cityrail.info)
- (2) The Government is very supportive of commuters leaving their cars at railway stations and travelling by train to their destination. Significant funding has been spent in establishing new and extending existing commuter car parks across the rail network. There are currently an estimated 20,000 parking spaces in 166 dedicated commuter car parks across the rail network.

As part of the Government's \$660 million Urban Transport Statement, new expanded commuter car parks providing an extra 4,000 car spaces will be built over the next four years under a \$45 million strategy and improve commuter parking facilities at key locations across Metropolitan Sydney.

\*0489 CYCLEWAYS—DAVIDSON ELECTORATE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What plans are there for new cycleways in the Davidson electorate?
- (2) How much money has been spent on cycleways in the Davidson electorate in 2006-2007?
- (3) How much funding is budgeted to be spent on cycleways in the Davidson electorate in 2007-2008?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

\*0490 POWER OUTAGES—ROSEVILLE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

How many power outages have affected residents in the suburb of Roseville within the Davidson electorate since January 2005?

Answer—

EnergyAustralia has advised that its electricity network does not follow geographical boundaries to this detail, with individual feeders supplying customers across different suburbs, electorates and local government areas.

The average number of interruptions per customer per annum is calculated by the System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI). The following is the SAIFI for the Northern Sydney Region, which includes Roseville:

Northern Sydney Region	2005-2006	2006-2007
SAIFI (average number of interruptions per customer per annum)	1.50	1.39

\*0491 WATER TANK REBATES—DAVIDSON ELECTORATE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many people in the Davidson electorate have been recipients or have been approved for water tank rebates since January 2006?
- (2) How many applications are currently being considered?
- (3) How many applications have been declined since January 2006?
- (4) If any, what were the grounds for declining those applications?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised that as at 25 June 2007, for the Ku-ring-gai and Warringah Local Government Areas combined:

- (1) 1,268 rainwater tank rebates had been issued since January 2006.
- (2) 36 applications were under consideration .
- (3) and (4) One application had been declined. The applicant is required to fit a backflow prevention device, and has been asked to reapply.

\*0492 “STATE OF THE STATES” REPORT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) In the 2006 "State of the States" report released by the Evatt Foundation, where did NSW rank out of the six States in the area of Culture?
- (2) How does the Government propose to improve this ranking in the next report?

Answer—

- (1) The 'State of the States' report can be found at [www.evatt.labor.net](http://www.evatt.labor.net).
- (2) I am advised that the rankings contained in the report are not the most accurate indicator of spending on culture in each state. The most recent data compiled by the Statistics Working Group of the Cultural Minister's Council notes that the New South Wales Government was the largest contributor of total State and Territory funding providing \$785.1million (one-third of the total) in 2004-05.

As outlined in the NSW Government's State Plan, Sydney is the cultural capital of Australia, with the major arts companies and about one-third of all of Australia's actors, directors, writers and artists based in New South Wales. One of the Government's priorities in the State Plan is to see more people participating in the arts and cultural activity and our target is to increase visits to and participation in the arts and cultural activity 10% by 2016.

\*0493 TUGAN BYPASS COMPENSATORY HABITAT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the proposed funding for the purchase of a Tugan Bypass Compensatory Habitat in the Tweed Electorate, which the NSW Government agreed to purchase from the Queensland Government, and the subsequent use of this funding, approximately \$400,000, for the maintenance of existing nature reserves rather than the purchase of the new Compensatory Habitat:

- (1) Why has the Government used the funding designated for the purchase of the Habitat for nature reserve maintenance rather than new purchases?
- (2) Will the Government present any alternatives to fostering flora and fauna regeneration in the Tweed area in light of the cancellation of the original agreement, which outlined the purchase of a new nature zone?
- (3) When did the Government intend to make the cancellation of the original agreement public?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Tugun Bypass project is a Queensland Government funded project, with funding assistance from the Australian Government. The NSW Government is assisting the Queensland Department of Main Roads in delivery of the project.

Information regarding the Tugun Bypass project is available at [www.mainroads.qld.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au)

\*0494 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

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- (1) What action will the Minister take to assist businesses situated on the eastern side of Munjungbal Drive, south of Shallow Bay Drive, which will suffer severe economic losses due to the limited access to their premises when the RTA's preferred option for the Pacific Highway upgrade at Sexton Hill, Banora Point is proceeded with?
- (2) Will a review of the RTA preferred option be undertaken?
  - (a) If yes, on what date will the review occur?
  - (b) If no, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The concept design for the modified B preferred option will provide improved access to businesses in the Minjungbal Drive area through the provision of on-ramps and off-ramps.

The provision of these ramps in the preferred concept design directly resulted from representations made by the community and local council.

The RTA is continuing to meet with a number of local business owners regarding this matter.

Further details of the Banora Point upgrade are available at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0495 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway and the report published by the RTA entitled "Banora Point Upgrading the Pacific Highway Review of Option C Proposed by the Tweed Chamber of Commerce", December 2005:

- (1) Why was this document released when no costing of Community Option C was conducted when it was the focal point of the review?
- (2) Given that the report lacks important costing details will the report be removed from the RTA website and from circulation?
  - (a) If yes, on which date?
  - (b) If no, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has conducted two reviews of Option C proposed by the Tweed Chamber of Commerce.

These reviews were undertaken in 2005 and 2006 by different specialist organisations.

The 2006 independent review of costings for the design options was undertaken at my request after I met with a number of community members at Tweed Heads in June 2006.

The independent review of the costings undertaken in 2006 and released in conjunction with the display of the preferred concept for the Banora Point upgrade, showed the deep tunnel option would cost approximately \$250 million, \$60 million more expensive than the modified Option B.

\*0496 WATER TANK REBATES—RYDE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many people in the Ryde local government area have been recipients of the water tank rebate since January 2006?
- (2) How many applications are still being considered?
- (3) Has anyone been refused?
- (4) If so, why?

Answer—

I am advised by Sydney Water that as at 25 June 2007:

- (1) 261.
- (2) 9.
- (3) Yes, 2.
- (4) In one case the applicant is required to confirm local council approval for the installation of an underground tank. In the other case the applicant provided an incorrect account number. These customers have been asked to reapply.

\*0497 GAS EXPLORATION—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many landholders have signed contracts for gas exploration on their properties in the Hunter Bulga gas area?
- (2) Does SGL have the right to enter private property against the wishes of the owner?
- (3) Is it acceptable to establish gas wells adjacent to a closely settled rural residential area?

Answer—

- (1) This is a matter between individual landholders and the exploration company.
- (2) It is a condition of all Petroleum Exploration Licences that a land access and compensation agreement must be in place before the exploration company can enter the land on which it wishes to conduct its authorised exploration activities, including exploratory drilling.
- (3) The Sydney Gas / AGL Joint Venture has approval to explore for coal seam methane gas under the two Petroleum Exploration Licences it holds in the Hunter region. The licences incorporate comprehensive sets of conditions that control the activities the joint venture undertakes and the impacts of those activities. Additional approval must be sought for the drilling of exploratory wells and this is only granted after due consideration of the impacts of the proposed drilling.

\*0498 MUSWELLBROOK OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

- (1) Is it intended to close the Muswellbrook Office of Juvenile Justice?
- (2) Is it the intention of the department to transfer the worker to the Maitland Office due to open early January 2008?
- (3) If so, how will this move benefit the youth of the Upper Hunter community?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Department of Juvenile Justice intends to close the single officer Muswellbrook office following an assessment based on Occupational Health and Safety, service demands and leasing arrangements.
- (2) A decision has been made to co-locate Muswellbrook staff in Maitland as the Department has a higher number of clients in the Hunter closer to Maitland.
- (3) The Department is keen to ensure that service wide administrative savings should be made on expenditures such as rent, rather than shedding staff. Clients will continue to be serviced by staff on an outreach basis and services to courts will be unaffected by this operational decision.

\*0499 JUNIOR WORLD CUP OF ROCK CLIMBING—Mr George Souris asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to the Major Events Board and the Junior World Cup of Rock Climbing:

- (1) What correspondence has the Government's Major Events Board had with NSW and Australian climbing associations concerning the hosting of the Junior World Cup of Climbing in 2008?
- (2) In view of Sydney's nomination to host the Junior World Cup of Climbing in 2008 being accepted, what is the Government's position in support of the climbing industry's attempt to secure major events in NSW?
- (3) Will the Government provide support in hosting the Junior World Cup of Climbing 2008 to allow the event and its 500 competitors to come to Sydney?
- (4) What percentage of NSW major event funding has been allocated to supporting the World Youth Day celebrations in Sydney in 2008?
- (5) What processes are involved in the Government's selecting events to be considered major, and how to fund them?

Answer—

(1) The Major Events Board has not received any correspondence from the NSW and Australian climbing associations concerning the hosting of the Junior World Cup of Rock Climbing in 2008.

(2) and (3) The NSW Government provides support on a case by case basis to facilitate events in NSW. The process under which the Government provides support is detailed below.

(4) The Government has established the World Youth Day Co-ordination Authority to deliver integrated government services for World Youth Day events in July 2008. Further information on the Government's



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support for World Youth Day through the World Youth Day Co-ordination Authority is available in the 2007-08 NSW Budget Papers.

(5) Generally, to be considered for Government financial assistance or support in kind, proposals must demonstrate that they will make a substantial contribution to NSW in terms of net economic, community and tourism benefits. Financial support for events is considered on a case by case basis.

On 25 June 2007, the Premier announced the establishment of a NSW Events Corporation and the appointment of Mr John O'Neill as its interim inaugural chairman. The Corporation has been allocated a three year budget of \$85 million and will drive a more aggressive approach to attracting big name events to NSW.

**\*0500 MOORING CHARGE—THE BASIN—**Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What services are provided as a direct consequence of the charge applied to boats that moor at the beach at the Basin in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park?

Answer—

All park use fees collected at The Basin in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park are retained locally to support the provision of facilities and services for visitors, including fresh water, toilet and shower amenities, waste removal, maintenance and improvements to park infrastructure, as well as site management and security.

Significant funds have also been spent in the past few years on the environmental restoration of foreshore areas that had been damaged by boat wash and storm surges.

**\*0501 ARRIVAL CHARGES—THE BASIN—**Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Is a charge applied to persons who arrive by boat at the Basin in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park solely for the purposes of engaging in recreational activities on the beach (such as walking or swimming)?

Answer—

Park use fees apply to all visitors who arrive by boat to The Basin picnic and camping area within Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, and who therefore have access to the visitor amenities and services, including toilets and showers, picnic facilities, rubbish removal services and the provision of fresh water.

These fees for the use of amenities at The Basin are not directed solely at those visitors who arrive by boat. Visitors who reach The Basin by foot from West Head Road will also generally have paid the \$11 day use fee at other locations upon entry to the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park by vehicle.

**\*0502 KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK—**Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Why are visitors to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park arriving by public ferry charged an entry fee per head, when visitors arriving by private motor car or bus are charged per vehicle, and visitors arriving by bicycle or on foot are not charged at all?

Answer—

The system for collecting fees from visitors to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park varies according to the cost effectiveness of the different methods of fee collection in the different park settings. The per-person site fee, as applied at The Basin Camping and Picnic Area in Pittwater, is broadly based on the per passenger equivalent vehicle entry fee for the park.

Fees are not collected from bushwalkers or cyclists entering parks, as in most parks it is generally not cost effective to do so. However, most visitors who reach The Basin by foot, using the 45-minute walk from West Head Road, will have paid the \$11 day use fee at other locations upon entry to the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park by vehicle, and so are not charged further.

**\*0503 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—**Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In the Budget paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-22 the following entry appears:

Old Bar Public School Upgrade

What is the cost that will be allocated to such upgrade?

Answer—

A project to upgrade facilities at Old Bar Public School is included as a new major works project in the 2007-08 Budget. The details of the estimated total cost and proposed expenditure for this year were not included in the 2007/08 Budget Papers due to their commercially sensitive nature. The Department of Education and Training does not release cost estimates for major capital works projects until contracts have been let, consistent with practice in previous years.

\*0504 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-43 the following entries appear:

Building Refurbishments - various

Dams Remediation - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

The Department of Lands has not as yet finalised its building refurbishments program allocations for 2007/08. Funds from this program are spent across the whole of NSW Land's offices on a priority basis in terms of total asset management planning.

In respect to the statewide Minor Dams Remediation Program managed by the Department of Lands, no allocation for any dam structure within the Myall Lakes electorate in 2007/08 will be made as there are no redundant dams within this area managed under this program.

\*0505 TOURISM NSW WEBSITE LISTINGS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) Are the Taree/Manning Valley areas listed together with Port Macquarie, Kempsey and surrounds on the Tourism NSW website?
- (2) Are the Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry areas listed together with Port Stephens and surrounds on the Tourism NSW website?
- (3) Why does the Tourism NSW website not mention the areas of the Manning Valley/Taree and the Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry in their own right?
- (4) Why is Taree/Manning Valley listed as part of Port Macquarie/Kempsey when Manning Valley/Taree has its own local government area and geographically is remote from Port Macquarie, Kempsey and surrounds?
- (5) Why is Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry listed as part of Port Stephens and surrounds when Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry has its own local government area and geographically is remote from Port Stephens and surrounds?
- (6) Why was Manning Valley/Taree and Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry omitted from the website?
- (7) When will the valuable tourist importance of the Manning Valley/Taree and Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry areas be recognised by amending the Tourism NSW website to include Manning Valley/Taree and Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry in their own right?
- (8) If Tourism NSW is not prepared to list Manning Valley/Taree and Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry in their own right, why not?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Tourism NSW's consumer website underwent extensive redevelopment in 2006 in terms of its design and structure. This included a review of the destination architecture to reflect the large and diverse State of NSW, against the need to effectively manage destination content across the region, area and town levels.

Manning Valley/Taree and Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry are included on [www.visitnsw.com](http://www.visitnsw.com). Access to the Forster and Taree pages can be made in just three clicks from the map on the visitnsw home page. There is also a two page fact sheet on the Great Lakes and Manning Valley area, which can be downloaded from the website, and three pages of accommodation options in Tuncurry are accessible from one click from the website's home page's search facility.

- (4) The website is aligned to consumer interest in key destination areas not local government areas. This approach was informed by a range of sources including: Regional Tourism Organisations, consumer research patterns on NSW destinations with both the Google and Yahoo search engines, the "Roy

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Morgan: Unprompted Destination Awareness – Individual Destinations – January 2005 to December 2005" report, and the top 5,000 consumer search terms for travel destinations according to Hitwise statistics.

At the time of the re-categorisation work, The Manning Valley/Taree and the Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry destinations were not identified by consumers as being key destinations in their own right. Hence, Taree/Manning Valley was included within the Port Macquarie, Kempsey and Surrounds cluster and Great Lakes/Forster-Tuncurry was included in the Port Stephens and Surrounds cluster on the website.

- (5) As above.
- (6) They are not omitted from the website.
- (7) The website format is constantly reviewed to understand consumer preferences. Adjustments to the cluster headings for Port Stephens and Port Macquarie can be made to read: "Port Stephens, Forster and Surrounds" and "Port Macquarie, Kempsey, Taree and Surrounds" subject to consumer demand.
- (8) Not applicable.

\*0506 AGED CARE BEDS—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many aged care beds are available in Ivanhoe in the electorate of Murray-Darling?
- (2) How many beds are high care, low care, dementia etc?
- (3) Where are these beds located, e.g. local hospital aged care wing?
- (4) How many respite beds are available in Ivanhoe?
- (5) How many home care packages are delivered in Ivanhoe as of 20 June 2007?
- (6) What is the forecast need for aged care in the Ivanhoe area in the next 10 years and, in particular, aged care beds?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) to (6) The provision of aged care is primarily the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government.

Joint Commonwealth and State planning for Multi Purpose Services (which commenced approximately 10 years ago) has not identified Ivanhoe as a suitable site requiring aged care beds.

Ivanhoe Health Service operates during the day as an outpatient clinic with an after hours accident and emergency service. The Health Service also provides primary health and Aboriginal health services.

Home Care Services (Broken Hill) advises that two Home Care Packages were being delivered in Ivanhoe as at 20 June 2007.

\*0507 IVANHOE HOSPITAL—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many rooms are available at Ivanhoe Hospital for acute, emergency, respite, long and short-term rehabilitation?
- (2) Are any beds at Ivanhoe Hospital utilised for aged care?
- (3) How many bed days have been utilised for aged care provision in the past 4 years?
- (4) Has extending Ivanhoe Hospital to include aged care beds in a separate wing of the hospital been investigated?
- (5) (a) Has the possibility of converting excess space in the hospital into aged care in partnership with the Federal Government been considered?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (6) (a) Has the modification of Ivanhoe Hospital into a multi-purpose service (MPS) to accommodate elderly people in the town been considered?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (7) Will a study be initiated to consider aged care options for the town?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question on Notice LA 0506.

\*0508 SEWER CONNECTION—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In relation to the promised provision of sewer services prior to the last State election for the towns of Glossodia, Freemans Reach and Wilberforce:

- (1) Under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program, what priority will be given to these important works?

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- (2) What timeframe will these specific projects be completed?
- (3) Will the Government subsidise the residents of these three towns of Glossodia, Freemans Reach and Wilberforce as is the case with residents in a similar position in the Blue Mountains?

Answer—

- (1) These projects are being progressed under Sydney Water's Priority Sewerage Program, not the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program.
- (2) On 12 May 2006, the Government announced that the Glossodia, Freemans Reach and Wilberforce Sewerage Scheme would be one of the first four schemes to be serviced under the extension of the Priority Sewerage Program. Construction of the scheme is anticipated to commence in the 2008-09 financial year, subject to regulatory planning and funding approvals.
- (3) The Government has no plans to introduce subsidies for pump-out in areas other than the Blue Mountains.

**21 JUNE 2007**

(Paper No. 14)

\*0509 RATES INCREASES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) What is the cap placed on the increase allowed for rates increases for the 2007-08 financial year?
- (2) On average, what does this increase mean in terms of the amount of extra rates that will have to be paid by landholders in the Sydney metropolitan area?
- (3) To assist ratepayers meet the cost of these extra rates, is the Government considering a change to legislation that would allow ratepayers the opportunity to pay their rates by more than the current four equal payments?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) The cap for the 2007-08 financial year has been set at 3.4%.
- (2) The 3.4% cap applies to councils' total general income for 2007/08. This does not necessarily mean that all individual rates will rise by an equivalent amount. Individual property rates also depend upon a council's own rating structure and land valuation changes.

Although the Government sets a limit on total income, councils have the discretion and responsibility to adopt a rating structure that equitably distributes the rating burden in their own area.

- (3) Under the Local Government Act 1993, councils have discretionary powers to waive, reduce or defer the payment of the whole or part of the increase in rates where a ratepayer suffers hardship as a result of large land valuation increases.

In addition to allowing councils to provide relief where hardship has occurred from changes in land valuations, the Act also provides councils with opportunities to assist individual ratepayers by agreeing to the periodic payment of rates (other than by the mandatory quarterly instalments) and writing off interest on unpaid rates.

While there are currently no plans to amend the frequency of mandatory instalments, I have requested that this issue be put on the agenda of the next Ministerial Advisory Committee meeting.

\*0510 JOHN FOORD BRIDGE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Given your responses in April 2005 and August 2006 that rehabilitation works on the John Foord Bridge at Corowa will commence when planning is complete, when will refurbishment of the bridge commence?
- (2) Following the allocation of funding towards building of the approach road on the Corowa side, when will funds be allocated for the entire project?

Answer—

I am advised:

The John Foord Bridge at Corowa has been assessed as being of State significance.

Planning for the rehabilitation of the Bridge is continuing.

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The NSW Government has allocated \$1 million in the 07/08 budget to replace the approach bridges for the John Foord Bridge.

Funding for the project is being assessed in consultation with the Victorian Government.

The Roads and Traffic Authority and VicRoads continue to maintain the Bridge in a serviceable condition for traffic.

- \*0511 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-55 the following entry appears:

Regional Tourism Signposting Strategy - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

The funding is not allocated to specific electorates. It is funding allocated to the implementation of state-wide initiatives under the Tourist Attractions Signposting program. It includes such things as the "Welcome to state" and "Welcome to tourism regions" signs. The "Welcome to Tourism Regions" signs also promote the accredited visitor information centres across the state.

- \*0512 POWER EASEMENTS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to correspondence regarding power easements across Department of Environment and Climate Change land in the Medowie State Conservation area dated 21 May 2007:

Will the residents of Haynes Road Medowie be advised if "departmental policy constraints" will allow for the construction of these easements?

Answer—

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 provides for the Minister to grant easements through conservation reserves for, among other things, the transmission of electricity. Under current policy, the Department of Environment and Climate Change will consider supporting such applications where the proposed development is in the public interest and there is no feasible or practical alternative.

The Department has advised me that it supports the proposed easement for Haynes Road residents through part of Medowie State Conservation Area, subject to any requirements for further environmental assessment, and I therefore recently gave my in-principle approval for the easement.

Before the proposal can proceed, the Department must negotiate a range of details with the electricity provider, including land rental and the preparation of an environmental impact assessment. In addition, since part of the easement would lie within a Crown road reserve, any requirements of the Department of Lands must be met.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change is working with all parties with the aim of achieving a satisfactory outcome for the residents.

- \*0513 PUBLIC HOUSING—RAYMOND TERRACE—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

In relation to Department of Housing administered residences in Raymond Terrace:

- (1) How many vacant public houses are currently in Raymond Terrace?
- (2) How many public houses in Raymond Terrace are scheduled for demolition in the next 12 months?
- (3) How many clients are currently on the waiting list for public housing at Raymond Terrace Department of Housing office as at 20 June 2007?
- (4) How many clients were accorded priority housing in Raymond Terrace in the 12 months ending 20 June 2007?

Answer—

- (1) The number of properties that are vacant varies from month to month for a variety of reasons, including 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.

- (2) None.

- (3) The number of people on the housing register varies and changes constantly. The number of people

listed on the state-wide housing register in December 2006 was approximately 45,500.

(4) 16.

\*0514 **TOURLE STREET BRIDGE**—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Tourle Street bridge at Mayfield:

- (1) When will the engineering drawings for the Tourle Street bridge at Mayfield be completed?
- (2) Of the \$3.4 million expended in the last 12 months on the Tourle Street bridge's construction, how much of this figure was for planning and production of engineering drawings?
- (3) In relation to discrepancies between last year's Budget Papers and this year's estimated spending with regard to the Tourle Street bridge:
  - (a) Why was it stated in the Parliament that the estimated 2006 spending on the Tourle Street bridge was \$5 million, when 2007 Budget Papers estimate 2006 spending at \$3.4 million?
  - (b) Has the surplus \$1.6 million from this project been included in the 2007 estimated funding of \$16 million?

Answer—

I am advised:

Tenders have been called for the replacement of the Tourle Street Bridge over the Hunter River at Kooragang. A construction contract is expected to be awarded later this year.

\$3.07M has been spent on investigation and design and public utility adjustments which included realignment of a Telstra Fibre Optic Cable and design of a complex watermain realignment.

\$16 million has been allocated in the 2007/2008 Budget to commence significant works on the project.

\*0515 **INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS—HUNTER VALLEY**—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

In relation to funds allocated for the Hunter Valley's Indigenous Australians in the 2007 State Budget:

- (1) How much funding will be specifically provided for programs at the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council?
- (2) How many Indigenous Language education campaigns can be run in the Hunter with the allocated \$200,000?
- (3) How many residences will be built or leased for the Aboriginal Housing Office in the 2007-08 period?

Answer—

- (1) No specific funds have been provided for programs to the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council in the 2007 State Budget. Through the Aboriginal Community Development Program the Karuah community has received \$888,000 for upgrading its water and sewerage system.

- (2) The Dhangatti "Languages Alive" project will be run by Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Co-operative and Many Rivers Aboriginal Language Centre, and will develop a home learning kit for families to learn Dhangatti (and also a draft of a Kattang language kit) to be distributed to families from Newcastle North through to Kempsey and up to Nambucca Heads. The other project involves the Singleton community college delivering a course to enable the community to design a community language project.

Skills will be taught on how to build a project team, engage with the community, find the right resources, protect intellectual property, obtain funding and then implement a community language project.

A total of \$32,000 has been allocated to these projects.

- (3) This question is more appropriately a matter for my colleague, the Hon M Brown MP, Minister for Housing.

\*0516 **PORT STEPHENS POLICE STATION**—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to the Port Stephens Police Station:

- (1) What is the location of the Port Stephens Police Station funded in the 2007-08 Budget?
- (2) If funding for a study into an appropriately positioned Port Stephens Police Station has been

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authorised by Treasury will a dedicated Port Stephens Local Area Command be provided for as well?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that a business case has been prepared for the Port Stephens Area. Final determinations will be made shortly. Funding has been allocated in the 2007-08 budget on that basis.
- (2) A broader examination of policing issues in the Hunter is being conducted by the NSW Police Force as part of ongoing analysis into Local Area Command boundaries and the allocation of resources in the region, to best serve the anticipated growth areas of the Hunter. This broader examination was taken due to the issues raised from the Lower Hunter LAC working party.

\*0517 MEDOWIE HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to the Government's election commitment to the Medowie High School:

What is the status of the feasibility and requirement audit into the potential new high school at Medowie?

Answer—

The Government has committed to the establishment of a working party to review the provision of education in the Raymond Terrace, Medowie, Salt Ash and Tilligerry Peninsula areas.

The Department of Education and Training has developed terms of reference and a project scope for the review in consultation with the Medowie High School Campaign Committee and local school communities.

The Department will shortly invite representative members to the first working party meeting, due to be held in Term 3, 2007.

\*0518 NELSON BAY AMBULANCE STATION—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the Labor Government's 2007 election campaign promise of a new Nelson Bay Ambulance Station:

- (1) Why have no funds been allocated for a new Nelson Bay Ambulance Station?
- (2) Why do Government media releases contradict the budget papers with regard to "new" and "upgraded" versions of the Nelson Bay Ambulance Station?
- (3) How much of the \$170,000 these budget papers refer to as being ear-marked for the Deniliquin and Nelson Bay Ambulances is intended for the Nelson Bay facility specifically?
- (4) What is the status of any studies into suitable sites for a new ambulance station that may have been undertaken?

Answer—

I am advised that the answers to your questions are:

- (1) and (2) In a media release issued on 19 June 2007, I announced that the 2007/08 Budget would include capital works funding of \$2.2 million over two years for new ambulance stations at Nelson Bay and Deniliquin. While a formal planning study will be necessary, current indications are that the station will be "new" rather than "upgraded".
- (3) The Ambulance Service's 2007/08 allocation of \$170,000 is \$70,000 for Nelson Bay and \$100,000 for Deniliquin.
- (4) As yet, there have been no formal studies into suitable sites. The preferred location and site options will be determined in conjunction with service delivery and functional design requirements during the planning process to take place during 2007/08.

\*0519 TOMAREE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the Tomaree Community Hospital, formerly the Nelson Bay Polyclinic,

- (1) What is the number of additional nurses, nurse practitioners and support staff that will be allocated to the Tomaree Community Hospital in 2007 as part of the 46.5 million ongoing initiative to expand nurse numbers in New South Wales?
- (2) How many of the Government's 11 new ambulance officers will be sent to the upgraded Nelson Bay Ambulance Station?
- (3) Of the \$300 million in funding for after-hours general practice services allocated in the 2007 Budget, how many after-hours GPs will be funded in the Port Stephens region and, specifically, at the Tomaree Community Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Two Nurse Practitioners Hospital have been recruited for Tomaree Community Hospital from existing funding. One commenced in February 2007 and the other commenced in March 2007.

These positions will provide support for the local General Practitioners in the Emergency Department and additional nursing support for patients at the Hospital.

The Hunter and New England Area Health Service is currently considering all priorities with respect to the 2007/08 budget allocations.

- (2) A media release issued by the Premier on 7 March 2007 referred to a commitment to invest in 11 new Ambulance Stations, including one at Nelson Bay. I refer the Member to the media release.

A planning process will take place during 2007/08 that will determine the preferred location and site options for Nelson Bay Ambulance Station, in conjunction with service delivery requirements to ensure that the long-term needs of the community are met.

- (3) The NSW Health budget commitment referred to in the question was in relation to after-hour GP clinics, there was no reference to after-hours GPs. GPs are funded primarily through the MBS, and consequently, are a Commonwealth responsibility.

To ensure 24-hour medical cover at the Hospital and to further support the GPs currently participating in the Emergency Department roster, the Area Health Service is funding the employment of locum Medical Officers each weekend, on public holidays and over two weeks each year during the Christmas/New Year period.

\*0520 COUNTRYLINK SERVICES—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to CountryLink Services:

- (1) How much was spent in total in:
  - (a) 2003-2004;
  - (b) 2004-2005;
  - (c) 2005-2006;
  - (d) 2006-2007?
- (2) How much will be spent in 2007-2008?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) As a business entity of Railcorp, Countrylink funding is embedded within the Railcorp annual budget. These details are available in NSW Budget Papers at [www.treasury.nsw.gov.au](http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au)

\*0521 CLEARWAYS PROGRAM—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What has been the actual cost for each completed and ongoing project under the rail Clearways program?
- (2) What has been achieved in the Clearways program to date and what is yet to be achieved?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The NSW Government is spending more than \$1.8 billion on the Rail Clearways Plan to improve capacity and reliability on the CityRail network.

Under the Clearways Plan, the Government is building additional track, platforms, and turnbacks and removing bottlenecks and junctions to increase capacity, ease congestion and reduce delays.

With the completion of the Rail Clearways Plan, an incident on one part of the rail network will have a limited effect on services on other clearways. It will also mean that faster trains will be able to more frequently pass slower trains allowing for more express services.

This forms a key part of the Government's long-term infrastructure plan for NSW.

The Berowra, Bondi and Macdonaldtown Turnback projects are now complete.

Construction is well underway at Hornsby, Macdonaldtown Stabling, Homebush, Lidcombe, Revesby and major works commenced for the Cronulla Duplication project in February 2007.



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Further information in relation to Clearways Projects is available on the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation website at [www.tidc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tidc.nsw.gov.au)

\*0522 PROPOSED UNDERGROUND RAILWAY STATION—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What are the Government's plans for an underground railway station at Crows Nest following previous announcements made by former Premier Carr?
- (2) What action, if any, has the Government taken to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Information regarding the North West Rail Link can be found at [www.tidc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tidc.nsw.gov.au)

\*0523 CHATSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to Stage 2 capital upgrade funding for Chatswood High School:

- (1) Why were specific costings not included for this project in the budget papers?
- (2) How much will the project cost?
- (3) What funding will you provide to the project during 2007-2008?

Answer—

A project to undertake stage two of the upgrade of facilities at Chatswood High School is included as a new major work project in the 2007/08 Budget. The details of the estimated total cost and proposed expenditure for this year were not included in the 2007/08 Budget Papers due to their commercially sensitive nature. The Department of Education and Training does not release cost estimates for major capital works projects until contracts have been let, consistent with practice in previous years.

\*0524 ARTARMON RAILWAY STATION—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When will Easy Access be delivered at Artarmon Railway Station given it was omitted again from this year's budget program?

Answer—

I am advised:

Providing equitable access to public transport services is a key Government objective, and stations are being progressively upgraded to meet the travelling needs of people with disabilities, parents with strollers and the elderly.

The NSW Government has committed \$43 million to building, completing or starting new upgrades and planning for future upgrades across the CityRail network in the 2007-08 rail capital budget.

The projects include completion of works already underway at Auburn, Belmore, Bowral, Carlton, Eastwood, Seven Hills, Turramurra, and Werrington, and commencement of works at Lindfield, Newtown and St James. This is on top of the \$420 million that has already been spent on Easy Access upgrades at 88 CityRail stations across the network.

New stations will be upgraded with lifts at a cost of \$127 million over the next four years at Broadmeadow, Central, Burwood, Emu Plains, Windsor and Sydenham. Cardiff Station in the Hunter Valley will also undergo works to improve accessibility.

Scoping and planning for future upgrades will also begin at Waterfall, Edgecliff, Museum, Dapto, Lawson, Clyde, Marrickville and Macarthur.

Hurstville Station will receive a major upgrade to cater for a forecast increase in the number of commuters who will use the station, and to improve safety.

Stations along the new Southern Sydney Freight Line will be upgraded which will mean lifts for four stations at Minto, Casula, Sefton and Warwick Farm.

Priority for upgrading is based on a number of factors, including station patronage, access to educational and medical centres, parking, bus services, shopping, tourism and whether the station is a rail interchange.

Requests for an upgrade at Artarmon Station will be assessed together with other requests across the network, keeping mind that the nearby stations of St Leonards and Chatswood are both Easy Access stations.

\*0525 LANE COVE TUNNEL—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will you filter the Lane Cove Tunnel given that you have allocated funding in the 2007-2008 budget for filtration of the M5 tunnel?

Answer—

I am advised:

Air quality standards set for the Lane Cove Tunnel are among the toughest in the world.

Air quality monitoring information is available at [www.connectormotorways.com.au](http://www.connectormotorways.com.au)

\*0526 COASTAL QUARRY DEVELOPMENT—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the concerns of Coastal Quarry Development (CQD) of Broulee surrounding the RTA tender process for a job calling for 45,000 tonnes of fill for a site at Deep Creek, 5km South of Batemans Bay?
- (2) Given the concerns raised by CQD with the RTA Bega, what action is the Minister prepared to take to see the matter resolved to the satisfaction of CQD?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 7 July 2006 the RTA advertised for tenderers to supply material for the site at Deep Creek, 5km south of Batemans Bay.

The RTA followed the tender process in accordance with the NSW Government Code of Practice for Procurement.

\*0527 RAWLINSON BROWN—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Has the Minister or a member of his department read a report prepared by Mrs Anne Brown of Broulee, investigating the case of Mr Rawlinson (Rolly) Cecil Brown in relation to the 1982 dismissal of Eurobodalla Shire Council?
- (2) Given the information contained in that report and Mr Brown's service to his community, will the Minister give greater recognition to Mr Brown than that offered by the previous Minister in correspondence received by Mrs Brown in October of 2006?
- (3) Will the Minister apologise to Mr Brown?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) The Department of Local Government has reviewed the report and has provided me with a copy.
- (2) I appreciate the efforts Mrs Anne Brown has put into researching this issue and I can understand that Mr Brown remains concerned at the findings of the Inquiry Report.

However, as indicated by the former Minister, I am advised that all evidence, documentation and files concerning the inquiry are no longer available.

- (3) In the circumstances, I am not in a position to tender the apology sought.

\*0528 MORUYA HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What action has been taken by his department since a facilities review of Moruya High School was undertaken in September 2006?
- (2) What is the department proposing to do to address any shortcomings highlighted by that review?
- (3) Why has the Minister's staff and those of the former Minister not been in touch with the School's P&C since the facilities review was undertaken in September 2006?

Answer—

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The Department of Education and Training has identified the need to upgrade the school. Funding for the upgrade will be considered against competing priorities when determining future Major Capital Works Programs. A concept proposal has been prepared for consideration and the school community will be kept informed of developments.

In December 2006 a demountable science laboratory was delivered to the school and in January 2007 a demountable art room was also delivered to provide additional specialist teaching spaces.

The Principal of Moruya High School has been kept informed of developments since the facilities review.

\*0529 TATHRA BEACH COUNTRY CLUB—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) What are the legislated boundaries for Tathra Beach Country Club?
- (2) What are the boundaries of the nearby SEPP 14 wetlands?

Answer—

- (1) The Tathra Country Club holds leases 1832 and 130191 over 58.72 hectares of Crown land. The leases comprise all of the land within lot 183 in DP750286 and lot 248 in DP40290, respectively.
- (2) The official maps showing the boundaries of SEPP 14 wetlands are held by the Department of Planning. Those maps indicate that lease 130191 is affected by SEPP 14 wetlands while lease 1832 is not.

\*0530 SERVICE USERS POLICY—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

When is the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care going to release its policy on service users' engagement, consultation and participation in service improvement unit?

Answer—

As part of the Government's ongoing commitment to improving the Disability and Home and Community Care sector's capacity and accountability, the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care is developing a Consultation Framework for engagement with Stakeholders.

This framework will build on and strengthen the current avenues of consultation in the Department, including:

- Ministerial Advisory Boards, such as the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing and the Joint NSW/Australian Government HACC Advisory Committee;
- Expert Advisory Groups targeting specific initiatives or programs;
- Consultative forums involving cross-agency partnerships; and
- Local and regional consultative forums.

The Department's current approach to consultation affirms its commitment to engage with its clients, their families and carers, service providers, advocates, academics, peak bodies and the community generally.

The framework is currently under development and will be made available for consultation with key personnel and sector representatives in the latter part of 2007.

\*0531 SURGERY WAITING TIMES—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many patients are on elective surgery waiting lists at Bowral and Goulburn Hospitals?
- (2) What are the waiting list times for both emergency and non-emergency surgery in Bowral and Goulburn Base Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that hospital specific waiting list data is released quarterly on the NSW website at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/waitingtimes/byhosp.html>

The final quarter data for 2006-2007 will be available in the near future.

\*0532 DIALYSIS SERVICES—BOWRAL HOSPITAL—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the renal dialysis service at Bowral Hospital:

- (1) Given the Minister's announcement of \$14 million to expand kidney dialysis in NSW, will staff be available at Bowral Hospital as promised by the NSW Government to assist dialysis patients who cannot self-dialyse?
- (2) Will the Minister take appropriate steps to ensure the policy statement at Bowral Hospital in relation to the Dialysis Unit is amended to reflect the promise made by her predecessor that patients who cannot self-dialyse or who are not fully independent or ambulatory are able to use the unit?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Bowral & District Hospital nursing staff have been trained to support appropriate patients, defined as those patients who are able to self dialyse. Patients who do not meet the criteria will continue to receive dialysis from Campbelltown and Liverpool Hospitals.
- (2) Renal clinicians developed the policy statement taking into account the level of medical and nursing support available at Bowral & District Hospital.

\*0533 BOWRAL HOSPITAL—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

What is the financial status of Bowral Hospital for 2005-06, in particular:

- (a) extent of operating losses;
- (b) contribution of wages and salaries to operating loss;
- (c) contribution of line management services to this operating loss?

Answer—

I am advised:

Budgets are allocated and audited on an Area Health Service basis.

Financial information for 2005-2006 is contained in the Sydney South West Area Health Service's Annual Report which is on the Area Health Service's website.

\*0534 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES OUT OF HOME CARE OUTPUTS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many children received out of home care services during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (2) What is the estimated number of children who will receive out of home care services during 2007-08?
- (3) How many children were in out of home care at year end:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (4) What is the estimated number of children who will be in out of home care at year end 2007-08?
- (5) What was the average EFT staffing for out of home care services of the Department of Community Services during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (6) What is the estimated average EFT staffing for out of home care services of the Department of Community Services during 2007-08?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) The most up-to-date information on such matters will be provided in program statements to be published shortly, as explained on page (iii) of Budget Paper 3, Budget Estimates 2007-08.

\*0535 YOUNG DEFENSIVE DRIVER REPRESENTATIONS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Why have you not replied to my representations dated 22 January 2007 (your reference M07/1063) seeking assistance for community groups in Young to run a defensive driver course for p-plate drivers?
- (2) Why have your Ministerial Staff ignored repeated requests from my office for information as to when a response for this letter will be sent?
- (3) When will you reply to this representation?

Answer—

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I am advised:

A reply has been sent.

\*0536 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES STATUTORY CHILD PROTECTION OUTPUTS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many children received protective services during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (2) What is the estimated number of children who will receive protective services during 2007-08?
- (3) What is the total number of children for whom the department received reports, under the age of 18 at the time of the report, during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (4) What is estimated total number of children for whom the department will receive reports, under the age of 18 at the time of the report during 2007-08?
- (5) What was the average EFT of staffing for statutory child protection services of the Department of Community Services during:
  - (a) 2005-06;
  - (b) 2006-07?
- (6) What is the estimated average EFT of staffing for statutory child protection services of the Department of Community Services during 2007-08?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) The most up-to-date information on such matters will be provided in program statements to be published shortly, as explained on page (iii) of Budget Paper 3, Budget Estimates 2007-08.

\*0537 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-14 the following entries appear:

Accommodating young people relocated from nursing homes to be determined  
Accommodation facilities for new clients various  
Asset rationalisation various  
Fitout costs (clients with challenging behaviours) various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Hornsby electorate?

Answer—

- (1) The second year of the Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program is currently underway and the budget allocated for the Program includes a capital component of \$4,037,000 and \$6,077,000 for support services through Stronger Together: a new direction for disability services: 2006-2016.  
The funds allocated for the Program will be used to provide a range of services, including alternate accommodation options to people applying for assistance through the YPIRAC Program across the state.
- (2) In relation to the Hornsby electorate, no new accommodation facilities are scheduled for construction in 2007/08.
- (3) In relation to the Hornsby electorate, no premises are scheduled for replacement in 2007/08.  
In 2006/07, one property was replaced with the cost of \$516,000.
- (4) In relation to the Hornsby electorate, no premises are identified for fit-out in 2007/08.

\*0538 DENTAL PROFESSION VACANCIES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the current number of vacant positions in the Hornsby Hospital public dental system for:
  - (a) dentists;
  - (b) dental nurses;
  - (c) dental assistants; and
  - (d) dental prosthetists?
- (2) (a) Are there any plans to employ dental hygienists at this public dental clinic?  
(b) If so, when and how many?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) Nil.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) There are no dental prosthetists employed at the Dental Clinic at Hornsby Hospital.
- (2) (a) Not currently.
- (b) N/A

\*0539 EXCLUSION ZONE WATER QUALITY—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

How often will the exclusion zone related to the outfall from the Brooklyn/Dangar Island Sewerage Treatment Plant be tested for water quality?

Answer—

This matter is the responsibility of the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water.

\*0540 POWER OUTAGES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

How many power outages have affected residents in Caringbah, Cronulla and Kurnell since January 2005?

Answer—

EnergyAustralia has advised that its electricity network does not follow geographical boundaries to this detail, with individual feeders supplying customers across different suburbs, electorates and local government areas.

The average number of interruptions per customer per annum is calculated by the System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI). The following is the SAIFI for the Southern Sydney Region, which includes Caringbah, Cronulla and Kurnell:

Southern Sydney Region	2005-2006	2006-2007
SAIFI (average number of interruptions per customer per annum)	0.56	0.70

\*0541 SURGERY WAITING LISTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many people (adults and children) are on waiting lists for surgery at Sutherland Hospital for March, April, May and June to date 2007?
- (2) For what specialties are they waiting?

Answer—

I am advised that Hospital specific waiting list data is released quarterly on the NSW Website at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/waitingtimes/byhosp.html>

The final quarter data for 2006/2007 will be available in the near future.

\*0542 CYCLEWAYS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What plans are there for new cycleways in the Cronulla electorate?
- (2) How much money has been spent on cycleways in the Cronulla electorate in 2006-07?
- (3) How much funding is budgeted to be spent on cycleways in the Cronulla electorate in 2007-08?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

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\*0543 CONSERVATION ZONES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) How many conservation zones in residential areas are gazetted in the Ku-ring-gai Council area?
- (2) Where are they in Ku-ring-gai Council area?
- (3) How many conservation zone applications submitted by Ku-ring-gai Council are awaiting approval?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised by the Department of Planning that there are no gazetted urban conservation areas (UCAs) in the Ku-ring-gai Council area, however there are over 500 heritage items gazetted under the Ku-ring-gai Planning Scheme Ordinance.

(3) I am advised by the Department of Planning that there are currently two proposals specifically for UCAs which were submitted by Ku-ring-gai Council.

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Conservation Local Environmental Plan No.21 proposed parts of Turramurra and Lindfield be listed as a UCA. Ku-ring-gai Heritage Conservation LEP No.25 proposed the East Gordon area be listed as a UCA. Both of these LEPs were put on hold in 2002 when the Department of Planning advised Ku-ring-gai Council that planning for increased housing choice in the rail corridor and St Ives centre should take precedence over any draft plans for UCAs. This work on the Town Centres is now nearing completion.

In July 2006 the Department also advised Council that if these and other heritage matters were progressed, a more strategic overall heritage review is required, considering the implications of the Metropolitan Strategy and the need to provide further housing opportunities in the area.

On 4 June 2007, the Heritage Office of the Department of Planning wrote to Council after meeting with Council staff, confirming the Department's previous advice of July 2006, and advising that all outstanding heritage matters be considered in an integrated manner prior to the preparation of Council's Comprehensive Local Environmental Plan.

\*0544 POLICE BEHAVIOUR—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) In what form(s) was the recent apology conveyed from the Premier to Jakarta's Governor Sutiyoso, for inappropriate police behaviour?
- (2) In light of the Jakarta Governor incident what extra training, protocol or instructions are you implementing to guarantee that NSW Police will not inappropriately offend any dignitaries in the future?
- (3) What specific training, protocol or instructions have been issued in relation to the overseas dignitaries invited to attend the upcoming APEC forum in Sydney in September?

Answer—

(1) This question should be addressed to the Premier.

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

(2) The NSW Police Force will be issuing a Statewide message to remind all police of their responsibilities in regard to policing which may involve contact with foreign dignitaries, diplomatic and consular officials, heads of State or foreign governments and other overseas government officials who shall be accorded certain rights, privileges and immunities under Australian and international law. The message will also remind police of their obligations to exercise the utmost tact, courtesy, respect and discretion in all such matters.

(3) A handbook to be issued to all police engaged in the APEC police security operation will include specific information and advice regarding the issues detailed above.

\*0545 MURWILLUMBAH HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the staffing problems with Murwillumbah Hospital and the shared staffing and operating theatre arrangements with Tweed Hospital:

- (1) Does the Government have any plans to downgrade or reduce both funding to Murwillumbah Hospital and the current levels of service in any way?
- (2) If so, what are the details of changes the Minister is planning for Murwillumbah Hospital?

Answer—

The Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service advises that the General Manager of the Tweed/Byron Network is working with management and staff at both The Tweed and Murwillumbah Hospitals to establish a more efficient working relationship between the hospitals.

I am advised that, following consultation, operating theatre management of the two hospitals has been combined to enable the theatres to work in a more streamlined fashion.

I am also advised that the General Manager of the Tweed/Byron Network is undertaking early consultations on other ways in which the two hospitals can work more effectively together.

I am advised that, once these consultations are complete, recommendations will be made to the North Coast Area Health Service Executive.

**\*0546 CHINDERAH MARINA EXPANSION PLAN**—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to the Chinderah Marina Expansion Plan which was approved by the Minister but subsequently rejected by the Land and Environment Court:

- (1) Since the Land and Environment Court rejected the Chinderah Marina Expansion Plan, has there been any further discussion with the developer?
- (2) If yes, what is the:
  - (a) size of the planned development of the marina;
  - (b) timing in which construction would be likely to begin;
  - (c) extent to which the community has been consulted about the expansion?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised by the Department of Planning that no further discussions have been had with the proponent of the marina expansion.
- (2) n/a.

**\*0547 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL**—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Is there any arrangement between the RTA and Tweed Shire Council relating to the two bridges which require construction over the Terranora Inlet as part of the traffic management plan for the South Tweed?
- (2) (a) Will the RTA be providing the Tweed Shire Council with any financial assistance in the construction of these two bridges?
- (b) If yes, how much?

Answer—

I am advised:

Details on the Banora Point upgrade are available at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

**\*0548 POWER OUTAGES**—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

How many power outages have affected residents in the Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde local government areas since January 2005?

Answer—

EnergyAustralia has advised that its electricity network does not follow geographical boundaries to this detail, with individual feeders supplying customers across different suburbs, electorates and local government areas.

The average number of interruptions per customer per annum is calculated by the System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI). The following is the SAIFI for the Northern Sydney Region, which includes Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde:

Northern Sydney Region	2005-2006	2006-2007
SAIFI (average number of interruptions per customer per annum)	1.50	1.39

**\*0549 CYCLEWAYS**—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—



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- (1) What plans are there for new cycleways in the Lane Cove electorate?
- (2) How much money has been spent on cycleways in the Lane Cove electorate in 2006-07?
- (3) How much funding is budgeted to be spent on cycleways in the Lane Cove electorate in 2007-08?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

\*0550 MAJOR EVENTS BOARD—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) What amount of spending from the 2007-2008 Budget is dedicated to the Major Events Board?
- (2) Is the Government continuing with its election promise to set up a Major Events Corporation based on the Victorian Government's successful model?
- (3) What progress has the Government made to investigate the feasibility of such a Major Events Corporation?
- (4) How does the Government intend to structure this Major Events Corporation and to whom will it report?
- (5) When will this Major Events Corporation be operating?
- (6) What funding will this Major Events Corporation receive?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for State Development.

\*0551 TURIMETTA HEADLAND—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

Is it safe for people to swim, snorkel or dive in the immediate vicinity of the cliff face sewage outfall at Turimetta Headland?

Answer—

This question falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water.

\*0552 WARRIEWOOD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

What is the specific nature of the works to be carried out at the Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant?

Answer—

This information is available on Sydney Water's website.

\*0553 WARRIEWOOD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

How many dry weather overflows occurred at the Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant in 2006-07? How many wet weather overflows occurred at the Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant in 2006-07?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised that in 2006-07 there were no dry weather overflows and six wet weather overflows at Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant. As a minimum, all overflows received screening, degritting and primary sedimentation treatment as required by the Environment Protection Licence.

\*0554 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

In Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-43 the following entries appear:

Building refurbishments - various

Dams remediation - various

What are the details of any allocations made in respect of the Oxley electorate?

Answer—

The Department of Lands has not as yet finalised its building refurbishments program allocations for 2007/08. Funds from this program are spent across the whole of NSW Lands offices on a priority basis in terms of total asset management planning.

In respect to the statewide Minor Dams Remediation program managed by the Department of Lands, no allocation for any dam structure within the Oxley electorate in 2007/08 will be made as there are no redundant dams within this area managed under this program.

\*0555 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-52 the following entries appear:

Audio Visual Evidence Kits - various  
Mobile Police Vans - various  
Wheel Clamps - various  
Alcohol Related Crime Information Exchange - various  
Marine Fleet Replacement - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate?

Answer—

The Government is fully committed to delivering on the commitments set down in Budget Paper No 4.

\*0556 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-46 the following entry appears:

Acquisition of Coastal Land - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate?

Answer—

The NSW Government provides an annual allocation to the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme for public acquisition of outstanding coastal sites. Acquisition criteria includes: the protection of public foreshore access, scenic amenity and/or ecological values or environmental attributes.

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\*0557 UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY—NIRIMBA CAMPUS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Has the Government been advised by the University of Western Sydney (UWS) of its decision to close the UWS Nirimba Campus situated in the Blacktown Local Government area?
- (2) If so, did the university give its reasons for this decision?
- (3) What reasons were provided by the university?
- (4) What impact will the loss of this campus have on university access for students in western Sydney?
- (5) Has the university taken into consideration the projected population growth rates for the west and north-west sectors of Sydney?
- (6) Where will the courses, currently carried out at Nirimba be transferred as a result of this closure?
- (7) What will be the closest campus to residents of the Blacktown Local Government area?

Answer—

The Government has been advised and the reasons that the University provided are detailed publicly in the University's media announcement of 19 June 2007.

These are matters for the University itself. Under NSW legislation, the governing body of each university is responsible for the overall governance of the university's operations and strategic decisions about the location of campuses and educational programs.

\*0558 MORTGAGE DUTY SAVINGS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

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- (1) Has the Government announced in the Budget the abolition of the mortgage duty on the purchase of owner/occupied residences?
- (2) What is the savings to a home buyer purchasing a residence with a value of:
  - (a) \$200,000;
  - (b) \$300,000;
  - (c) \$350,000?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) In the 2007-08 Budget, the Government announced it will abolish mortgage duty from 1 September 2007 for individuals taking out mortgages for owner-occupied residences.  
Mortgage duty will be abolished for individual investors in residential property from 1 July 2008, and it will be abolished entirely from 1 July 2009.
- (2) I'm advised the savings for owner occupiers who take out a mortgage on or after 1 September 2007 will be:
  - (a) \$741 if the mortgage value is \$200,000;
  - (b) \$1,141 if the mortgage value is \$300,000;
  - (c) \$1,341 if the mortgage value is \$350,000.

\*0559 ELECTRICITY SUPPLY—RELIABILITY—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the reliability of the electricity supply:

- (1) For each month from July 2006 to April 2007, what was the network reliability (measured in Customer Minutes Lost per year) in:
  - (a) EnergyAustralia's distribution areas of:
    - (i) Central Coast;
    - (ii) Maitland/Lower Hunter;
    - (iii) Muswellbrook/Upper Hunter;
    - (iv) Newcastle;
    - (v) Sydney East;
    - (vi) Sydney North;
    - (vii) Sydney South?
  - (b) Integral Energy's distribution areas of:
    - (i) Northern (North-Western Sydney and Blue Mountains);
    - (ii) Central (South-Western Sydney);
    - (iii) Southern (Wollongong and the Shoalhaven)?
  - (c) Country Energy's distribution in all other areas of New South Wales?
- (2) For the period July 2006 to April 2007, how much compensation in energy blackout rebates has been paid to customers in the following categories:
  - (a) \$80 payments for outages that last greater than twelve hours;
  - (b) \$80 payments for four outages a year greater than four hours;
  - (c) In non-metropolitan areas, \$80 payments for outages greater than eighteen hours;
  - (d) In non-metropolitan areas, \$80 payments for four outages greater than five hours; and
  - (e) Claims that are yet to be finalised in each category?

Answer—

- (1) The industry standard for measuring network performance is unplanned normalised System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI). Unplanned SAIDI figures are represented as minutes lost per average customer.  
SAIDI figures are reported in the Annual Network Performance Reports prepared by each network operator.
- (2) (a) 32.  
(b) 5.  
(c) 5.  
(d) 0.

(e) 0.

\*0560 COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS—BY-PRODUCTS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the by-products of coal-fired power stations:

- (1) What are the by-products of coal-fired power generation, including ash, particles and gases, and what volumes were produced in each of the financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07 at each of the following coal-fired power stations:
  - (a) Bayswater;
  - (b) Eraring;
  - (c) Liddell;
  - (d) Mt Piper;
  - (e) Munmorah;
  - (f) Redbank;
  - (g) Vales Point;
  - (h) Wallerawang?
- (2) What technology is used to capture each by-product at each of the power stations?
- (3) What by-products are re-used or recycled and what volumes have been re-used or recycled in 2005-06 at each power station?
- (4) How are the by-products re-used or recycled?

Answer—

- (1) Information on the by-products of coal-fired power generation is available in annual reports and environmental reports for each generator.
- (2) Technology including fabric filters and electrostatic precipitators is used to capture by-products.
- (3) and (4) Fly and bottom ash are used in cement manufacture, road works and landscaping. Lime and gypsum are used in agriculture applications as soil conditioners. Further information on these products can be found in annual reports.

\*0561 GOVERNMENT ENERGY USE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the Government's use of energy:

- (1) Which energy retailer provides electricity to each Government department or agency?
- (2) In the financial year 2005-06 what total amounts were spent by all Government departments and agencies on electricity?
- (3) Does the NSW Government purchase GreenPower, and if so, which Government departments or agencies purchase GreenPower?
- (4) What is the total actual funding spent by Government departments and agencies on purchasing GreenPower in the financial year 2005-06?
- (5) What is the total funding budgeted to be spent by Government departments and agencies on purchasing GreenPower in the financial year 2006-07?
- (6) Does the Government have its own program of changing over to energy efficient lighting, and if so, how many energy efficient light bulbs have been installed to date?

Answer—

The responsibility for reporting on Government energy use falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water.

\*0562 OFFICE OF INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the Office of Infrastructure Management:

- (1) What is the total number of staff employed full-time or part-time by the Office of Infrastructure Management?
- (2) What are positions held by all staff employed full-time or part-time by the Office of Infrastructure Management?
- (3) Are there any staff positions currently unfilled in the Office of Infrastructure Management, and if so,

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which positions remain unfilled?

- (4) Are any staff employed full-time or part-time as media advisers, and if so, how many are employed, and in each case what is their remuneration package, including allowances?
- (5) What is the budget allocation for media monitoring in the 2006-07 financial year?
- (6) What was the budget allocation for media monitoring in the 2005-06 financial year?
- (7) What is the current remuneration package of the Minister's chief of staff, including allowances?

Answer—

I'm advised:

(1) to (3) Please refer to the Treasury website, which includes the Corporate Plan.

(4) No.

(5) Nil.

(6) Nil.

(7) I'm advised the position is an MS-7.

\*0563 KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the proposed Kurnell desalination plant:

- (1) From which energy retailer will the Kurnell desalination plant purchase electricity?
- (2) What is the estimate of the annual amount of electricity that will be consumed by the proposed plant?
- (3) (a) Will the proposed plant be using renewable energy?  
(b) If so, what will be the extra cost for the proposed plant to use GreenPower accredited renewable energy compared with conventional electricity?

Answer—

This question falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water Utilities.

\*0564 NSW TREASURY STAFF—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the NSW Treasury staff:

- (1) Which staff (by job title) in the Office of Infrastructure Management provide advice on each of the following policy areas:
  - (a) electricity infrastructure;
  - (b) roads infrastructure;
  - (c) rail infrastructure;
  - (d) ports infrastructure;
  - (e) water infrastructure;
  - (f) school infrastructure; and
  - (g) hospital infrastructure?
- (2) Which staff (by job title) in the Office of Financial Management, not including those in the Office of Infrastructure Management, provide advice on each of the following policy areas:
  - (a) electricity infrastructure;
  - (b) roads infrastructure;
  - (c) rail infrastructure;
  - (d) ports infrastructure;
  - (e) water infrastructure;
  - (f) school infrastructure; and
  - (g) hospital infrastructure?

Answer—

I'm advised:

(1) Please refer to the Treasury website, which includes the Corporate Plan.

(2) Please refer to the Treasury website, which includes the Corporate Plan.

\*0565 RESPITE SERVICES—GOULBURN—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Will the Minister meet with Lola Marmont and her son Adam to discuss the concerns they have in accessing respite services in Goulburn?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of concerns that Lola Marmont has about the ongoing handling of respite provision for her family by DADHC?
- (3) Will the Minister contact Lola Marmont regarding the concerns Adam has regarding much needed equipment at his workshop?

Answer—

- (1) I have met with Ms Marmont and her son, Adam to discuss their concerns they have in accessing respite services in Goulburn.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) On my direction, the department has made contact with Ms Marmont to discuss the need for equipment at Adam's workshop. The department is taking the lead in organising an assessment of Adam's needs across all environments, rather than just the workplace. A physiotherapist has been arranged to assess Adam within the next two weeks in consultation with Ms Marmont.

\*0566 HEAVY VEHICLE INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) How many heavy vehicle infringement notices were issued in Gundagai Shire during:
  - (a) 2005;
  - (b) 2006;
  - (c) 2007 to date?
- (2) Of these notices how many were issued by (a) RTA inspectors and (b) NSW Police?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The number of heavy vehicle penalty notices issued by the Roads and Traffic Authority in the Gundagai Shire for the following years is as follows:

2005 - 38  
2006 - 39  
2007 - 24 (to 30 June 2007)

The number of heavy vehicle penalty notices issued by NSW Police in the Gundagai Shire for the following years is as follows:

2005 - 69  
2006 - 84  
2007 - 69 (to 30 June 2007)

This data represents those matters that can be clearly identified as involving heavy vehicles in the Gundagai Shire. The data does not include matters referred directly to the NSW Courts or matters where the offence does not distinguish between vehicle types.

\*0567 COWRA HIGH SCHOOL AIR-CONDITIONING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

When will air-conditioning be fitted to the remaining uncooled teaching spaces at Cowra High School?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training has identified a project to provide further air cooling to Cowra High School. The Department is in the process of prioritising competing projects to be included in the 2007/2008 Air Cooling Program. Once the Program has been finalised the Principal of Cowra High School will be advised of the outcome.

\*0568 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES 2007-08 BUDGET OUTPUTS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Why were the Program Objectives, Program Description, Outputs, Average Staffing and Operating Statements of the:
  - (a) Community Services;
  - (b) Prevention and Early Intervention Services;

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- (c) Statutory Child Protection; and
- (d) Out of Home Care

functions of the Department of Community Services not included in the 2007-08 Budget papers?

(2) Will you provide me with this information?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The answer to this question can be found on page iii of the Introduction to Budget Paper 3, Volume 1.

\*0569 KURING-GAI LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to the answer to Written Question No 89, why did the authorised police strength of the Kuring-gai Local Area Command drop from 185 to 173 in a few months?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

12 positions previously allocated to the Kuring-Gai Local Area Command, North West Metropolitan Region, have been relocated to the Region Enforcement Squad. This Squad was previously the Region Target Action Group positions. This is simply a change to the reporting structure only. The unit still operates from Gordon police station.

\*0570 BROOKLYN/DANGAR ISLAND SEWERAGE SUBSIDY—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

What is the amount of the subsidy to be given to each of the residents of Brooklyn/Dangar Island who are connecting to the sewer in the electorate of Hornsby?

Answer—

There is no "subsidy" to be given to the property owners of Brooklyn and Dangar Island who connect to the sewer.

\*0571 MENTAL HEALTH INTENSIVE CARE UNIT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

- (1) What is the current number of nursing staff employed to staff the Mental Health Intensive Care unit at Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) How many beds will be opened initially?
- (3) What will be the phase in period in relation to the proposed 12 beds?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to the response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 0384.

\*0572 JACK EVANS BOAT HARBOUR—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to the proposed development of a museum on Flagstaff Hill outlined in the redevelopment master plan of Jack Evans Boat Harbour:

- (1) How will the Government fund this project and what amount of funding will be allocated?
- (2) (a) Is there a projected starting date for this project?  
(b) If yes, what is the date?
- (3) What was the extent of public consultation that took place before the release of the master plan?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised by ArtsNSW that the museum project received a grant of \$150,000 from the 2007 Capital Infrastructure Program.
- (2) Matters relating to the delivery of the project do not fall within my portfolio areas.
- (3) I am advised that the exhibition of the draft Implementation Plan for Jack Evans Boat Harbour was undertaken by Tweed Shire Council.

\*0573 KINGSCLIFF TRADE SCHOOL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to the Government's election promise to establish a Trade School in Kingscliff and the lack of specific information in the 2007-08 State Budget regarding its establishment:

- (1) Why has no funding for the Kingscliff Trade School been provided in the 2007-08 State Budget?
- (2) How much funding will be committed to the development of the Kingscliff Trade School?
- (3) What is the start and finish date for the development of the Kingscliff Trade School?

Answer—

- (1) Kingscliff Trade School is one of 25 trade schools opening across the State between 2007 and 2011. The opening date of the Kingscliff Trade School is to be announced in the coming period.
- (2) Up to \$525,000 will be allocated to refurbish and expand the commercial kitchens and the construction facilities.
- (3) The refurbishment of facilities will commence approximately six months before the opening of the Kingscliff Trade School.

\*0574 POTTSVILLE HEALTH CARE CENTRE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the NSW Government's election promise to establish a Health Care Centre at Pottsville and the lack of specific information in the 2007-08 State Budget regarding its establishment:

- (1) Why has no funding for the Health Care Centre at Pottsville been provided in the 2007-08 State Budget?
- (2) How much funding will be committed to the development of the Health Care Centre at Pottsville?
- (3) What is the start and finish date for the development of the Health Care Centre at Pottsville?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question No. LA 0103 on this matter.

\*0575 EPHEMERAL STREAMS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Why are ephemeral streams not included within the definition of river in the Water Management Act and the Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act?

Answer—

All places where water occurs naturally on or below the surface of the ground, which includes ephemeral streams, are covered by the provisions of the Water Management Act 2000, in accordance with the definition of a water source in that Act.

It is the intention to ultimately repeal the entire Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948 and manage those activities under the Water Management Act 2000.

\*0576 CLIMATE CHANGE THREAT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In light of the new information that has emerged over the past decade about the threat to NSW beachfronts posed by greenhouse induced climatic change, and predicted increases in sea levels, will you review the Coastline Management Manual, the Coastline Hazards Policy and the NSW Coastal Policy?

Answer—

I am advised that the Coastline Management Manual and Coastline Hazards Policy are not the responsibility of the Department of Planning.

The NSW Coastal Policy remains relevant and has informed the preparation of Regional Strategies for coastal areas.

\*0577 COASTAL EROSION—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

Will additional financial or other resources be provided to support sand nourishment on NSW coastlines affected by coastal erosion, such as the Collaroy/Narrabeen beachfront?

Answer—

The NSW Government provides financial and technical assistance to Local Councils to manage coastal hazards including erosion through the Coastal Management Program administered by the Department of Environment and Climate Change.



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Under the Coastal Management Program Councils are encouraged to develop and implement coastal management plans which provide long term balanced solutions to coastal erosion problems. Sand nourishment is one management option for protecting property and maintaining beach amenity.

Funding of \$3m has been allocated under the Coastal Management Program for the 2007/2008 financial year. Council applications for financial assistance under the Program in 2007/2008 are currently being considered. This funding assistance will help Councils address coastal hazards identified following the recent storm events.

- \*0578 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-54 and 5-55 the following entries appear:

- Information and Communication Technology Enhancement - various
- Information and Communication Technology Integration - various
- Information and Communication Technology Replacement - various
- Marine Craft Replacement - various
- Marine Parks Plant and Equipment - various
- Various Occupational Health and Safety Works - various
- Flood Warning Program - various
- Gauging Stations For Unregulated Rivers - various
- Water Information System - various
- Water Management and Monitoring Information System - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate?

Answer—

For these major works-in-progress these are state-wide programs and it is not possible to attribute planned expenditure on an electorate basis.

- \*0579 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-59 the following entry appears:

- Accelerated Pacific Highway Safety - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on roads projects across NSW is publicly provided in the RTA's Annual Reports and State Budget papers.

Information regarding the upgrade of the Pacific Highway is also regularly updated on the RTA website at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au) and is available in community newsletters distributed by the RTA.

- \*0580 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-70 the following entries appear:

- Bridge Renewals - various
- Conversion To Continuous Welded Track - various
- Signalling and Train Control Systems - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Budget Paper No. 4 outlines the NSW Government's capital investment in the Country Regional Network.

There are no Country Regional Network rail lines in the Electorate of Myall Lakes. In 2004 the NSW Government signed sixty-year agreements with the Australian Rail Track Corporation for the non-metropolitan networks.

Capital investment in the Interstate and Hunter Valley networks, including the railway line in the Myall Lakes Electorate, is the responsibility of the Australian Rail Track Corporation.

\*0581 PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Do you have any private sector employment experience prior to 1984 that relates to your portfolio responsibilities?

Answer—

The Premier's biography is available on the Parliament website.

\*0582 "STATE OF THE STATES" REPORT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

(1) In the 2006 "State of the States" report released by the Evatt Foundation where did New South Wales rank out of the six States in the area of Education?

(2) How does the Government propose to improve this ranking in the next report?

Answer—

(1) New South Wales ranked fifth.

(2) Commonwealth Grants Commission data, on which the ranking is based, is designed to help determine State/Territory grant shares of the Goods and Services Tax. It does not provide a realistic picture of New South Wales education and training.

\*0583 "STATE OF THE STATES" REPORT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

(1) In the 2006 "State of the States" report released by the Evatt Foundation where did New South Wales rank out of the six States in the area of Health?

(2) How does the Government propose to improve this ranking in the next report?

Answer—

I am advised that the answer to the Honourable Member's question is as follows:

(1) The 2006 "State of States" Report indicates that in 2004/05 NSW was above average in both hospital and community health and the overall ranking was fifth. NSW had an average result in the overall health ranking.

(2) The Government anticipates continued improvement with the implementation of the Clinical Services Redesign Program and additional funding in mental health initiatives in hospitals and community health, the reduction of the surgical waiting lists, Healthcare at Home and additional hospital beds.

\*0584 "STATE OF THE STATES" REPORT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) In the 2006 "State of the States" report released by the Evatt Foundation where did New South Wales rank out of the six States in the area of Industry?

(2) How does the Government propose to improve this ranking in the next report?

Answer—

I am advised:

Matters relating to industry development should be directed to my colleague the Minister for State Development.

\*0585 SUPERANNUATION LIABILITIES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Has the Auditor-General provided any comments on the unfunded superannuation liabilities of the Government and if so, can they be provided?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Auditor-General has not formally provided any information to me in regard to this matter.

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\*0586 CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Can the Minister provide a list of the salaries of all Chief Information Officers (as detailed on the Government Chief Information Office web page) employed by the Government?

Answer—

I am advised the Government Chief information Office does not hold this information. The question should be directed to those ministers responsible for agencies employing officers in these positions.

\*0587 CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What is the status on the recruitment for the Chief Investment Officer for New South Wales and will his/her appointment result in a restructure?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Commerce is unaware of any position of this title.

\*0588 OUTSTANDING CONTRACTS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What are the contracts outstanding for the Department of Commerce including their value and expected completion date?

Answer—

This matter falls under the portfolio of responsibilities of the Hon Eric Roozendaal, Minister for Roads and Minister for Commerce.

\*0589 QUALITY OF MEALS—MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health—

Are there food quality reviews or benchmarks undertaken to monitor the quality of meals provided at Manly Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service's Area Food Services undertake twice a year patient surveys. In addition, the Area's Quality Business Unit undertakes annual surveys to ensure benchmarks, which were set by patient focus groups, are achieved.

\*0590 OUTSTANDING CONTRACTS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What are the contracts outstanding for the Department of Commerce including their value and expected completion date?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding contracts awarded by the Department of Commerce is available on the Commerce website by following the Procurement, eTendering links.

\*0591 MANLY HOSPITAL—MEAL COSTS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health—

What is the cost of providing food to patients at Manly Hospital over the past five years and, if this work is outsourced, can you provide the details of this outsourcing?

Answer—

I am advised:

Catering cost information is provided in the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service's publicly available Annual Report each year. The work is not outsourced.

\*0592 SPIT/MANLY ROADS TRAFFIC FLOWS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Does a timeline exist for the working group formed to investigate possible improvements to traffic flows on the Spit/Military roads corridor and, if so, what is it?

Answer—

I am advised:

The working group is continuing their investigations and will provide a report to Government when complete.

\*0593 TRIENNIAL REVIEW—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Will you provide me a copy of the previous (i.e. the one before 2006) triennial review into the State's defined benefit superannuation schemes and any briefing papers provided to Ministers or ministerial staff on the review?

Answer—

I'm advised:

I have not received a briefing on the 2003 Triennial Review.

\*0594 SPIT/MILITARY ROADS CORRIDOR—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What are the terms of reference of the working group formed to investigate improvements on traffic flows on the Spit/Military roads corridor?

Answer—

I am advised:

The working group is investigating a number of potential transport and traffic flow improvements for the corridor. These include:

- Fast-tracking bus priority works, including new bus lanes and bus "jump starts" at key intersections;
- Extending clearways on Military Road;
- Upgrading the key intersections;
- Introducing a southbound tidal flow on Spit Road from The Spit Bridge to Ourimbah Road;
- Further reducing Spit Bridge opening times.

\*0595 MERCER HUMAN RESOURCES CONSULTING REPORT—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Will you provide me any briefing papers provided to any Minister or ministerial staff on the latest Mercer Human Resources Consulting Report on the State's defined benefit superannuation schemes?

Answer—

I'm advised:

A copy of the 2006 Triennial Review was provided to you under FOI dated 20 July 2007.

\*0596 BUS AGE—BROOKVALE DEPOT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the average age of buses at Brookvale Bus Depot?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on State Transit's bus fleet is available on the State Transit website, [www.sta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0597 BUS AGE—BROOKVALE DEPOT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What was the age of the oldest bus at Brookvale Bus Depot in 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05?

Answer—

I am advised:

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Information on State Transit's bus fleet is available on the State Transit website, [www.sta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0598 BUS AGE—MONA VALE DEPOT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the average age of buses at Mona Vale Depot?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on State Transit's bus fleet is available on the State Transit website, [www.sta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sta.nsw.gov.au)

\*0599 DETECTIVE SHIFTS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many detectives were rostered on duty on night time shifts in the month of June 2006?

Answer—

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

\*0600 DEE WHY POLICE STATION—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What plans does the Government have to (a) maintain Dee Why Police Station (b) rebuild Dee Why Police Station?

Answer—

I am advised that maintenance of Dee Why police station will continue as required.

\*0601 NIGHT SHIFTS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many detectives were called in to duty for night shifts in June 2006?
- (2) What was the total cost of any shifts that were overtime?

Answer—

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

\*0602 MANLY HOSPITAL—MAINTENANCE—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What reports on maintenance requirements for Manly Hospital have been completed in the years 2005-06 and 2006-07?
- (2) With respect to the above reports, who were the authors, what were the areas of maintenance concerned, on what date were the reports made, and what was the total estimated cost of each item identified, where the cost was over \$5,000?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The following reports are available for Manly Hospital:

- (a) Statewide Asset Strategic Plan, Stage 1, Data Collection and Asset Audit.
- (b) Monthly Compliance Report.
- (c) Building Engineering Inventory System Report.
- (d) Fire Safety Survey.

(2) The authors were:

- (a) Department of Commerce.
- (b) NSCCAHS Corporate and Clinical - Maintenance Operations.
- (c) NSCCAHS Corporate and Clinical Support - Technical Support.
- (d) NSW Fire Brigade - Risk Management Division.

The areas of maintenance concerned:

- (a) Site:
  - Condition;
  - Functionality;

- Compliance.

- (b) Listing of mandatory Australian Standards Compliance status.
- (c) Monthly and progressive figures for Planned Preventative Maintenance and Breakdown Maintenance.
- (d) Recommendations on minimum mandatory requirements considered necessary to attain a satisfactory level of occupant safety.

Date of Report:

- (a) 2007.
- (b) Monthly commencing April 2007.
- (c) Monthly Report.
- (d) 2006.

Total Estimated Cost of Each Item Identified - greater than \$5k:

- (a) Cost estimates not part of report.
- (b) Cost estimates not part of report.
- (c) Cost estimates not part of report.
- (d) Building 11 and 15 installation of drenches - \$10,000.

West Wing installation of handrails - \$5,000.

\*0603 MANLY HOSPITAL—CREDITORS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What were the total creditors of Manly District Hospital as at 31 May 2006 and 30 June 2006?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to the response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 0217.

\*0604 PROPOSED NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What is the time line for all aspects of construction of the proposed Northern Beaches Hospital?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to the response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 0039.

\*0605 FOSTER CARERS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Community Services—

What is the total budget for foster carers in Warringah, Pittwater and Manly?

Answer—

Allowances for children and young people in Out-of-Home care placements vary with age, and the care needs of a child or young person may require contingency payments for additional needs. Allowances and contingency payments are likely to vary over the course of any given year.

\*0606 FOSTER CARERS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Community Services—

For 2005-06 and 2006-06, what number of foster carers were/are there in Warringah, Pittwater and Manly?

Answer—

As at 9 July 2007, there were a total of 14 long-term carers and 13 short-term carers in the Warringah, Pittwater and Manly Local Government Areas.

\*0607 WHEELER HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will Wheeler Heights Public School have a hall provided?
- (2) When will construction commence?

Answer—

Wheeler Heights Public School's hall will be delivered within the current term of Government as part of the Government's four-year, \$2 billion Building Better Schools Program.

The Department of Education and Training is currently determining a schedule of works for the program - so it is not possible to provide a definite timeframe for individual projects at this stage.

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The Department will consult with school communities and undertake detailed planning work in the coming months. The Department will notify Wheeler Heights Public School as soon as a timeframe has been set for construction of the school's hall.

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**\*0608 LEGAL PRACTITIONERS**—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Are legal practitioners in New South Wales required to be persons of good character and fame to maintain their positions?
- (2) Does the Attorney General require the maintenance of high professional standards for legal practitioners?
- (3) Are legal practitioners in New South Wales permitted to practice, concurrently, in other professions regulated by the Federal Government, such as marriage celebrants and migration agents?
- (4) Does the Commonwealth Attorney General communicate with the New South Wales Attorney General, when, for example, a migration agent, who is also a legal practitioner registered in New South Wales, is barred or suspended by the Commonwealth authorities?
- (5) If so, how many such notifications have been received from the Commonwealth Attorney General to date?
- (6) Does the New South Wales Attorney General, or other authority, notify the Commonwealth authorities of any suspension or disciplinary action against New South Wales registered legal practitioners, who hold positions regulated by the Federal authorities as in Question (3) above?
- (7) What, if any, action is taken by the disciplinary bodies governing the legal profession in New South Wales when they are advised of any action as set out in Question (4) above?

Answer—

Legal practitioners in NSW are held to high professional standards. They are required to comply with the Legal Profession Act, the Legal Profession Regulation, the Solicitors' Professional Conduct and Practice Rules and the Barristers' Rules.

The Legal Profession Act is based on national model legislation, and implements nationally consistent standards of consumer protection, which have been developed in consultation with regulators, the legal profession, and consumers of legal services. Legal Practitioners in NSW are permitted to practice, concurrently, in other professions such as marriage celebrants and migration agents.

We have recently amended the Legal Profession Regulation to allow for the exchange of information between state regulatory authorities and named Commonwealth authorities. These amendments commenced on 2 July 2007.

The website of the Office of the Legal Services Commissioner contains information on disciplinary action taken against legal practitioners in New South Wales. The Legal Services Commissioner will initiate a complaint in relation to the conduct of a legal practitioner that is brought to his attention by another authority and investigate it where appropriate.

**\*0609 COAL MINING—ROYALTIES**—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

How much money, by way of royalties, has the NSW Government received from coal mining for each of the following financial years:

- (a) 2003-2004;
- (b) 2004-2005;
- (c) 2005-2006;
- (d) 2006-2007 projected figure?

Answer—

During the last four years the NSW Government has received the following royalty from coal production in New South Wales:

- (a) 2003-04 - \$200.5 million

- (b) 2004-05 - \$354.5 million
- (c) 2005-06 - \$447.0 million
- (d) 2006-07 (projected) - \$413.2 million

\*0610 DEPARTMENT OF AGEING, DISABILITY AND HOME CARE SERVICES—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In relation to the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) services:

- (1) Why has there been no clear dissemination of information on DADHC services that are provided in regional areas such as Lismore?
- (2) Are families only aware of these services through word of mouth?
- (3) Given that families are advised that they are ineligible to apply for funding unless a case manager is assigned to them, are there plans to appropriately staff the DADHC to cope with the lack of case managers and to provide the critical services that they are tasked with?
- (4) Given that DADHC staff in Lismore have only processed or approved 40 applications for services in May and June 2007, and that the next meeting to make determinations on applications is scheduled for late August 2007, what steps will the Minister take to reduce the time between applications being made and services being delivered in a reasonable period of time?
- (5) Why were only 40 out of 230 applications for DADHC services processed or approved in Lismore?
- (6) What steps will be taken to ensure that disability services in regional areas are provided within a reasonable amount of time?
- (7) What steps will be taken to improve communication between the DADHC and applicants to ensure that information about their children's cases are provided?
- (8) Given that DADHC case workers are involved in the preparation of applications for DADHC services, why was a panel appointed to assess the applications?

Answer—

- (1) Information on DADHC services in the Lismore and Northern Region is provided through the Information, Referral and Intake Service. This service is accessible by calling 1300 364 563. Contact information is available to families on the Department's website, through regional inter-agencies, funded service providers and frequently appears in newsletters and other regional publications received by families. DADHC funds Disability and Aged Information Service Inc (DAISI), an information service on the Far North Coast, that keeps families informed of services. Commonwealth Carelink also provides information to carers and families.
- (2) As per answer to Question (1)
- (3) Although this question is not specific about the service it refers to, it would appear that it relates to the Family Assistance Fund. The FAF is accessible to families caring for a child or young person under 18 years of age who are receiving a service from DADHC or from a DADHC funded non-government service. Applicants do not have to be receiving DADHC case management. In terms of specialist disability services, it would be usual to have a case manager allocated as a prerequisite for service if the client is living in the community with their family.

In terms of funding case management services, the NSW Government has committed funding for case management through Stronger Together with a total commitment of an additional \$53.3 million for 100 case managers over five years. In the 2007/08 financial year, funding will assist 4,000 disabled and frail elderly people accessing services that they require.

- (4) Although this question is not specific about the service it refers to, it would appear that it relates to the Family Assistance Fund. Applications are assessed for eligibility and level of need and prioritised by panels consisting of both DADHC and non-DADHC representatives, including a parent of a person aged over 18 with a disability. This panel process has been implemented in the interests of providing transparency and fairness in assessing family's applications. As soon as the Department has received sufficient applications for consideration, a panel is convened to determine these applications as soon as practicable. I am advised there are five applications remaining, from the May/June 2007 panel. These will be assessed by a panel on 1 August 2007.
- (5) Although this question is not specific about the service it refers to, it would appear that it relates to the Family Assistance Fund. I am advised that 19 applications for Lismore and Casino were received in 2006/07. Of these, 12 have been successful.
- (6) DADHC processes used state-wide are consistent to ensure there is no disadvantage to families in regional areas.
- (7) Although this question is not specific about the service it refers to, it would appear that it relates to the Family Assistance Fund. Applicants are advised in writing of the receipt of their application and are encouraged to contact DADHC Information, Referral and Intake Service if they have any



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questions about the process. Families are also advised in writing of the outcome of the panel meeting. The Information, Referral and Intake Service can advise families about the status of their application at any time. There is a 1300 number which ensures that there is no disadvantage to families in rural areas.

- (8) Although this question is not specific about the service it refers to, it would appear that it relates to the Family Assistance Fund. Applications are assessed for eligibility and level of need and prioritised by panels consisting of both DADHC and non-DADHC representatives, including a parent of a person aged over 18 with a disability. This panel process has been implemented in the interests of providing transparency and fairness in assessing family's applications. Case workers do not make recommendations regarding a person's eligibility, or prioritise applications that are received from across the Region. Regional panels consider applications and make recommendations.

\*0611 MEDIA RELEASE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Of the 38 bullet point expenditure items published in the Government's "Record expenditure in electricity upgrade" media release (19 June 2007), which have been first approved as part of the 2007-08 Budget, and not a previous budget?

Answer—

Capital works expenditure by the State Owned Corporations are approved independently of the State Budget process.

\*0612 NATIONAL ENERGY MARKET—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the National Energy Market:

- (1) What reforms does the Minister propose to the national electricity market, as suggested in the 2007-08 Budget Paper No 3 (p. 19-13) "to transform the disparate State-based electricity and gas markets into a harmonious national regime ensuring New South Wales's economic, social and environmental interests"?
- (2) What action will the Minister take to "lead the transformation of the regulatory structure of the National Energy Market"?

Answer—

- (1) The Australian Energy Market Agreement details the scope of the intended reforms for the national energy market. This has been endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments and is published on the Ministerial Council on Energy's website. The priority over the coming year will be the non-price regulation of energy distribution and retail activities. This aims to replace the arrangements in each jurisdiction with a single set of rules for the entire market.
- (2) NSW reform credentials include substantial pro-competition energy industry restructuring, development of the National Electricity Market and being the first state to introduce gas and electricity full retail competition. The Government is committed to giving NSW consumers the benefits of a fully competitive energy market balanced by strong customer protection arrangements.

\*0613 DESALINATION PROJECT CONTROL GROUP—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In relation to the Desalination Project Control Group:

- (1) Which individuals represent which organisations or departments on the Desalination Project Control Group?
- (2) What funds and staff are allocated to the Desalination Project Control Group?
- (3) When did the Desalination Project Control Group first meet and where was the meeting held?
- (4) When did the Desalination Project Control Group last meet, where was the last meeting and how often does it meet?
- (5) For what decisions is the Desalination Project Control Group responsible?
- (6) To which Ministers, departments or organisations does the Desalination Project Control Group report and when?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

- (1) Mr Peter Duncan represents the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Mr Danny Graham and Mr Ross Edwards represent NSW Treasury. Dr Kerry Schott, Mr Ron Quill, Mr Michael Wandmaker, Mr Alan Ramsay and Mr Ian Payne represent Sydney Water.
- (2) The Group has no specific allocation of funds or staff.
- (3) The Group first met on 24 November 2005 at Sydney Water's office in Bathurst Street, Sydney.
- (4) The most recent meeting of the Group was held on 12 July 2007 at Sydney Water's office in Bathurst Street, Sydney. The Group normally meets on a monthly basis.
- (5) and (6) The Group's role is related to review and governance of the project and ultimately reports to the Budget Committee of Cabinet.

\*0614 BARTON HIGHWAY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) As the Federal Government provided \$2 million in the 2006-07 NSW Budget for planning and general funding of the Murrumbateman Bypass and \$3 million for planning for the bypass in the 2007-08 NSW Budget (a total of \$5 million), why does the 2007-08 Infrastructure Statement indicate that only \$1,100,000 was expended to 30 June 2007?
- (2) Why does the 2007-08 Infrastructure Budget indicate that only \$3 million has been allocated for expenditure in 2007-08 (a total expenditure of \$4.1 million over two years)?
- (3) What has the unexpended \$900,000 in Federal funding in the 2006-07 NSW Budget for the Murrumbateman Bypass on the Barton Highway been spent on?

Answer—

I am advised:

Details of the Federal Government's allocation for project development for duplicating the Barton Highway between the ACT border and the northern end of the proposed Murrumbateman bypass are available in the 2006/07 Federal Budget papers.

\*0615 BIRD FLU LOCAL PLANNING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

What level of planning has occurred involving local government in preparation for an outbreak of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Avian influenza is a disease of birds with limited transmissibility to humans. Any outbreak would be an animal health emergency.

Under the NSW Displan, the Department of Primary Industries is the combat agency for animal health emergencies.

The Animal Health Emergency Sub-Plan of Displan describes the NSW arrangements for animal health emergencies.

A pandemic influenza H5N1 strain may arise from the current H5N1 avian strain, whereupon the arrangements in the NSW Human Influenza Pandemic Plan would become operational.

Whilst the currently circulating H5N1 avian influenza virus is considered a candidate virus for development into a pandemic influenza strain, there is no certainty that it will be this virus that causes the next influenza pandemic.

Engagement of both state and local government departments and peak industry bodies for local government at the national, state and district levels in pandemic influenza planning is progressing.

Such bodies include the Australian Local Government Association, NSW Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA) of NSW and local governments themselves. Related plans will be put in place if the H5N1 strain of avian influenza should mutate to become a pandemic strain of influenza.

The National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic and the NSW Human Influenza Plan Sub-Plan of Displan outline the role of local government in the response to an influenza pandemic in Australia and NSW, respectively.

\*0616 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES PERFORMANCE ISSUES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) With reference to your 20 June 2007 answer to my question 0029, why does the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2005 paper, contained in the reference provided, state that in 2003-04

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NSW was unable to provide data on the substantiation of child protection reports for NSW children aged 0-16?

- (2) Will this information now be provided?
- (3) With reference to the Auditor General's Report to Parliament 2006 Volume 5 page 111, as the information requested in question 0029 is not available from the Report of Government Services 2006 ([www.pc.gov.au](http://www.pc.gov.au)) as was stated, what proportion of the investigations into the 73.5% of child protection notifications were either (a) not substantiated or (b) not finalised?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) NSW is unable to provide data on this issue for the 2003-04 reporting period due to the introduction during that time of the Key Information and Directory System (KiDS), the new administrative database for child protection and out-of-home care data for NSW.
- (3) The data are available from the Report on Government Services, Table 15A.5 ([www.pc.gov.au](http://www.pc.gov.au)).

\*0617 POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMUNITY TEAMS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Will Police Accountability Community Teams (PACT) meetings continue to be held?
- (2) If so, when will the next meeting be held in the Kuring-gai local area command?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Kuring-Gai Local Area Command is in the process of organising the new Community Safety Precinct Committee (CSPC) meetings. The Honourable Member may wish to contact the Kuring-Gai Crime Prevention Officer for further details of the CSPCs. The next PACT meeting at Kuring-Gai will be held in the first week of August 2007.

\*0618 FORENSIC TESTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many forensic tests for victims of rape are there that remain untested?
- (2) When will these tests be completed?
- (3) What is the date of the longest waiting forensic test?
- (4) What factors are responsible for the above delays?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) There are currently 192 cases being managed by the New South Wales Forensic Biology/DNA Laboratory in accordance with a priority rating that allows biologists to start the most urgent cases first.
- (2) to (4) A priority system has been designed to maximise efficiency and ensure that the most urgent cases are dealt with first. Cases are given different priority ratings and these ratings affect the date the case will be started. The priority rating given depends on communication with the Police, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the information received about the case. Priority 1 cases, the most urgent, are started on the day they arrive. These include cases deemed by the Police to be Priority 1.

Cases in the lowest priority category are those that remain suspended until the Police and/or the Director of Public Prosecutions decides, in consultation with the laboratory, that they should be started.

\*0619 DENTAL HEALTH VISITS TO SCHOOLS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Which schools in the Hornsby electorate have dental health visits?
- (2) Which do not?
- (3) For those schools that do not have visits, why are no visits made?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to the response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 0200.

\*0620 COMMUNITY FACILITATOR—BREWARRINA—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

Is the community facilitator operating in Brewarrina doing so without a signed contract and therefore not taking advice on direction from the local reference group?

Answer—

This question is a matter to be addressed by my colleague, the Premier, the Hon Morris Iemma MP who has portfolio responsibility for community facilitators.

- \*0621 COMMUNITY FACILITATOR—BREWARRINA-WEILMORINGLE—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

Will the Minister update the role of the community facilitator in the Brewarrina-Weilmoringle district and report on the outcomes achieved to date in relation to this position?

Answer—

This question is a matter to be addressed by my colleague, the Premier, the Hon Morris Iemma MP who has portfolio responsibility for community facilitators.

- \*0622 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL CREDITORS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

What were the total creditors of Sutherland Hospital as at 31 May 2007 and 30 June 2007?

Answer—

I am advised that management of creditor payments is maintained at an Area Health Service, not an individual hospital, level.

This is an Area-wide purchasing and accounts payable policy that enables the Area Health Service to achieve competitive pricing for goods and services.

- \*0623 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL FOOD QUALITY—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

Are there food quality reviews or benchmarks undertaken to monitor the quality of meals provided at Sutherland Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Health Services Area Food Service has a yearly quality plan that includes patient surveys at all facilities across the Area Health Service. Sutherland Hospital was last surveyed in September 2006.

Subjects surveyed include temperature of meals, serving sizes, variety of meals, taste of meals, timing of meals, service provided by staff, suitability of meals, and an overall score.

Patients are also asked if they received assistance in opening containers, how their appetite is and if they require assistance with meal selection. Assistance is provided to elderly patients if required in filling out the surveys. An average satisfaction score is tabulated and used for comparison.

The Area Health Service is always interested in ways to improve patient satisfaction with meals. The survey asks patients for suggested improvements which are then reported back to Area Food Services. Suggestions are then discussed with relevant departments such as Nutrition Services or the Ward areas.

- \*0624 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—COST OF MEALS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

What is the cost of providing food to patients at Sutherland Hospital over the past five years and, if this work is outsourced, what are the details of this outsourcing?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Catering cost information is provided in the Sydney South West Area Health Service's publicly available Annual Report each year.
- (2) Meal preparation for Sutherland Hospital is undertaken in house by the Area Health Service.

- \*0625 CARBON NEUTRAL GOALS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Given the City of Sydney is assessing measures to become carbon neutral and the New Zealand Prime Minister has announced plans to make New Zealand the first zero emissions country:

- (1) What assessment has the NSW Government done on the feasibility of making New South Wales a carbon neutral state?
- (2) What are the findings of the assessment?

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- (3) What reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are planned for NSW Government operations?
- (4) How will the NSW Government achieve these reductions?
- (5) What percentage of power purchased by the NSW Government is accredited green power?
- (6) What plans does the NSW Government have to increase the amount of accredited green power it purchases?

Answer—

(1) to (6) The Government has committed to significantly reducing New South Wales' greenhouse gas emissions through:

- a reduction to year 2000 levels by 2025; and
- a 60 percent reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2050 (from a baseline of year 2000 levels).

These targets are included in the State Plan under Priority E3 (Cleaner air and progress on greenhouse gas reductions), and in the NSW Greenhouse Plan. The NSW Government will seek approval from the Parliament to enshrine these targets in law.

The NSW Greenhouse Plan, released in November 2005, provides a strategic approach to combating climate change in NSW. The Plan is supported by a Greenhouse Innovation Fund, which aims to raise awareness about climate change, promote the adoption of emission reduction, research the impacts of climate change and develop adaptation initiatives.

The NSW Government has also established a \$310 million Climate Change Fund which includes:

- \$100 million to provide rebates to households to help them become water and energy efficient (rain water tanks, solar or gas hot water systems, insulation etc);
- a \$100 million Recycling and Stormwater Harvesting Program to assist in implementing the Sydney Recycled Water Grid;
- a \$40 million Renewable Energy Development Program to support the commercialisation of proven renewable energy technologies;
- a \$30 million Public Facilities Program as a competitive grants program for State and local government, educational and other community facilities to seek support for energy and water savings projects to help public and community buildings;
- a \$20 million Schools Energy Efficiency Program to upgrade lighting and implement student-based energy efficiency projects; and
- a \$20 million Rainwater Tanks in Schools Program to install rainwater tanks and implement a WaterFix program in Government schools.

In the absence of Federal leadership, NSW has also led the national agenda on the development of a national emissions trading scheme. The NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme was the world's first mandatory emissions trading scheme.

On 27 June 2007, the Renewable Energy (NSW) Bill 2007 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly to establish a mandatory renewable energy target in relation to all electricity consumed in NSW. It will implement the Government's commitment to achieve 15 per cent renewable energy, with an interim target of 10 per cent by 2010.

Earlier this year, the State and Territory Governments and Federal Labor commissioned the Garnaut Climate Change Review to consider the environmental and economic implications of climate change for Australia. The Review will assess medium to long-term policy options that will produce the best possible outcomes for Australia. This assessment will take into account the costs and benefits of domestic and international policies on climate change, and is to be finalised at the end of 2008.

The NSW Government already has a number of policies in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy use in buildings and vehicles. Under the Greenhouse Plan, the NSW Government is strengthening the Government Energy Management Policy, implementing the Government Sustainable Procurement Policy, and streamlining reporting on Government energy and water use, fleet and building performance and waste generation. In addition, all public service agencies in NSW must purchase 6% GreenPower.

\*0626 FUEL EFFICIENT CARS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

With regard to discouraging the purchase of larger vehicles and encouraging the purchase of fuel efficient and hybrid vehicles:

- (1) Is the NSW Government aware of the Queensland Government's plan to impose increased duty percentages on the purchase of four or more cylinder vehicles?

- (2) What assessment has the NSW Government made on Queensland's plan?
- (3) What are the findings of the assessment?
- (4) What consideration has the NSW Government undertaken into imposing similar increases to encourage the purchase of cleaner vehicles in NSW?
- (5) What assessment has the NSW Government made of using the increased revenue collected from imposing an increased duty on larger vehicles for the purposes of promoting, developing, or improving green technologies?
- (6) What initiatives is the NSW Government taking to encourage individuals to purchase cleaner vehicles?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has in place an Action for Air policy which is a 25-year plan to improve air quality for NSW.

A key focus is cleaner fuels and car technology, together with improvements to public transport and urban and transport planning.

The RTA has a range of initiatives for reducing vehicle emissions. Information is available at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

The NSW Government has implemented a number of initiatives. For instance, under the Cleaner Vehicles Action Plan, the Premier has directed NSW public sector agencies to lease smaller, more efficient vehicles, has substantially reduced the use of V8 vehicles and requires fleets to contain a percentage of hybrid electric vehicles.

\*0627 SENIORS CARDS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Why are NSW Seniors Cards not reissued on a periodic basis?
- (2) Why is a person's birth date not recorded on the card?
- (3) What fraud controls are in place to prevent misuse by people under 60 years old?

Answer—

- (1) Once an eligible senior joins the NSW Seniors Card program, a membership number and card is issued for life. This reduces administrative costs involved with renewing memberships and regularly replacing undamaged cards. If a member requires a replacement card due to theft or breakage at any time throughout their membership, a new card is sent free of charge.
- (2) NSW Seniors Card only discloses personal information with written consent or when required or authorised by law or the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care's Privacy Code of Practice. As a date of birth is private information, it is not included on the NSW Seniors Card.

This card provides proof of Seniors Card membership and is not an identity card. A member's date of birth is collected upon application and kept on the Departmental file only.

- (3) At the time of applying for a NSW Seniors Card, applicants must be 60 years of age or over, a permanent resident of NSW and be working no more than 20 hours paid employment per week.

Each applicant is required to sign a Statutory Declaration on the application form, stating that they comply with each of the above three eligibility criteria. A Justice of the Peace must also witness and sign the Statutory Declaration, in order for the application to be processed.

\*0628 ELECTORATE OFFICES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) How many recently elected MPs have been advised that there is insufficient funding to immediately accommodate them in offices within their own electorates?
- (2) Which electorates are affected by this situation?
- (3) When will this situation be rectified?

Answer—

Accommodation arrangements for Electorate Offices are a matter for the Speaker and not the Government.

I would suggest the Member refer his question to the Speaker, the Hon Richard Torbay MP for further advice.

\*0629 LINDFIELD STATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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- (1) What is the exact scope of works proposed in the recent budget for Lindfield station?
- (2) In what month of 2009 are the works planned to be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The proposed works for Lindfield Station are currently in the concept phase.

\*0630 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL CREDITORS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health—

What were the total creditors of the Royal North Shore Hospital as of 31 May 2007 and 30 June 2007?

Answer—

I am advised that management of creditor payments is maintained at an Area Health Service level rather than at an individual hospital level.

I am also advised that creditor payments at both dates are within NSW Department of Health benchmarks.

\*0631 TRAFFIC LIGHTS "GREEN TIME"—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What is the length of "green time" at the traffic lights during peak hour periods for vehicles travelling from Mowbray Road entering the Pacific Highway, travelling from west to east?

Answer—

I am advised:

This intersection forms part of the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS), and the green time allocated to each phase or movement is dependent on traffic density at the time.

\*0632 STATE LIBRARY DATABASE ON WAR MEMORIALS IN NSW—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to the State Library's Database on War Memorials in NSW:

- (1) What is the progress of the State Government's initiative in connection with the State Branch of the RSL to create a Database of War Memorials in NSW including, locations, photos and details of the names mentioned on the War Memorials?
- (2) How much money has been spent by the State Library on this Project since the commencement of the project?
- (3) What is the State Library's budget allocation for this project in 2007/2008
- (4) What is the State Library's budget allocation for the completion of the project?
- (5) What use of local RSL sub-branches is the State Library making in the completion of this project?
- (6) Will the State Library be launching a website for this project or referencing it to a page on its website? If this is the case what is the address of the site?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the online Register of War Memorials in NSW was launched on 22 April 2002. The website has over 800 war memorials registered with over 74 000 names recorded. All listings include photographs of the war memorials, their locations and the names of soldiers identified on the war memorial. All information added to the site is provided as part of a community based initiative involving the local RSL sub branches, historical societies, local government and school students studying civics. All information gathering is undertaken on a voluntary basis.
- (2) Since 2001/02 the State Library of NSW has received \$180,100 from the Premier's Department to enable the purchase of hardware and software for the creation of the website and database.
- (3) In 2007/08 the State Library will receive a further allocation of \$50,000 from the Department of Premier and Cabinet and in March 2007, the Premier announced that under a new initiative the NSW community could apply for funding for maintenance of local war memorials.
- (4) The online register was launched in 2002. The update and maintenance of the site is provided as 'in kind' support by the State Library for this initiative.
- (5) Refer to answer 1.
- (6) The NSW Government launched the register in April 2002 - [www.warmemorialsnsw.asn.au](http://www.warmemorialsnsw.asn.au)

The register is referenced from the State Library's website under Collaborative Initiatives / Digitisation <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/organisation/projects.cfm>

\*0633 CHANNEL 7 SITE—MOBBS LANE EPPING—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to the former Channel 7 Site at Mobbs Lane Epping:

- (1) What consultation has the Department of Planning undertaken with the local community in regards to this site?
- (2) In relation to the consultation undertaken by the Department of Planning in relation to this site, what has been the feedback from the community?
- (3) What is the current progress of the Department of Planning's assessment process of development on this site?
- (4) Have any amendments been submitted by the applicant concerning this development?
- (5) Given the New South Wales Department of Planning advised the applicants that "all key letters of correspondence" were to be uploaded to the applicant's website, <http://www.elton.com.au/parklandsEpping/correspondence.htm>, and there is only one letter to Mr Haddad dated 5 July 2005, have there been any further "key letters of correspondence" between the applicant and the Department of Planning since that date?
- (6) If there have been further "key letters of correspondence" between the applicant and the Department of Planning, what are they, when were they made, and will the Minister for Planning direct the applicant to place them on their website?
- (7) Is it still the Department of Planning's advice to the applicant that all "key letters of correspondence" be displayed on the applicant's website?

Answer—

- (1) The proposal was exhibited publicly between 24 November and 23 December 2005 and was made available on the Department of Planning website.
- (2) I am advised that 208 submissions were received in response to the public exhibition.
- (3) A concept plan was approved on 22 August 2006.
- (4) I am advised by the Department of Planning that the proponent has submitted minor amendments.
- (5) I am advised by the Department of Planning that all documents required to be made publicly available under section 75X (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act were posted on the Department of Planning website prior to determination of the concept plan.
- (6) See answer to question (5).
- (7) See answer to question (5).

\*0634 LOCAL COURTS—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In relation to local courts throughout New South Wales:

- (1) How many magistrates of the local court are engaged in an acting capacity?
- (2) How many registrars of the local court are in an acting capacity?
- (3) How many employees of the local court are currently engaged in an acting or temporary capacity?
- (4) With respect to magistrates engaged in an acting capacity, how many are engaged on a full-time basis?
- (5) With respect to registrars engaged in an acting capacity, how many are engaged on a full-time basis?
- (6) With respect to employees of the local court engaged in an acting capacity, how many are engaged on a full-time basis?
- (7) With respect to magistrates engaged in an acting capacity, how many are engaged on a part-time basis?
- (8) With respect to registrars engaged in an acting capacity, how many are engaged on a part-time basis?
- (9) With respect to employees of the local court engaged in an acting capacity, how many are engaged on a part-time basis?
- (10) With respect to magistrates engaged in an acting capacity, what is the longest amount of time a present magistrate has served in an acting capacity?
- (11) With respect to registrars engaged in an acting capacity, what is the longest amount of time a present registrar has served in an acting capacity?
- (12) With respect to employees of the local court engaged in an acting capacity, what is the longest amount of time a present employee of the local court has served in an acting capacity?
- (13) With respect to magistrates engaged in an acting capacity, what is the average amount of time served in an acting capacity from June 2004 to the present?
- (14) With respect to registrars engaged in an acting capacity, what is the average amount of time served in an acting capacity from June 2004 to the present?



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- (15) With respect to employees of the local court engaged in an acting capacity, what is the average amount of time served in an acting capacity from June 2004 to the present?

Answer—

Limited term magistrates of the local court are appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of the Local Courts Act 1982. All limited term magistrates are retired magistrates and are also appointed as Wardens pursuant to section 293(10) of the Mining Act 1992. Generally acting magistrates are appointed for a 12 month period.

Registrars of the local court are appointed in accordance with section 10 of the Local Courts Act. A registrar is appointed to each location where a local court registry is located.

Employees of the local court are employed in accordance with the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. The Attorney General's Department may employ people for temporary purposes. The maximum period of employment of a temporary employee at any one time is three years.

The number of limited term magistrates, registrars and employees varies over time according to the operational needs of the court.

- \*0635 MONA VALE HOSPITAL MAINTENANCE REPORTS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What reports on maintenance requirements for Mona Vale Hospital were completed in the years 2005-06 and 2006-07?
- (2) In relation to any such reports, who were the authors, what were the areas of maintenance concerned, on what dates were the reports made, and what was the total estimated cost of each item identified, where the cost was \$5,000 or more?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) A number of reports were prepared during 2005/06 and 2006/07 relating to, or with various components relating to, maintenance requirements concerning Mona Vale Hospital. Dates of reports vary. Some were regular annual or monthly reports whilst others were one-off reports to address specific requirements.

Various authors with expertise in required fields compiled reports covering areas such as fire prevention and risk management, asset survey and audit, compliance with standards and maintenance planning, monitoring and statistics.

Some of the reports were statistical in nature only and did not include costings. However, I am advised that a report concerning the installation of an Early Warning Intercommunication System (EWIS) in the Assessment Rehabilitation Building noted costings of \$6,000 and a report regarding changes to the Birthing Unit noted costings of \$60,000.

- \*0636 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—FOOD QUALITY—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

Are there food quality reviews or benchmarks undertaken at Mona Vale Hospital to monitor the quality of meals provided at Mona Vale Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service's Area Food Services undertake twice a year patient surveys. In addition, the Area's Quality Business Unit undertakes annual surveys to ensure benchmarks, which were set by patient focus groups, are achieved.

- \*0637 BOWRAVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to the planned upgrade of Bowraville Central School:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of the project?
- (2) When will capital works commence on the site?
- (3) When is the project expected to be completed?

Answer—

As the tender process for this multi-million dollar project has not yet commenced it is not possible to provide details about the project's budget. The Department of Education and Training does not release cost estimates for major capital works projects until contracts have been let.

Subject to Development Application approval and the award of a tender, works are anticipated to commence on site in November 2007 and conclude in Term 1, 2009.

\*0638 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-30 there is the following statement:

The following agencies have a Minor Works Program only.

Department of Rural Fire Service

What is the amount of funds and what programs are in the Minor Works Program for programs in the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

Brigade allocations deriving from the 2007-08 Rural Fire Fighting Fund are yet to be determined.

\*0639 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at pages 5-84 and 5-85 the following entries appear:

Administrative Assets - IT Projects - various

Community Housing - various

Community Housing Asset Improvement - various

Crisis Accommodation - various

Crisis Accommodation Asset Improvement - various

Office Accommodation and Administrative Assets - various

Public Housing - various

Public Housing Asset Improvement - various

Community Housing - various

Crisis Accommodation - various

Public Housing - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

A complete breakdown of the budget items listed in Budget Paper Number 4 has not been done for each electorate. In the 2007/08 State Budget, the amount allocated to public housing new works and asset improvements in the Myall Lakes electorate is \$5.2M. In the 2007/08 State Budget, the amount allocated to community housing new works in the Myall Lakes electorate is \$1.1M.

\*0640 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-88 the following entries appear:

Construction - Roads and Bridges - various

Construction - Buildings and Installations - various

Plantation Establishment - Softwoods Growing Stock - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

(a) Nil.

(b) \$10,000.

(c) Nil.

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\*0641 GRADUATE NURSES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health—

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- (1) How many persons graduated as nurses from universities in New South Wales during the two-year period ending the 31 December 2006?
- (2) How many have since graduated in 2007?
- (3) How many of these graduates were recruited into the New South Wales public hospital system?
- (4) How many nurses were recruited into the New South Wales public hospital system during the two-year period ending the 31 December 2006?
- (5) How many have since been recruited in 2007?
- (6) How many of the recruits mentioned in (4) and (5) above were qualified nurses returning to the public hospital system following the State Government's drive to recruit nurses back into the system?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Universities that run the Bachelor of Nursing degree do not supply NSW Health with this information.

(3) to (5) During the period January 2005 to December 2006, there was a net increase of 3,960 nurses (headcount). This includes registered nurses (RNs), enrolled nurses (ENs) and assistants in nursing (AINs). This figure would include some nurses who were educated in other Australian states and overseas.

(6) The Department of Health does not collect this information. However, in 2006-07 the Government allocated \$46.5 million to assist nurses and midwives in NSW and has implemented a number of initiatives aimed at increasing and retaining nurses in the public health system, for example, initiatives like the Nursing Re-Connect program, which, by April 2007, had 1,557 nurses returned to work in public hospitals since its launch in 2002.

\*0642 BORDER ANOMALIES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) What progress has been made in resolving border anomalies by the rural and regional taskforce headed by the Director General of the Premier's Department?
- (2) When was the last meeting held?
- (3) When will the next meeting be held?
- (4) What outcomes have been achieved to date?

Answer—

The Rural and Regional Taskforce announced by the Premier on 25 June 2007, to be chaired by the former Director General of the Premier's Department, will examine economic, environmental and social issues affecting rural and regional communities across the state. It will provide a final report to the Premier by February 2008.

Border anomalies along the NSW and Victorian border is one of the matters being considered by NSW and Victorian Chief Executives. NSW and Victorian Chief Executives met to discuss border issues on 29 June 2006, in Echuca. Further progress on these issues will be considered at their next meeting on 17 August 2007, in Albury.

\*0643 FUEL REDUCTION TARGETS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Prior to the 2007-08 fire season, what fuel reduction targets have been set for:
  - (a) national parks;
  - (b) other areas?
- (2) Will these targets will be met?

Answer—

- (1) This a matter for the individual land managers as they are responsible for the setting of fuel reduction targets on their land.
- (2) The Rural Fires Act 1997 requires public and local authorities to report their activities, undertaken during the preceding financial year. This information is then published in the NSW Rural Fire Service's Annual Report.

\*0644 AREA HEALTH SERVICES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

Given the claim by the then Minister for Health that amalgamation of area health services would provide better services and save hundred of millions of dollars:

- (1) What are the actual financial savings as at 30 June 2007 for Greater Southern Area Health Service?

(2) What are the improved health services for the Albury electorate?

Answer—

The Chief Executive of the Greater Southern Area Health Service has advised:

- (1) The Area Health Service financial statements for 2006/07 are currently subject to audit. Until such time as the audit is complete and the Area's Annual Report is prepared, it is not possible to confirm the amount of savings achieved as at 30 June 2007.
- (2) Improvements to health services in the Albury region over the last 18 months include:
  - The appointment of 5 mental health clinicians to establish a Mental Health Emergency Support Centre in Albury;
  - The appointment of a new Intensive Care Unit Registrar;
  - The commissioning of 15 new transitional aged care places at Albury and 5 new places at Corowa;
  - Improved coordination and provision of cancer services with the establishment of the Border Cancer Collaboration, improved management information systems and a local cancer services website;
  - The employment of a new Occupational Therapist;
  - A 5% increase in the number of inpatients treated;
  - The achievement of waiting list targets and improved performance against key clinical indicators;
  - \$1 million upgrade of Nolan House, Albury (inpatient Mental Health facility); and
  - \$900,000 worth of new equipment is now in use in the operating theatres of Albury Base Hospital.

\*0645 NSW GOVERNMENT VEHICLE FLEET—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the NSW Government vehicle fleet:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently in the NSW Government fleet?
- (2) How many vehicles are currently running on LPG?
- (3) How many vehicles are currently being converted to LPG?
- (4) How many vehicles/drivers have been issued fuel cards to use E10 (ethanol) and what has been the usage over 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are approximately 25,500 vehicles managed by StateFleet, of which 940 run on LPG. There are approximately 26,800 active fuel cards issued to StateFleet vehicles that can be used to purchase E10. Usage of E10 on the government contract became available on 1 July 2006.

\*0646 NAMES OF TREASURY OFFICIALS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

What are the names, positions and responsibilities of the Treasury officials on the Desalination Project Control Group (Question No 0020 answered 20 June 2007)?

Answer—

I refer to my previous answer.

\*0647 BUDGETED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—INFORMATION BY ELECTORATE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Further to Written Question No 0114 in relation to the budgeted capital expenditure information by electorate:

Given that Labor Members of the Legislative Assembly have now received summaries of the budgeted capital expenditure in their electorates, when will non-Labor Members receive summaries of the budgeted capital expenditure in their electorates?

Answer—

I refer to my previous answer.

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\*0648 MACQUARIE-CUDGEGONG WATER SHARING PLAN—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

How were the requirements outlined in Part 9 Section 48 (4) of the Macquarie-Cudgegong Water Sharing Plan met in the 2006-07 water year before expressions of interest for supplementary water were called by State Water on 9 June?

Answer—

This is a matter for the Hon Phil Koperberg, Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water.

\*0649 OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT—STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) How many staff are employed in the office of the Minister for Local Government?
- (2) What are their public service grades or SES grades and what are their levels of remuneration?
- (3) How many staff are employed in the Executive Support unit of the Department of Local Government?
- (4) What are their public service grades or SES grades and what are their levels of remuneration?
- (5) Are any of the staff in either the Executive Support unit of the Department of Local Government or the office of the Minister for Local Government entitled to expense accounts or corporate credit cards?
- (6) What are the monthly or yearly spending limits for these accounts or cards?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) This Question should be directed to the Premier.
- (2) This Question should be directed to the Premier.
- (3) The Executive Branch - as described on the Department of Local Government's website (not Executive Support Unit), providing support services, comprises five staff.
- (4) The relevant public service grades range between Administrative Support Officer Clerk Grade 3 / 4 to Clerk Grade 12. Remuneration levels are publicly available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.
- (5) Minister's Office No.  
Executive Branch of the Department of Local Government one officer providing support services is entitled to a corporate credit card.
- (6) Credit cards are used for business purposes only and may be used to meet the costs of official out-of-pocket expenses from time to time in accordance with the Premier's policy guidelines.

\*0650 OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR HOUSING—STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many staff are employed in the office of the Minister for Housing?
- (2) What are their public service grades or SES grades and what are their levels of remuneration?
- (3) How many staff are employed in the Ministerial & Executive Services unit of the Department of Housing?
- (4) What are their public service grades or SES grades and what are their levels of remuneration?
- (5) Are any of the staff in either the Ministerial and Executive Services unit of the Department of Housing or the office of the Minister for Housing entitled to expense accounts or corporate credit cards?
- (6) What are the monthly or yearly spending limits for these accounts or cards?

Answer—

- (1) This question should be directed to the Premier.
- (2) This question should be directed to the Premier.
- (3) Seven staff provide ministerial, cabinet and parliamentary services to the Director-General and Minister.
- (4) Their public service grades vary from Clerk Grade 2 to Senior Officer Grade 3.
- (5) No.
- (6) N/A.

\*0651 OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR WATER UTILITIES—STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many staff are employed in the office of the Minister for Water Utilities?
- (2) What are their public service grades or SES grades and what are their levels of remuneration?
- (3) How many staff are employed at SES grade by Sydney Water?
- (4) What are their SES grades and what are their levels of remuneration?
- (5) Are any of the staff in either Sydney Water or the office of the Minister for Water Utilities entitled to expense accounts or corporate credit cards?
- (6) What are the monthly or yearly spending limits for these accounts or cards?

Answer—

(1) and (2) These are matters that fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Premier.

(3) and (4) Details of Sydney Water's workforce, including SES equivalent officers, are provided in Sydney Water's Annual Report, which can be found online at [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au)

(5) and (6) Sydney Water Yes. Sydney Water sets monthly card limits based on business needs to comply with NSW Treasury's Policy and Guidelines on Credit Card Use Best Practice.

Office of the Minister for Water Utilities - Those matters fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Premier.

\*0652 GRENFELL MEN'S SHED—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What was the outcome of the 14 June 2007 meeting to discuss mental health support at the Grenfell Men's Shed between Mr L Wallace and Community Advisor Ms P Rowston, Mental Health Worker Mr T Clark, Greater Western Area Health Service staffer Mr A Newton, and nurse Mr A Cass?
- (2) As a result of this meeting what additional mental health support services will be provided to the Grenfell Men's Shed?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) A schedule of regular visits by all community health staff was agreed upon at the meeting held on 15 June 2007.

This includes visits by the community mental health staff from Grenfell and additional outreach visits by the specialist mental health team from Orange.

This is an ongoing program and local health service management will continue to work with the Grenfell Men's Shed into the future.

\*0653 HEAVY VEHICLE INSPECTIONS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What are the specific measurement procedures that RTA inspectors are required to undertake to ensure that measurements of heavy vehicle load dimensions can be substantiated in subsequent court proceedings?
- (2) What specific measuring devices are mandated for use by RTA inspectors carrying out these measurements?
- (3) Are these measuring devices certified as to accuracy and if so, by what independent organisation?
- (4) How frequently are these devices required to be certified?
- (5) Where are the rules or regulations specifying these measurements laid down?
- (6) Are RTA inspectors imposing load infringement notices required to give either their name or their number, on request, to the truck driver(s) involved?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has detailed processes in place to train and authorise Inspectors in how to detect and confirm dimension breaches.

Devices used for length and width measurements were adopted from the Austroads Heavy Vehicle Dimensions Model and Enforcement Guidelines 2004. Austroads is the association of Australian and New Zealand road transport and traffic authorities and aims to improve road and road transport outcomes.

The dimension measurements are specified under Schedule 4, Division 2 of the Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 1998.

RTA Inspectors must comply with Section 125 of the Road Transport (General) Act 2005 which requires an RTA Inspector who is exercising a power or about to exercise a power to comply with a request to

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identify themselves by producing their photo identification card. Badge numbers of RTA Inspectors issuing an infringement are recorded in the infringement notice itself.

\*0654 INQUIRY INTO TREATMENT OF FORMER NSW STATE WARDS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Has the NSW Government considered undertaking a Parliamentary inquiry into the treatment and care of children who were Wards of the State and accommodated in orphanages and other institutions in NSW as has been done by the Federal, South Australian and Victorian Governments?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The two reports emerging from the Commonwealth Government's Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care were welcomed by the NSW Government.

The NSW Government has previously enacted legislation and established systems which address many of the recommendations of the Commonwealth Government's Inquiry into Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children.

On 23 June 2005, the former NSW Minister for Community Services, the Hon Reba Meagher MP, provided an apology in the NSW Parliament to those who suffered physical, psychological or social harm or distress as a result of their experiences in care. In doing this, the NSW Government recognised that an apology is an important step in the journey of healing for people who suffered neglect or abuse in care.

The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 contains provisions for assistance to be given to young people who are transitioning from out-of-home care to independent living. There is also discretion to provide after care assistance to care leavers over 25 years of age.

The budget enhancement of \$1.2 billion being injected into the Department of Community Services demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to improving current service provision.

\*0655 CHILDREN WITH AUTISM—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What educational services are available for children with autism?

Answer—

The NSW Department of Education and Training provides an extensive range of services to support students with disabilities. Students with autism are supported in their learning, as are all students with disabilities and learning difficulties.

Over the next four years \$3.3 billion will be spent on providing support to students with special learning needs which includes students with autism.

Parents of children with disabilities can choose to enrol their child in a regular class, a support class or a special school. Where parents choose to enrol their child in a special class, the Department offers a range of special classes in both regular and special schools that cater specifically for students with autism and classes for students with other disabilities such as an intellectual disability.

In addition to these classes, specialist outreach teachers with expertise in the area of autism are also provided to support the teaching and learning of students with autism.

The Government's Special Education Programs support more than 19,000 students with confirmed disabilities or behaviour disorders, including autism in more than 1,970 special classes in regular and special schools.

The Government also supports more than 12,500 students with confirmed disabilities in regular schools through the Funding Support (Integration) Program. In 2007 the budget for the Funding Support Program is more than \$74 million.

\*0656 CHILDREN WITH AUTISM—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Community Services—

What services are available to children with autism in the Hornsby electorate?

Answer—

The provision of services to children with autism is primarily a matter for the Minister for Minister for Disability Services and the Minister for Health.

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**\*0657 POWER OUTAGES—DURAL AND GALSTON**—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

How many power outages have affected residents in Dural and Galston per month since November 2005?

Answer—

EnergyAustralia has advised that its electricity network does not follow geographical boundaries to this detail, with individual feeders supplying customers across different suburbs, electorates and local government areas.

The average number of interruptions per customer per annum is calculated by the System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI). The following is the SAIFI for the Northern Sydney Region, which includes Dural and Galston:

Northern Sydney Region	2005-2006	2006-2007
SAIFI (average number of interruptions per customer per annum)	1.50	1.39

Integral Energy is the supplier for the Dural, Pennant Hills, Cherrybrook and Round Corner areas. The table below lists interruptions to Integral Energy customers in this area by month from 1 November 2005 to 30 June 2007.

Month	Number of interruptions	Total customers affected
November 2005	2	1,001
December 2005	4	1,077
January 2006	1	19
February 2006	5	3,090
March 2006	3	1,220
April 2006	0	0
May 2006	0	0
June 2006	0	0
July 2006	2	10
August 2006	0	0
September 2006	3	1,026
October 2006	0	0
November 2006	0	0
January 2007	1	12
February 2007	0	0
March 2007	0	0
April 2007	1	4
May 2007	1	728
June 2007	4	1,466

**\*0658 SERVICES PROVIDED AT DUNEDOO COURT HOUSE**—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What services are available to the general public at Dunedoo Court House?
- (2) How many days per month are these services provided?
- (3) Does a magistrate attend Dunedoo Court House to conduct court?
- (4) If yes, how often?
- (5) Are there any plans to withdraw these services and close Dunedoo Court House?
- (6) If yes, where would the general public be expected to travel for these services?

Answer—

The services available in rural and regional court houses vary over time according to the operational needs of the Court. I also refer the member public statements regarding this issue and to my media release dated 19 July 2007.

**\*0659 DENTAL HEALTH VISITS TO SCHOOLS**—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Which schools in the Cronulla electorate have dental health visits?



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- (2) Which do not?
- (3) For those schools that do not have visits, why are no visits made?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) I refer the Honourable Member to the response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 0200.

Further, I am advised that NSW does not currently operate a school-based dental service along the same lines as other jurisdictions such as South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia. There is strong evidence that because of the change in distribution of dental disease that the traditional "school-based" dental programs are no longer an effective and efficient means of targeting dental prevention and services to children and adolescents.

I can further advise that an additional \$8 million for oral health was provided in the 07/08 Budget: \$4 million to reduce waiting lists for children and \$4 million to increase the number of dental therapists and hygienists and to expand Rural Oral Health Centres. I am advised that this brings the total oral health budget to \$138 million in 2007/08.

\*0660 INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLUEPRINT FOR SYDNEY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Given the transport chaos experienced in Sydney during the visit from cruise liners Queen Mary Two and Queen Elizabeth Two and rising traffic congestion in Sydney:

- (1) What new measures have been developed by the NSW Government to ensure that Road and Transport authorities are able to communicate with each other in the event of future unexpected major disruptions to transport?
- (2) What consideration has the NSW Government given to calls from the Property Council of Australia, the Sydney Chamber of Commerce and the Total Environment Centre to implement a long-term integrated transport blueprint for Sydney?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Government has well-established arrangements led by the Department of Premier and Cabinet for the coordination of traffic and transport planning to support major events in the Sydney CBD, such as New Year's Eve, the Mardi Gras, City to Surf, and special event parades. These arrangements can also be deployed to coordinate traffic and transport where unscheduled or one-off events escalate rapidly to affect movement in a local area.

Similarly, the Government has arrangements in place to plan and coordinate traffic and transport services in the event of major emergencies, as recently illustrated in the Government's response to the June 2007 storms and floods in the Central Coast and Hunter and the January 2007 bushfires.

These 'whole of Government' coordination arrangements are in addition to agency-based response capabilities, such as the Police Operations Centre and the RTA's Transport Management Centre, which manage the ongoing efficiency of the roads network and deal with day-to-day incidents.

Transport plans and responses are tested and refined on a regular basis as part of the NSW Emergency Management and Counter Terrorism arrangements.

As announced by the Minister for Transport on 11 July 2007, the Government is further looking at establishing a cross-agency "flying squad" to manage major transport incidents. The flying squad would include the Ministry of Transport, RailCorp, State Transit, the RTA and NSW Police, and assist with keeping the transport network running by moving services around the affected area.

- (2) On 20 November 2006, the Premier released the NSW Government's Urban Transport Statement, which includes a \$660 million package of new and accelerated initiatives to address Sydney's present and future transport needs. The Urban Transport Statement affirms that the NSW Government will build on the strengths of the existing transport network through greater integration of transport modes, increased use of demand management measures, and continued investment in projects which will improve the operation of each of the transport modes.

Initiatives in the Statement include, among other things: extension of the metropolitan rail network to Sydney's South West and North West, and increasing heavy rail capacity through the CBD; efficiency improvements to critical road corridors; expansion of the corridors on which buses are accorded priority; and implementation of a Sydney CBD Bus Strategy.

The Statement also identifies medium to longer term requirements for the CBD rail network, including new stations and upgrades to existing stations, and commits to further examining the potential of complementary mass transit systems to deliver benefits to the Sydney Region.

In addition to capital and operational improvements, the Government announced in the Urban Transport Statement the establishment of the Centre for Transport Planning and Product Development to provide support for better transport planning and decision-making.

The NSW Government is committed to delivering practical, workable transport solutions to the people of New South Wales and will continue to work to deliver on its commitments in the Urban Transport Statement, as well its overarching goals to improve the efficiency of the road network and increase the proportion of peak-hour journeys on the public transport system, as outlined in the State Plan.

The Urban Transport Statement is available on the internet at [www.nsw.gov.au/urban\\_transport.asp](http://www.nsw.gov.au/urban_transport.asp). Progress on State Plan targets is reported at [www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan](http://www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan)

\*0661 SOUTH EAST FORESTS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Given that the NSW Government has put a logging moratorium on 24,000 hectares of South East Forest, of which only 6,000 hectares is National Park:

- (1) Will the NSW Government commit in the long-term to protecting the remaining 18,000 hectares of high conservation forest in the South East of the State?
- (2) If so, how will the NSW Government ensure protection?
- (3) In line with the Government's commitment to establish a wildlife corridor from the Alps to Atherton, what plans does the Government have to log the 18,000 hectares of forest icons, which form part of this continuous link of intact forests?
- (4) Does the Government plan to include additional areas in the South East of the State for protection, including areas identified by the Wilderness Society as old growth forest?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to review the Regional Forestry Act with the view to significantly reduce logging, given the awareness of its large contribution to greenhouse gas emissions leading to climate change?
- (6) Is the Government aware of the significance of the Gulaga Mountain area to the Yuin people?
- (7) How many hectares of the Gulaga Mountain have been legally cleared this year?
- (8) What intentions does the Government have to protect the remaining forest area in the Gulaga Mountains identified by the local community as needing protection?

Answer—

There is no logging moratorium on any area of State forest in the southern and south-east forests of NSW.

The approximately 18,000 hectares of these forests that is not national park was not selected as being required for reservation under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 in order to meet the conservation targets set out under the regional forest assessments. Nevertheless, the conservation values in these areas are protected through their continued management as State forest, which includes the establishment of special management zones, forest management zones and flora reserves, and the application of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval that governs forestry operations.

The Integrated Forestry Operations Approval, which applies to all forestry operations in State forests and other Crown-timber lands in the region, includes requirements for threatened species, environmental protection and fisheries licences. These effectively prohibit logging in key environmentally sensitive areas (such as stream sides, high conservation value old growth forest, rainforest), limit the proportion of trees that may be harvested, and protect the habitats of threatened species.

Forests NSW advises that the gross area of more than 18,000 hectares comprises some 8 per cent forest management zones, 10 per cent streamside reserves, and an estimated 27 per cent of other types of protection. Thus, some 45 per cent of these forests will never be logged. The remaining 55 per cent is available for sustainable timber production, conducted under the strict environmental terms of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval.

The Alps to Atherton initiative involves the cooperative management across existing tenures to improve the resilience of ecosystems and their species through improved management and large scale connectivity. It does not have as a major aim the expansion of conservation reserves.

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Forests NSW is represented on the Alps to Atherton committee. Timber harvesting operations, as regulated by the provisions of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals, are consistent with the concepts of Alps to Atherton.

Further, the conservation reserves established in southern NSW through the regional assessment process were selected with connectivity as a key criterion. This resulted in the current continuous north-south and east-west links.

Please note that there is no 'Regional Forestry Act' in NSW. There is a Commonwealth statute titled the Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002.

The Government is very much aware of the significance of the Gulaga Mountain area, as evidenced by the inclusion of Gulaga National Park on Schedule 14 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, which identifies lands of cultural significance to Aboriginal people, allows its vesting in the Wagonga and Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Councils, and provides for the formation of board of management with a majority of Aboriginal owners.

There has been no permanent clearing within either Gulaga National Park or Bodalla State Forest in 2007. Any areas logged within Bodalla State Forest will be regenerated with native forest. The Regional Forest Agreement for southern NSW resulted in the creation of more than 325,000 hectares of reserves, with a further 6,000 hectares added subsequently. This has resulted in the meeting of nearly all conservation targets and a first class reserve system in this part of NSW.

\*0662 TRAFFIC SIGNAL INFORMATION FOR PEDESTRIANS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

With respect to pedestrian traffic signal indicators:

- (1) Is the Government aware of systems used overseas that give a "countdown" so that pedestrians know how long they have before the signals change to green and vehicles will move off?
- (2) Has the Government investigated using a similar system in NSW in order to better inform pedestrians and reduce traffic accidents?
- (3) Will the Government introduce "countdown" numbers on pedestrian traffic signals in NSW?
- (4) If not, what action will the Government take to ensure that pedestrians are aware of how long before traffic signals change to green?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA is aware of pedestrian traffic signal systems used overseas and undertakes local research to evaluate pedestrian and driver behaviour at traffic lights, crossings and pedestrian refuges. The RTA will continue to explore feasible improvements to further enhance pedestrian safety.

\*0663 BLUE GUM FOREST—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Is the Blue Gum Forest at the Dalrymple Hay Nature Reserve site at St. Ives on the State Heritage Register?
- (2) If not, is this being considered by the Department of Planning and when will a decision be made?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the Blue Gum High Forest at the Dalrymple Hay Nature Reserve in St Ives is not currently listed on the State Heritage Register.
- (2) I am further advised that the Heritage Office has commenced an assessment regarding the nomination of this site.

\*0664 PARKING SPACE LEVY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What was the amount of investment revenue (including interest) generated in the year ending 30 June 2006 from the Parking Space Levy?
- (2) What are the reasons for the drop in annual expenditure on Parking Space Levy funded projects from \$9,476,000 in the year ending 30 June 2005 to \$5,511,000 in the year ending 30 June 2006?
- (3) What is the amount of investment revenue (including interest) expected from the Parking Space Levy for the 2007-2008 budget year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Investment of all Ministry funds is centrally managed by NSW Treasury.
- (2) The total expenditure from the Parking Space Levy fund increased from \$46.3 million in 2004-05 to \$52.5 million in 2005-06. The figure referred to by the Member does not relate to total Parking Space Levy expenditure.

Revenue raised from the Parking Space Levy is used to fund the construction and maintenance of bus, rail and ferry interchanges, commuter car parks, bus shelters, other transport infrastructure and better passenger information and security systems. During 2005-06 the Parking Space Levy contributed significant funding to projects such as the Parramatta Transport Interchange and the North-West Transitway.

- (3) Interest income is dependent on the daily balance of funds held in the Parking Space Levy account, which in turn is dependent on the timing of receipts and expenditure.

\*0665 "PARK AND RIDE" FACILITIES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Further to the answer provided to Question 0096 and given that the Ministry of Transport's 2006 Annual Report is silent on the matter:

- (1) How much has been spent on "Park and Ride" facilities on the Northern Peninsula of Sydney?
- (2) What plans, if any, are there for additional "Park and Ride" facilities in the coming financial year in the:
  - (a) Davidson electorate;
  - (b) electorates adjoining the Davidson electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Park and ride facilities were provided at Warriewood at a cost of \$0.7 million.
- (2) The Government is very supportive of commuters leaving their cars at commuter parking facilities and travelling by public transport to their destination. Significant funding has been spent in establishing new and extending existing commuter car parks and there are currently an estimated 20,000 parking spaces in 166 dedicated commuter car parks across Sydney.

As part of the Government's \$660 million Urban Transport Statement, new and expanded commuter car parks providing an extra 4,000 car spaces will be built over the next four years under a \$45 million strategy to improve commuter parking facilities at key locations across Metropolitan Sydney.

\*0666 TOILETS TO STUDENTS NUMBER RATIOS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Does the Department of Education have a policy, guideline or target by which it determines the number of toilets required to meet the needs of students?
- (2) If so, what is the information?
- (3) If not, how does the department determine this matter?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training aligns with the Building Code of Australia – Sanitary Fixtures. The Department's School Facilities Standards reflect these requirements.

The number of toilets provided in schools is determined by enrolment levels.

\*0667 WAITARA PUBLIC SCHOOL—STUDENT NUMBERS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What was the number of students enrolled at Waitara Public School in 1997?
- (2) What was the number in 2002?
- (3) What is the current number of students enrolled at the school?

Answer—

- (1) The student enrolment at the February census date in 1997 was 504.
- (2) The student enrolment at the February census date in 2002 was 533.
- (3) The student enrolment at the February census date in 2007 was 572. On 9 May 2007, the student enrolment had increased to 581.

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\*0668 TURRAMURRA STATION UPGRADE—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the expected completion date for the upgrade to Turramurra Station?
- (2) What is the current estimated cost of the project?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Construction commenced on Stage 1 in January 2007, and the work is scheduled for completion in mid-2008.
- (2) An estimated \$6.1 million will be spent on the upgrade works at Turramurra Station. Works include:
  - Installation of new lifts and stairs;
  - New canopies to the footbridge, stairs and platform;
  - A new family accessible toilet;
  - Extension of CCTV facilities; and
  - Replacement of the existing footbridge.

\*0669 LINDFIELD STATION—PROPOSED UPGRADE—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the expected start and completion date for the proposed upgrade to Lindfield Station?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the project?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The proposed works for Lindfield Station are currently in the concept phase.

\*0670 LOAN APPROVALS—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Do either the Greater Taree City Council or the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council have applications for any loan approvals with the Minister at present?
- (2) If so, how much is being sought and for what purpose?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) No.
- (2) N/A.

\*0671 PORT MACQUARIE GARDENS NURSING CENTRE—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many patients have been admitted to Port Macquarie Base Hospital from Port Macquarie Gardens Nursing Centre, on Sherwood Road, in the past three months?
- (2) On what dates were they both admitted and subsequently discharged?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) There were seven (7) admissions to Port Macquarie Base Hospital from Port Macquarie Gardens Nursing Centre during the period 1/4/2007 to 30/6/2007. One patient was admitted on two occasions.

Admission Date	Discharge Date
25/04/2007	30/04/2007
19/06/2007	28/06/2007
28/05/2007	30/05/2007
13/04/2007	18/04/2007
12/05/2007*	17/05/2007
02/06/2007*	05/06/2007
29/04/2007	06/05/2007

\* The table shows seven (7) admissions, one patient was admitted on two occasions.

\*0672 NATIONAL ELECTRICITY MARKET—PRICE INCREASES—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the 140% increase, from \$100,000 to \$240,000, for the five-year contract to provide electricity to one resort in Port Macquarie, on the basis this is the best offer possible due to significant increases in the national electricity market prices:

- (1) What are the reasons behind such increases?
- (2) Does such an increase reflect any failings in the national electricity market, the lack of provision of infrastructure, or the failure of Government to recognise future demand loads?
- (3) What improvements can be made to the national electricity market when such increases are occurring today, and are potentially driving operators out of business through such spike increases?

Answer—

- (1) There are several reasons for the price increases that have occurred in the NEM over recent months. A major reason for the price increases has been the impact of the recent drought on generators, which has in some cases constrained their production capacity. Another reason has been recent increases in peak demand, which have reached record levels over the past month as a result of extremely low temperatures.
- (2) No. NSW has not experienced any shortage in its supply of electricity. In 2006, a normalised reliability level of 99.973 per cent was achieved. The Government is working with the electricity industry to ensure that reliability levels are maintained – both in terms of generation capacity and network performance. The Owen Inquiry is currently examining the timing of, and need for, new base load generation in NSW, and is due to report to the Government by the end of August 2007.
- (3) The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) was established to ensure compliance with the National Electricity Law and National Electricity Rules, and is responsible for continually monitoring the market. The AER has found that all market participants have been in full compliance with both the Law and the Rules at all times during the recent price increases.

The Ministerial Council on Energy also established the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC). Any private individual or organisation can suggest a Rule change to the AEMC for its formal consideration. It is understood that, to date, no Rule change proposals in relation to the issue of recent high prices have been received by the AEMC.

\*0673 PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the number of vacant positions for dental nurses, assistants and prosthetists in the NSW public dental system?
- (2) How many School Dental Services are there in operation statewide, as well as on the Mid-North Coast, and what is the level of staffing at these facilities?
- (3) How, in the future, does the Minister plan to allow free dental care for children from low socio-economic areas that have no dentist?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that this varies within NSW Area Health Services from month to month and year to year. Current vacancies advertised can be found at the HealthJobs web site at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jobs/>

- (2) and (3) I am advised that NSW does not currently operate a school-based dental service along the same lines as other jurisdictions such as South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia. There is strong evidence that because of the change in distribution of dental disease that the traditional "school-based" dental programs are no longer an effective and efficient means of targeting dental prevention and services to children and adolescents.

Issues related to mobile dental vans and children's dental services were discussed at the Upper House Inquiry into Dental Services. Responses were provided by NSW Health and are available on the NSW Parliament web site: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/PARLMENT/Committee.nsf/0/E7BEDC88D5811798CA256BB90004893F>

Child and Adult services are integrated wherever possible in NSW to assist in the development of contemporary professional relationships between the dental team, including dentists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, oral health therapists, dental technicians and dental assistants.

The shift from school based clinics to multidisciplinary community clinics is being made for a variety of reasons, including issues of informed consent when treating a child at school without a

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parent present and opportunities for chair side oral health education are missed if a parent is not present for their child's treatment. NSW Health also seeks to encourage family based oral health services as dental disease is a condition that affects families.

All preschool aged children and full time students less than 18 years of age are eligible for free public oral health care in NSW and can be prioritised for care through the NSW Priority Oral Health Program. This ensures that children with the most urgent conditions are seen in the shortest time frame.

I can further advise that an additional \$8 million for oral health was made available under the 07/08 Budget: \$4 million to reduce waiting lists for children and \$4 million to increase the number of dental therapists and hygienists and to expand Rural Oral Health Centres. I am advised that this brings the total oral health budget to \$138 million in 2007/08.

\*0674 TEST FOR ABORIGINALITY—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Is the test for Aboriginality, as applied to all relevant state agencies, the three-part test as adopted by the Federal Government?
- (2) If any state agencies use a different test for Aboriginality:
  - (a) which agency;
  - (b) what is the test of Aboriginality that is used;
  - (c) why is it different from this common three-part test as adopted by the Federal Government?

Answer—

- (1) Most NSW Government agencies apply the same three part test adopted by the Federal Government.
- (2) (a) Children's Court and NSW Police.  
(b) Descent by Children's Court and self-identification by NSW Police.  
(c) Three-part test is not applied because they both concern Aboriginal people coming into the custody of a state agency, and identification ensures they receive appropriate care while in the custody or care of the State.

\*0675 HARRINGTON-CROWDY HEAD COASTAL PATROL—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Small Business and Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

In light of a Coroner's recommendation to increase funding to volunteer coastguards following the death of Kenneth Heathcote at Crowdy Head and further observations of concern by the WorkCover Authority:

- (1) What assistance is provided to coastal patrols such as the Harrington-Crowdy Head Coastal Patrol, which use their own private vessels to undergo sea rescues?
- (2) What action is being taken to support Harrington-Crowdy Head Coastal Patrol in its fundraising to buy a purpose-built coastal patrol vessel to complement their new headquarters?

Answer—

- (1) NSW Maritime, has since 1998 provided funds for marine volunteer groups through the State Rescue Board of NSW. The funding is for capital improvements, operational support and, since 2005/06 for competency based training. The marine volunteer groups receiving funding from the Board are the Royal Volunteer Coast Patrol, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard and marine units under the Volunteer Rescue Association.

By 30 June 2007 over \$6.1M had been provided to the Board, and \$1.306M is being allocated this financial year. In addition, NSW Maritime waives vessel registration fees and provides a 50% reduction for periodic vessel survey fees.

- (2) This is a matter for the State Rescue Board which allocates the funds provided by NSW Maritime to the marine volunteer groups.

\*0676 COOLAMON SCENIC DRIVE AND PACIFIC HIGHWAY INTERSECTION—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the "T" intersection of the Coolamon Scenic Drive and the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Why has the RTA, which has been surveying the intersection for the past three years, provided written advice that 'funding may be available in the 2008/2009 financial year'?
- (2) Given the dangerous nature of this intersection and its accident history, will the upgrade of this intersection be given a higher priority for funding sooner than 2008/2009?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

More than \$120 million has been allocated in the 2007/08 towards road safety initiatives in the NSW Government's record roads budget.

As part of the 07/08 roads budget more than \$447 million will be spent by the State Government on projects to upgrade and improve the Pacific Highway.

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has undertaken a review of a number of intersections along the Pacific Highway, including Coolamon Scenic Drive. The RTA is now investigating various road treatments that can be undertaken at those intersections.

\*0677 PRE-SCHOOLS FUNDING—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to the report titled "The Education and Care of our Children: Good Beginnings", published 18 June 2006 by Professor Tony Vinson, that indicates despite past budget surpluses and increased NSW Government borrowing, the NSW Government is not fully committed to the responsibility for adequately funding pre-schools:

- (1) Why does NSW have the lowest pre-school attendance rate (at less than 60%), but at the same time the highest average pre-school fees of any state (at the cost of \$30/day)?
- (2) Will there be additional funding directed towards lowering pre-school education fees?
  - (a) If yes, what amount does the Government intend to commit and in what timeframe?
  - (b) If no, why not?

Answer—

This matter falls under the portfolio of responsibilities of the Hon Kevin Greene, Minister for Community Services.

\*0678 JACK EVANS BOAT HARBOUR—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to the master plan for the proposed redevelopment of Jack Evans Boat Harbour that indicates Crown land, including a maritime museum, will be leased or sold:

- (1) Have any discussions been held between the Department of Planning and the developer?
- (2) (a) Has the department revised the publicly released master plan?
  - (b) If yes, on what date and what was the nature of the revision?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the Department of Planning has not held any discussions with the developer.
- (2) I am advised that the Department of Planning has not revised the publicly released plans for Jack Evans Boat Harbour.

\*0679 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

In relation to the Tweed Sand Bypass Project:

- (1) What monitoring has the NSW Government undertaken to monitor NSW beaches affected by the Tweed Sand Bypass Project?
- (2) What plans are in place to reverse the degradation of Fingal and Duranbah Beaches caused by the Sand Bypass Project?
- (3) What plans are in place to compensate Tweed residents for the resulting loss of amenity?
- (4) What meetings have taken place over the past twelve months and what meetings are scheduled for the next twelve months in relation to the Tweed Sand Bypass Project between the NSW Government and the other two stakeholders the Queensland Government and Gold Coast City Council?
- (5) Who has/will represent the NSW Government at each of these meetings?

Answer—

- (1) The Letitia Spit and Duranbah beaches adjoining the Tweed River entrance project are subject to extensive monitoring on a daily basis. The resulting data is analysed to ensure compliance with approval conditions and to identify short and long-term trends.



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- (2) The environmental assessments for the project recognised that there would be changes in the beach and offshore conditions adjoining the river entrance. The assessments predicted a landward realignment of the beaches on each side of the entrance. The beach and dune system along Letitia Spit and Duranbah beaches have adjusted to new alignments as predicted in the environmental studies.
- (3) There is no evidence that the sand bypassing operations have significantly impacted on southern Letitia Spit. Changes at Duranbah Beach have been less than predicted. As part of the overall project, a Duranbah Sand Delivery Program has been developed in consultation with Tweed Shire Council to regularly supply sand to maintain this beach amenity and replenish beach conditions if the beach is eroded by ocean storms.
- (4) As provided by the Heads of Agreement between NSW and Queensland, a Working Group has been formed to ensure close liaison and cooperation and ensure effective project delivery. The Working Group includes representatives of both State governments, together with representatives of Tweed Shire Council and Gold Coast City Council. Working Group meetings are held 3-4 times per year.
- (5) Senior officers from the Department of Lands represent the NSW Government.

\*0680 CROWN LANDS (CONTINUED TENURES) ACT 1989—Mr Richard Torbay asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

In relation to Part 1(3) of Schedule 7 of the Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Act 1989, which has the potential to be used to retain leases by the Crown without infringing on a perpetual leaseholder's rights to continue using the lease as they have previously:

- (1) How will this clause be used?
- (2) In what circumstances will this clause be applied?

Answer—

- (1) Clause 3 of Schedule 7 stems from similar provisions in the now repealed Crown Lands Consolidation Act. It is used when the Minister needs to preserve access through the purchased area to an adjoining parcel of land or the Minister needs to modify the boundaries of the purchased area to accord with the actual situation on the ground. It should be noted that "access" is the only public purpose that has been declared to be a public purpose for the purposes of this Clause and boundary modifications are restricted to relatively small areas.
- (2) Minimal exclusions on the purchase of a lease are made only in exceptional circumstances, such as an adjoining owner having no practical access or the general public requiring access to a major or significant river. The beneficiaries of this access will determine whether land is excluded or an easement is created. Boundaries are modified in circumstances where the land to be purchased does not immediately abut adjoining freehold land due to survey deficiencies or the fenced boundary does not accord with the lease boundary because of the prevailing terrain.

\*0681 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at pages 5-21, 5-22, 5-23 and 5-24 the following entries appear:

Building Better Schools New Primary School Halls - various  
 Connected classrooms - various  
 Information and Communication Technology New Projects 2007/08 - various  
 Learn or Earn - Trade Schools - various  
 State-wide Compliance and Additions 2007/08 - Various Schools - various  
 State-wide Demountable Replacement Program 2007/08 - various  
 State-wide Halls/Gymnasiums Program 2007/08 - various  
 Class Size Reduction Program Provision of New Accommodation - various  
 Information and Communication Technology Projects 2004/05 - various  
 Information and Communication Technology Projects 2005/06 - various  
 Information and Communication Technology Projects 2006/07 - various  
 School Halls Program 2006/07 - New Halls and Gymnasiums at Various Schools - various  
 State-wide Compliance and Upgrade 2006/07 - Various Schools - various  
 State-wide Demountable Replacement Program 2004/05 - various  
 State-wide Demountable Replacement Program 2006/07 - various  
 Trade Schools - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

The formulation of a number of 2007/2008 infrastructure programs is being finalised and details will be made available later in the year.

Funding allocated to previous years' programs is to complete works already announced, details of which have already been made available.

\*0682 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at pages 5-33, 5-34, 5-35 and 5-39 the following entries appear:

After Hours General Practice Care - various  
Ambulance Infrastructure  
Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) - various  
Breast Cancer Screening - various  
Information Management and Technology  
Business Information Strategy - various  
Medical Imaging (PACS/RIS) - various  
Patient Billing System - various  
Local Initiatives 2007/08 - various  
New Works Planning 2007/08 - various  
Oral Health Strategy - Planning - various  
Ambulance Infrastructure  
Fleet Replacement - various  
Medical Equipment and Maintenance - various  
Breast Screening - various  
Information Management and Technology  
Human Resource Information System - various  
Infrastructure Strategy - various  
Patient Administration System - various  
Patient and Clinical Systems - various  
Patient and Clinical Systems Phase 2 - various  
State Electronic Health Record - various  
Shared Corporate Services - various  
Statewide Planning and Asset Maintenance - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The capital projects indicated in the question are components of the following statewide programs:

- After Hours General Practice Care
- Ambulance Capital Enhancement Program
- Information Management & Technology
- Breast Screening (Minor Works & New Facilities)
- Local Initiatives
- New Works Planning
- Oral Health Strategy
- Shared Corporate Services
- Statewide Planning and Asset Maintenance

These programs represent initiatives aimed at improving services and infrastructure across the whole of the health system. These services are provided on a state wide basis and are not location specific. For this reason the exact amount allocated to particular electorates cannot be determined.

However, I am advised that the NSW Government is investing \$1.13 billion to deliver essential health services and hospital care for patients in the Hunter New England Area Health Service in 2007/08.

\*0683 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-41 the following entries appear:

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Aboriginal Housing Office  
Major Works  
New Works  
Additional Housing - various  
Work-In-Progress  
Additional Housing - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

Aboriginal Housing Office – Nil.

Major Works – Nil.

New Works – Nil.

Additional Housing – various – Nil.

Work-In-Progress – Nil.

Additional Housing – Nil.

\*0684 SERVICES PROVIDED AT RYLSTONE COURT HOUSE—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What services are available to the general public at Rylstone Court House?
- (2) How many days per month are these services provided?
- (3) Does a magistrate attend Rylstone Court House to conduct court?
- (4) If yes, how often?
- (5) Are there any plans to withdraw these services and close Rylstone Court House?
- (6) If yes, where would the general public be expected to travel for these services?

Answer—

I refer the member to Question on Notice 0658.

\*0685 SERVICES PROVIDED AT MUDGEES COURT HOUSE—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What services are available to the general public at Mudgees Court House?
- (2) How many days per month are these services provided?
- (3) Does a magistrate attend Mudgees Court House to conduct court?
- (4) If yes, how often?
- (5) Are there any plans to withdraw these services and close Mudgees Court House?
- (6) If yes, where would the general public be expected to travel for these services?

Answer—

I refer the member to Question on Notice 0658.

\*0686 SERVICES PROVIDED AT GULGONG COURT HOUSE—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What services are available to the general public at Gulgong Court House?
- (2) How many days per month are these services provided?
- (3) Does a magistrate attend Gulgong Court House to conduct court?
- (4) If yes, how often?
- (5) Are there any plans to withdraw these services and close Gulgong Court House?
- (6) If yes, where would the general public be expected to travel for these services?

Answer—

I refer the member to Question on Notice 0658.

\*0687 RURAL FIRE SERVICE—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) What is the current obligation for the Rural Fire Service to cooperate with shire councils?
- (2) Considering shires account for 13 per cent of the Rural Fire Service funding, what is the current structure of communication between shire councils and the Rural Fire Service?

Answer—

- (1) The Rural Fires Act 1997 (the Act) imposes various responsibilities and obligations on local councils. Section 12a of the Act provides for the Commissioner of the RFS and a local council to enter into an agreement (Rural Fire District Service Agreement) which specifies any functions or obligations to be exercised by the Commissioner on behalf of the council.
- (2) There are various established and informal communication channels between the RFS and local councils. The Rural Fire Service and Local Government Liaison Committee comprises membership from the most senior ranks of the Rural Fire Service, Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW. The role of the Liaison Committee is to discuss and resolve significant issues of a strategic nature and to discuss, resolve and report on issues referred to it by the Minister for Emergency Services.

In addition there are local liaison committees established under Rural Fire Service Agreements comprising RFS salaried staff and volunteers, and council representatives. These liaison committees are involved in deliberations on funding allocations and local operational issues. They also monitor performance under the Service Agreements.

District RFS staff maintain very productive and valued working relationships with staff in their constituent councils.

\*0688 IRRIGATION LAND VALUATIONS—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

Why has the Department of Local Government been unable to eradicate inconsistencies in irrigation land valuations in shires that have irrigation properties?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your question:

It is not the role of the Department of Local Government to determine land valuations. This is a matter for the NSW Valuer General.

As a result of the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) endorsement of water reform agenda as part of National Competition Policy and the separation of land and water, uncertainty was created among NSW councils about how to determine rates.

Councils raised this issue with the Government and after listening to their concerns the Lemna Government has acted to create a regulation to allow councils to determine rates in a fair manner.

The Department of Local Government has had on-going consultations with a number of the affected councils and the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, and they strongly support the regulation.

\*0689 PLANNING PANELS—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Will the Minister be implementing planning panels?
- (2) If so, how will the panels affect the efficiency in terms of both time and money?
- (3) (a) How does the Minister propose future administration of planning for shires in the Murray-Darling?
- (b) Given its vast geography, will there be a specialised taskforce that has a detailed understanding of the area?

Answer—

- (1) The Minister may appoint a planning administrator or a panel (or both) to exercise the functions of a council in accordance with the provisions of s.118 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- (2) A planning panel or planning administrator may be appointed if the performance of a council in dealing with planning and development matters is unsatisfactory. With this provision, there is flexibility to develop a targeted response to systematic issues of unsatisfactory performance.
- (3) (a) The Government is providing practical support in respect to planning for local Councils in the Murray-Darling electorate through the funding of local planning strategies (over \$750,000 via the Planning Reform Fund), building the capacity of planners through initiatives such as workshops and forums and the preparation of a new regional plan for the Murray Valley which will help Councils address region-wide issues in a consistent way.
- (b) The Department of Planning's regional offices already work with Councils in the Murray-Darling.

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(Paper No. 18)

\*0690 COUNTRY RAIL LINE CLOSURES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many country rail lines were closed between the years 1988 and 1995?
- (2) As a result of these closures, how many rail stations were closed?
- (3) How many jobs were lost as a result of these closures?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) Operations were suspended on the following lines in the period 1988 – 1994:
  - Murwillumbah to Condong (1993).
  - Dumaresq to Wallangarra – from Glen Innes (1989), from Dumaresq (1993).
  - Moree to Inverell – from Delungra (1987), (from Biniguy 1991), to Biniguy (1994).
  - Sandy Hollow to Merriwa (1988).
  - Cowra to Eugowra (1991).
  - Nyngan to Bourke (1989).
  - Molong to Dubbo from Yeoval (1988), to Yeoval (1992).
  - Picton to Braemar (1989).
  - Goulburn to Crookwell (1989).
  - Yass Jct to Yass town (1988).
  - Wagga Wagga to Tumbarumba – to Ladysmith (1988).
  - Uranquinty to Kywong (1988).
  - Henty to Rand (1989).
  - Culcairn to Corowa – from Brocklesbury (1989), to Brocklesbury (1991).
  - Queanbeyan to Bombala – to Cooma (1989).
  - Borree Creek to Oakland – to Urana (1988).
  - Greenthorpe to Grenfell (1991).
  - Willbriggie to Hay (1989).
  - Narrandera to Tocumwal to Jerilderie (1991).
  - Fassifern to Toronto (1990).
  - Sydney Yard to Darling Harbour (1993).
  - Loftus to National Park (1991).

\*0691 COUNTRY TOWNS WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE PROGRAM—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) What is the Government doing to upgrade water and sewerage services to country towns and cities?
- (2) How much money has been allocated to the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program since 1995?
- (3) How many projects have been completed from this program since 1995?
- (4) How many projects are currently under construction?
- (5) How many projects are set to commence this financial year?
- (6) (a) Has the scheme been extended?
- (b) If so, to what date?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government provides financial assistance and advice to local water utilities through its Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program.  
The provision of appropriate water supply and sewerage services remains the responsibility of the local water utilities. The local water utilities are required to select appropriate water supply or sewerage service options in consultation with their community.
- (2) The Government recently approved a funding increase of \$160 million to the NSW Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program, which brings total support for the Program to \$1.10 billion.
- (3) The Program has already provided over \$790 million in assistance to enable completion of over 314 projects that directly benefit over 1 million people in country NSW.
- (4) There are approximately 110 projects in construction or pre-construction.
- (5) It is anticipated that approximately 20 new projects will commence this financial year.

- (6) (a) and (b) With the recent increased funding of \$160 million an additional 54 projects will be funded under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program and the Program has been extended to 2014/15.

\*0692 COAL COMPENSATION BOARD—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How long has the Coal Compensation Board been in operation?
- (2) When does the work of the Coal Compensation Board wind up?
- (3) Since its inception, how much money has been paid out in compensation?
- (4) What is the average pay out to recipients of these payouts?
- (5) What was the top ten payouts, in value, from the Coal Compensation Board?
- (6) Who were the recipients of the payouts mentioned in question (5) above?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Coal Compensation Board has been in operation for 22 years, having commenced operations in June 1985.
- (2) The known work before the NSW Coal Compensation Board was completed at 31 March 2007 as scheduled. The work before the NSW Coal Compensation Review Tribunal, consisting of appeals of determinations of the Board, was completed as scheduled by 30 June 2007.

Further work of the NSW Coal Compensation Board which has recently become available for completion (e.g. because of earlier unavailability caused by associated litigation that previously prevented claim finalisation) is expected to be finalised by 31 December 2007.

- (3) To 30 June 2007, the NSW Coal Compensation Board had paid a total of \$784.4 million in compensation against a current net benefit to the State from additional coal royalties of \$1.4 billion and an estimated net benefit to the State of \$12.3 billion projected to 2050.
- (4) Based on an estimated 10,500 eligible claims for compensation, the average payout per claim is of the order of \$75,000 with a range of payouts between \$10 and \$54 million.
- (5) The top ten payouts accounted for a total of \$214 million.
- (6) It is not appropriate to name individual claimants due to privacy and confidentiality requirements.

\*0693 MARUNGBAI ABORIGINAL AFTER CARE SERVICE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

Following the decision by the Department of Community Services to close the Sydney operation of Marungbai Aboriginal Leaving Care and After Care Service, what arrangements have been made to provide specialised Aboriginal after care services in the Sydney metropolitan region after 30 June 2007?

Answer—

This question is a matter to be addressed by my colleague, the Hon Kevin Greene MP, Minister for Community Services.

\*0694 ROAD MAINTENANCE—TUMBARUMBA SHIRE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What funding has been allocated to the maintenance and upgrade of main roads used by heavy vehicles servicing the forest industry and timber mill in the Tumbarumba Shire?

Answer—

I am advised:

In the 2006/2007 financial year approximately \$4 million was spent on Main Road 85 (Jingellic to Gilmore) and Main Road 284 (Tumbarumba to Little Billabong) for works including road widening, routine maintenance, heavy patching and resealing. Approximately \$1.77 million has been allocated to these roads in the 2007/2008 financial year.

\*0695 RIVERINA HIGHWAY—ALBURY—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When will the upgrade of the Riverina Highway to Bethanga Bridge, east of Albury, be completed?
- (2) What planning is being undertaken to improve the Riverina Highway at its western approach to the city of Albury?

Answer—

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I am advised:

In 2007/08 \$252.9 million was allocated to the Albury electorate including \$234.5 million for road network development, \$16.2 million for road network maintenance and \$1.3 million for traffic and transport.

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) continues to maintain the Riverina Highway to Bethanga Bridge. Sealing works were undertaken by the RTA in 2006 and 2007 to the Bethanga Bridge approaches and the Riverina Highway near the Bridge.

**\*0696 OVERSEAS OUTSOURCED JOBS**—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Has the Department of Commerce issued contracts to companies who have outsourced jobs overseas?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Commerce adheres to the NSW Government's Procurement Policy, which is available on the NSW Treasury website [www.treasury.nsw.gov.au](http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au)

**\*0697 CROSS CITY TUNNEL TOLL**—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What action will the Government undertake to ensure the toll on the Cross City Tunnel is reduced from its current level?

Answer—

I am advised:

The toll is a matter for the company in compliance with the Project Deed.

**\*0698 CURL CURL NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL**—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

(1) How many times has Curl Curl North Public School applied through the Department of Education for a new classroom and administration block?

(2) Will it be undertaken next year?

Answer—

Curl Curl North Public School submitted an application for a major facilities upgrade for consideration by the Regional Asset Planning Conference in 2007. This was the first occasion when a formal application was made by the school for this facility.

The project was considered at the Conference for funding in this year's Major Capital Works Program, however due to competing regional and statewide priorities, it was not possible to include it.

The project will be considered against competing projects for inclusion in a future year's Program.

**\*0699 LIBRARY SIZES—STATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What are the Department of Education's guidelines in relation to the sizes of libraries in State public schools?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training's School Facilities Standards provide guidelines in respect of the recommended dimensions for primary and secondary school libraries.

The School Facilities Standards indicate that the size of libraries ranges from 70 square metres to 420 square metres and is determined by enrolment levels.

**\*0700 BALGOWLAH NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL**—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Where on the priority list is Balgowlah North Public School's capital works application for a new administration/library block and car park?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training has noted the need to provide a new library/administration block and it will be considered and prioritised against competing projects when the 2008/2009 Major Capital Works Program is developed later in the year.

\*0701 GREENSLIPS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What has been the average increase in the cost of greenslips for NSW motorists over the 2006-07 financial year?
- (2) What is the predicted increase in the price of greenslips for NSW motorists in the next financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Commerce has no role in the administration of greenslips.

The question should be referred to the Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance.

\*0702 MANLY WHARF—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) When was the last time Manly Wharf underwent a safety inspection?
- (2) What was the result of that inspection?
- (3) When will the next Manly Wharf safety inspection be completed?

Answer—

- (1) Manly Wharf is being upgraded. Daily safety inspections of operational areas are undertaken.
- (2) No issues have been reported as a result of the 8 and 9 June storms. In relation to the upgrade works, an inspection in May identified some minor issues which have been addressed.
- (3) Daily safety inspections of operational areas continue to be undertaken.

\*0703 MANLY HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many times has hot water been unavailable to Manly Hospital's maternity ward this year?
- (2) What led to hot water being unavailable?
- (3) What steps are being taken to ensure hot water is always available to women in Manly Hospital's maternity ward?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Manly Hospital Maternity/Birthing Unit has a NSW Health approved heated water system which provides heated water to all patient areas within the unit, including the Emergency Medical Unit and Day Hospital.

There are records of five occasions this year (2007) where engineering staff have been contacted regarding the temperature of water in the Maternity Unit at Manly Hospital. On all five occasions the problem was identified and rectified immediately.

(3) The water temperatures within Manly Hospital are compliant with NSW Health Policy Directive PD2005\_344 (Requirements for the Provision of Cold and Heated Water). The public are generally accustomed to having higher water temperatures than hospitals can safely provide.

Manly Hospital's engineering staff undertake monthly temperature checks as per NSW Health Policy Directive requirements for the provision of cold and heated water. The unit is routinely serviced (every 6 months) by an authorised service agent.

\*0704 2007 BUDGET PAPERS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the 2007-2008 Budget Papers:

- (1) How much of the \$3.7 billion earmarked for rural and regional spending in this latest budget will be allocated to health resources in and around the Port Stephens region?
- (2) When will the "HealthOne" service be rolled out in Port Stephens?
- (3) What is the location and character of proposed upgrades to the Nelson Bay Ambulance Station noted



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in these budget papers?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the Hunter and New England Area Health Service is currently considering all priorities with respect to the 2007/08 budget allocations.
- (2) I am advised that in response to a call for expressions of interest, the Hunter New England Area Health submitted a proposal, supported by Port Stephens Shire Council, to establish a HealthOne NSW service at Raymond Terrace. This proposal was among those selected for further development and is now the subject of detailed local planning.
- (3) I refer the Honourable Member to the response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 0518.

\*0705 WATER PROJECTS ON KOORAGANG ISLAND—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In relation to water projects on Kooragang Island:

- (1) Of the two "Enhancement to Water Infrastructure" projects funded in this latest State Budget, how much "various" infrastructure has been allocated to Kooragang Island?
- (2) What are the reasons for a \$37 million increase in expenditure difference between the 2006 and 2007 Budgets?
- (3) With regard to the "Enhancement to Water Infrastructure" project begun in 1998 at a total cost of \$16 million, how much of this figure represents an investment into Hunter region water infrastructure?

Answer—

Hunter Water Corporation has advised that:

- (1) An additional \$1.8 million has been allocated to Kooragang water infrastructure.
- (2) A range of new projects (including Tillegra Dam) account for this increase over last year's budget.
- (3) All of this expenditure relates to works in the Hunter region.

\*0706 COMMORANT ROAD, KOORAGANG ISLAND—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the recent collapse of Commorant Road, Kooragang Island:

- (1) What steps have been taken to ensure the safety of this stretch of road?
- (2) What funds were allocated in the 2007 Budget to maintain the integrity of this road?
- (3) What is the expense to the tax payer to repair this road?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2007/2008 the NSW Government has allocated \$5.2M for maintenance on Cormorant Road (MR108) from Mayfield West to Nelson Bay.

On Wednesday 27 June 2007, a watermain burst, undermining and gouging a hole into Cormorant Road (MR108) on Kooragang Island at Newcastle. The watermain was replaced by Hunter Water Corporation Limited. The road repairs were funded by Hunter Water Corporation Limited.

\*0707 RAILCORP FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STAFF—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many full-time equivalent (FTE) staff were employed by RailCorp in each month since July 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

RailCorp does not conduct a month by month count of full-time equivalent staff.

RailCorp reports on total staff numbers as required in its annual report.

\*0708 SYDNEY BUSES ON-TIME RUNNING FIGURES—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What are the monthly on-time running figures for Sydney buses for each month since July 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

In the twelve months since July 2006, Sydney Buses services have maintained an average on-time running performance of 95.2%.

\*0709 PENSIONER TRAVEL VOUCHER—BOOKING FEE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many pensioner travel vouchers were used to book ContryLink fares for:
  - (a) each quarter from March 2005 to March 2006;
  - (b) each quarter from March 2006 to June 2007?
- (2) How much revenue has been made from the booking fee for each month since March 2006 up to June 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

RailCorp reports on patronage and revenue as required in its annual report.

\*0710 OVERCROWDED BUSES—COMPLAINTS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many complaints have been made to the State Transit Authority since July 2006 from Sydney bus drivers regarding overcrowding of buses, skipped stops and other safety issues regarding crowded buses?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Transit has no record of complaints being made by individual bus drivers.

State Transit passengers have benefited from the \$52 million invested in 80 new high capacity buses for Sydney, with the final delivery in November 2006. High capacity bus services on Bondi Road started in October 2006. In addition the Government has committed \$250 million to replace more than a quarter of State Transit's bus fleet – the biggest ever investment in new buses in New South Wales history.

\*0711 SYDNEY BUSES TRAFFIC INCIDENTS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many traffic incidents have been reported each month to the State Transit Authority regarding Sydney Buses since July 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

It is not clear what is meant by 'traffic incidents'.

Various incidents are reported as required in the State Transit Authority Annual Report.

\*0712 BATEMANS MARINE PARK—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water (Environment)—

- (1) Considering the major amendments made to the zoning plan for Batemans Marine Park submitted for public consultation, some of which include the creation of a new sanctuary zone (Glasshouse Rocks) and the total exclusion of commercial trawling from the marine park not mentioned in the original plan, why did the government choose to ignore the Marine Parks Act instead of taking the amended plan back to the public as the Act states it should?
- (2) (a) Will the Minister act in accordance with the Act when it adopts the Operational Plan?  
(b) Has this plan been drafted?  
(c) Has the plan been shown to the Batemans Marine Park Advisory Committee for comment and when will it go on public display for comment?
- (3) Why has the Minister or her department failed to contact Mr Jack Tait to answer questions regarding the marine park?
- (4) When will Mr Tait be informed that the concerns of landholders, whose property adjoins the park, will be given the attention promised by the Government?
- (5) Will the Minister be attending the information day being held in Batemans Bay on Sunday 1 July?

Answer—

- (1) Statutory requirements for consultation on the zoning plan for Batemans Marine Park were met in full. The zoning plan was adopted following nine months of intensive and detailed consultation with the community. The Marine Parks Authority received over 5,000 submissions following the release

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of the draft plan. The Batemans Marine Park Advisory Committee, which includes members from all main user groups, provided considerable input into both the draft and final zoning plans.

The final zoning plan is therefore the result of extensive consultation and vigorous efforts to balance the need for environmental protection with the patterns of existing use.

- (2) An operational plan is in the process of being drafted, and this will also meet all legislative requirements for community consultation before being implemented. A draft operational plan is expected to be provided to the Advisory Committee in the near future. Following the Advisory Committee's review and comment, it will then be placed on exhibition for public comment.
- (3) In July 2007 I provided a reply in response to two emails from Mr Tait that had been received in my office in June. I consider the letters were answered within a reasonable timeframe. I am advised that my office has also spoken directly with Mr Tait and that a meeting has been arranged so that he can discuss his concerns directly with me. I am also advised that Batemans Marine Park staff have had recent discussions with Mr Tait regarding the issues he has raised.
- (4) As indicated in my reply to Mr Tait, thorough consideration was given to the comments and suggestions made by all members of the public, including landholders whose properties adjoin or are close to the marine park, as part of the very extensive consultation process of developing and finalising the zoning plan for the marine park. In reaching a balance between the various park management objectives, the interests of all who commented were taken into account.
- (5) The meeting on 1 July was attended by the Batemans Marine Park Manager on my behalf.

\*0713 CORRESPONDENCE—JILL AND MALCOLM MCDONALD—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

When will you respond to the correspondence of Jill and Malcolm McDonald of South Durras?

Answer—

A response has been sent to the family.

\*0714 "PARKVIEW" BEDS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) How many beds at "Parkview" in Bexley are "blocked" by permanent clients?
- (2) When will they be un-blocked?
- (3) What are you doing to address the situation at Parkview?
- (4) How many respite beds are there in the St George region?
- (5) How many respite beds are there in the Sutherland Shire?
- (6) How many of these beds house permanent clients?

Answer—

- (1) Two out of five.
- (2) One client has received a permanent placement in a group home and is currently transitioning into the home. The transition is expected to be completed by the end of August 2007.

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) is working with a non-government provider to establish a model of care suitable for the other client. The model has been developed and the family has indicated that they are supportive of the option.

- (3) As per answer to question (2).
- (4) There are 16 respite beds in the St George area (5 children and 11 adult). The children's beds are operated by DADHC along with 5 of the adult beds while the remaining 6 respite beds are operated by St George Area Intellectual Disability Services.

The respite beds in the Sutherland Shire are also available to residents of the St George area.

- (5) There are 14 respite beds in the Sutherland Shire (5 children and 9 adult). The children's unit is operated by Margaret House. The 9 adult beds are operated by Civic Residential Services.

The respite beds in the St George area are also available to residents of the Sutherland Shire.

- (6) In addition to the 2 beds at the Parkview respite unit outlined above, a further 2 beds currently have people residing in them long-term. Both beds are in the adult unit operated by DADHC in the St George area.

Of these, one client has moved to an interim option purchased through the Emergency Response funding until an appropriate accommodation vacancy becomes available.

The other client has been identified for an accommodation service through the Stronger Together initiative.

\*0715 WYCHBURY COTTAGE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) How many respite beds exist at Wychbury Cottage at Croydon?
- (2) How often will Wychbury Cottage be open during 2007?
- (3) Why have clients been denied access to Wychbury Cottage when they are defined as "out of area"?

Answer—

- (1) St Anthony's Family Care (St Anthony's) Wychbury Cottage provides a flexible and combination respite service. This service provides out-of-school hours and vacation care respite, which includes in-home, centre-based, recreational, host family and peer support.

I am advised that St Anthony's assists 49 families in the Inner West Local Planning Area per annum to access flexible respite services.

Wychbury Cottage is primarily used as a base during the day on weekends and school holidays for vacation care and out-of-school hours for flexible respite. Approximately four times per year, there are requests for overnight respite.

- (2) Wychbury Cottage is open in 2007 to provide out-of-school hours, vacation care and weekend respite day activities. I am advised that 49 families will receive a respite package in 2007 from St Anthony's, which may include an overnight stay at Wychbury Cottage, if a family chooses this as part of their flexible respite package.
- (3) St Anthony's funded geographical area for service delivery is the Inner West Local Planning Area. Families are required to live in this area to be eligible to receive a service from Wychbury Cottage.

\*0716 CENTRALISED WAITING LISTS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

Why are centralised waiting lists for respite and supported accommodation not kept?

Answer—

Respite:

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care's (DADHC) Regional Respite Allocation Committees review all requests for DADHC operated respite services from eligible individuals and assess them against criteria of eligibility.

A list of eligible persons for consideration of respite services by the Allocation Committee is maintained by the Department's Regional offices on a quarterly basis. This data is also captured on the Client Information System (CIS) database which the Department uses to record details of individuals and services.

Supported Accommodation:

DADHC maintains regionally based service request registers for supported accommodation to ensure that individuals with higher relative need are given priority for placement. This approach allows us to take into account the changing circumstances of people with a disability, and their requests to be located in a particular geographical area to maintain community and social connections.

\*0717 CORRESPONDENCE—ANN AND ROSS SMITH—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

When will the Minister respond to the correspondence and submission of Ann and Ross Smith of Mona Vale?

Answer—

Ann and Ross Smith's correspondence has been responded to through several Members of the New South Wales and Federal Parliament. I am advised that the Department of Planning has also written to Ann and Ross Smith acknowledging receipt of their submission.

Ann and Ross Smith's submission will be taken into consideration along with all of the other submissions received from the recent exhibition of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Seniors Living) 2004 – draft Amendment No. 2.

\*0718 PROPOSED F6 FREEWAY—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the proposed F6 freeway:

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- (1) Have any Treasury officials undertaken an assessment of the F6 freeway proposal?
- (2) Has the Treasurer received any briefing from the private sector on the proposed F6 freeway?
- (3) Has the Office of Infrastructure Management completed analysis of the proposal, and if so, will this analysis be made publicly available?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) and (3) This matter should be directed to the Minister for Roads.
- (2) The Treasurer has received no formal proposals on this matter.

\*0719 DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENERGY—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the Department of Water and Energy:

- (1) Why were the department's grants and subsidies revised down by \$114 million from \$434,651,000 to \$320,504,000 in the 2006-07 financial year (2007-08 Budget Paper No 3, p. 19-33)?
- (2) What grants and subsidies were paid in the financial year 2006-07 and to which organisations?
- (3) What grants and subsidies originally budgeted for 2006-07 are now to be paid in 2007-08?
- (4) What is the basis for a further \$12 million reduction in grants and subsidies, down to \$308,906,000 in the 2007-08 Budget?

Answer—

- (1) The major reason for the variation is that the NSW Government had budgeted \$101 million for the Groundwater Structural Adjustment Program in 2006-07. Unfortunately, despite repeated assurances by the Commonwealth that the taxation issues surrounding the payments would be resolved, they have yet to do so. As a consequence only an estimated \$30 million was spent on this program in 2006-07.

In addition, there was a slower than anticipated commencement of approved projects by local water utilities under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program.

- (2) Please refer to the budget papers for details of grants.
- (3) Groundwater Structural Adjustment Program and Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program payments budgeted for but not paid in 2006/07 will commence being paid in 2007/08.
- (4) This is due to natural variations in grant and subsidy payments from year to year.

\*0720 KURNELL DESALINATION PILOT PLANT—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In relation to the Kurnell desalination pilot plant:

- (1) Is the pilot plant operating and, if so, when did it commence operating?
- (2) What has been the result of the "pilot testing" (Sydney's Desalination Project: Next Steps, Sydney Water website)?
- (3) Is the pilot plant currently producing freshwater and, if so, when did the desalination process commence?
- (4) How many litres of fresh water had the pilot plant produced through desalination prior to 28 June 2007?

Answer—

- (1) Yes, August 2006.
- (2) Pilot plant testing is ongoing. Testing to date has allowed the pre-treatment process to be optimised.
- (3) and (4) The pilot plant tests and optimises pre-treatment processes, it is not intended to produce freshwater.

\*0721 PARKES AND FORBES HOSPITAL—Mrs Dawn Fardell asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the timing of development of Parkes and Forbes hospitals:

- (1) When will clinical planning commence?
- (2) When will service procurement planning commence?
- (3) When is the last possible date for stakeholders workshops?
- (4) How many meetings with stakeholders have already been held and where?

Answer—

I am advised that the answer to the Honourable Member's question is as follows:

(1) and (2) Clinical Service Planning for the redevelopment of Parkes and Forbes Hospitals are scheduled to commence this financial year. Processes for the appointment of consultants are underway.

Service Procurement Planning will follow the development of the Service Plan and the Project Definition Plan and is scheduled for completion by the end of this financial year.

(3) and (4) Extensive community, stakeholder and clinician consultation will be undertaken throughout the planning process. Briefings for the Shire Councils, stakeholders, clinicians and communities will commence in the next few months. A Planning and Implementation Steering Committee comprising key stakeholders will be convened to oversee the project. This will include community representation. There will be ongoing consultation with the communities of Parkes and Forbes and their catchment areas. This process will be facilitated and guided by the local Health Councils.

A preliminary information session was conducted for a combined Forbes and Parkes Health Councils' Meeting in April 2007.

**\*0722 MOTOR NEURONE SUFFERERS**—Mrs Dawn Fardell asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Who is responsible for funding to motor neurone sufferers?
- (2) Who will have available funding for a patient to travel from Forbes to Sydney for further treatment?
- (3) As Country Care Link and the Motor Neurone Disease Association NSW have limited funding, why are 4 different government departments responsible?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) and (3) NSW Health provides generalist neurological services to meet the needs of all people with progressive neurological disorders, rather than services focused on specific diagnostic groups.

Through the Non Government Organisation Grants Program, NSW Health provides \$326,600 recurrent funding to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The four Motor Neurone Disease Clinics located at Calvary, St Josephs, Royal North Shore and Prince of Wales Hospitals together receive a total of \$75,000 in funding from the Motor Neurone Disease Association, with the remainder of clinic funding provided by the individual Departments of Neurology and Allied Health of the relevant hospitals.

- (2) NSW Health, within its Transport for Health framework, provides a subsidy through the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) to assist with the cost of travel and accommodation where the patient needs to travel 100km or more to access specialist care, provided the patient meets the IPTAAS eligibility criteria.

**\*0723 PROPOSED REMOVAL OF TREES**—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the proposed cutting down of 97 trees on Moss Vale Road at Kangaroo Valley:

- (1) What are the accident statistics on the Moss Vale Road at Kangaroo Valley for:
  - (a) areas where the road is straight;
  - (b) areas where the road is curvy?
- (2) If the statistics show that more accidents occur on the straight stretches of road as opposed to the curvy stretches, how will cutting down 97 trees on a straight stretch on the Moss Vale Road at Kangaroo Valley improve road safety?

Answer—

I am advised:

Following an independent Road Safety Audit conducted along the length of Moss Vale Road, improvements to the section of road 800 metres north of Walkers Lane were proposed.

The RTA undertook these works in accordance with national guidelines, following a Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

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

**\*0724 VESSELS OFF PORT OF NEWCASTLE**—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

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- (1) What was the number of vessels lying off the Port of Newcastle at the time of the June 2007 storms?
- (2) What was the number of vessels in distress or deemed to be at risk during those storms?
- (3) What was the volume of their cargos at risk and what was the risk of environmental contamination if any of those vessels had run aground or been damaged in other ways?
- (4) Were these vessels lying off shore because of the shortages of berths at the Port of Newcastle and if not what were the reasons?

Answer—

- (1) There were 56 vessels in the anchorage off Newcastle on 8 June 2007.
- (2) Three vessels were identified as being at risk including the Pasha Bulker.
- (3) All of the vessels in the anchorage during the storm were vessels coming to Newcastle to load coal and as such, none of them had any cargo aboard. All of the vessels in the anchorage had fuels and lubricants onboard for their own operational needs.
- (4) The vessels were in anchorage waiting to enter port to load coal. The number of vessels in the anchorage reflects a number of factors including the record world demand for coal.

Neither the Government nor the Port Corporation controls the timing of the arrival of coal ships. That is a commercial decision and a matter for the shipping line, the coal exporter, and the foreign coal buyer.

\*0725 CARBON TAX EXEMPTION—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to carbon tax exemption:

- (1) How many energy intensive companies have approached the Minister or the department to discuss deals to exempt them from carbon tax?
- (2) Who are these companies and what deals have been made?
- (3) Has the Minister or the department approached energy intensive companies to discuss deals to exempt them from carbon tax?
- (4) If yes:
  - (a) who are these companies; and
  - (b) what deals have been discussed?
- (5) Has the Minister or his predecessor said, at any time, that the deal made to exempt BlueScope Steel from carbon tax was a 'one-off' deal?
- (6) How does the Minister intend to ensure the success of an emissions trading scheme when eligibility for carbon tax is determined on a case by case basis?

Answer—

The NSW Government has not introduced a carbon tax, because emissions trading enables the market to determine which new or existing technologies will reduce emissions at least cost. That's why we have led the design and development of a national emissions trading scheme.

The Government negotiated an agreement with Bluescope Steel, that will secure the deployment of world leading low emissions technologies at its Port Kemba plant.

Under the NSW Government's agreement with BlueScope Steel, BlueScope Steel has the necessary certainty to invest almost \$1 billion in a co-generation electricity plant and relining its No.5 blast furnace, which will utilise waste gases from the steelmaking process to generate electricity and technologies to improve energy efficiency. This will reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from the steelmaking process by 800,000 tonnes per annum - the equivalent of taking 185,000 cars off the road.

BlueScope Steel has also agreed to continue to monitor iron and steelmaking technological developments and, where commercially feasible, implement best practice greenhouse gas reducing technology.

When proposals of significant economic and environmental benefit are presented to the Government, such as BlueScope Steel, we will engage with industry on a case-by-case basis to maximise investor certainty and protect the environment.

The Government's agreement with BlueScope Steel is publicly available at [www.bluescopesteel.com](http://www.bluescopesteel.com)

\*0726 MR SAM JENKINS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is Mr Sam Jenkins still employed by WorkCover?
- (2) Is he currently on leave and if so, when did he apply for leave?

- (3) On what date was his leave approved and on what date did his leave begin?
- (4) What is the nature of his leave?
- (5) Is Mr Jenkins currently on secondment to a Victorian Government department?
- (6) If so, on what date has Mr Jenkins indicated he will return to his position within the Ministerial Services Unit of the NSW WorkCover Authority?

Answer—

Mr Sam Jenkin is a WorkCover NSW employee who has been seconded to the Victorian WorkSafe Authority from 30 April 2007 and is due to return to WorkCover NSW on 5 November 2007.

\*0727 MS REBECCA DENNING—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is Ms Rebecca Denning still employed by WorkCover?
- (2) Is she currently on leave and if so, when did she apply for leave?
- (3) On what date was her leave approved and on what date did her leave begin?
- (4) What is the nature of her leave?
- (5) On what date was her current contract of employment renewed or on what date did it begin?
- (6) What is the length of her current contract?
- (7) What was the length of her most recent previous contract?

Answer—

Ms Rebecca Denning is a permanent employee of WorkCover NSW. Ms Denning is currently on leave without pay following a period of maternity leave which commenced on 11 December 2006.

\*0728 MR NATHAN REES—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) On what date did Nathan Rees resign from his position as Chief of Staff in the office of either former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Milton Orkopolous, or former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Reba Meagher?
- (2) On what date was Mr Rees appointed to this position?
- (3) What was his public service or SES grade and what was his level of remuneration including salary and allowances?

Answer—

- (1) This question should be directed to the Premier.
- (2) This question should be directed to the Premier.
- (3) This question should be directed to the Premier.

\*0729 NSW DROUGHT SUBSIDIES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) When was the \$20,000 per annum cap on drought transport subsidies last reviewed?
- (2) As fuel and other transport costs have risen by at least 33% since the transport subsidy cap was approved, will there be a review of the adequacy of the existing arrangements?

Answer—

- (1) The \$20,000 per annum cap on drought transport subsidies was reviewed earlier this year.
- (2) The arrangements will be reviewed again when consideration is given to the next round of assistance measures.

\*0730 COWRA EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Will a 40 kph speed zone be introduced in Comerford Street Cowra, outside the Cowra Early Childhood Services Co-operative, to improve safety for the more than 200 small children that use this facility each week?

Answer—

The NSW Government is committed to improving the safety of children on our roads.

I am advised:

Comerford Street is currently in a 50km per hour speed area and is therefore considered to be a low speed



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environment.

The Roads and Traffic Authority is working with Council to ensure that the safety of children using the pre-school is maximised. The matter will be placed on the agenda for the next local traffic committee meeting to discuss possible safety improvements.

\*0731 UNLICENSED ELECTRICAL WORK—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) Has the report to Mr D McIntre of the Office of Fair Trading's Home Building Service by Mr T Smith of Yass about the company Access Heating and Cooling ACT carrying out unlicensed electrical work in Yass on 18 February 2004 been investigated?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) In the past 12 months, how many ACT companies have been prosecuted by the Office of Fair Trading for carrying out unlicensed electrical or refrigeration work in NSW?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) See above.
- (3) There have been no specific prosecutions of this type in the last 12 months.

However, over the past 12 months the Office of Fair Trading has issued 25 penalty notices to ACT residents for offences regarding unlicensed contracting in NSW. There are no specific details kept of which trades those penalty notices specifically relate to.

In addition, in the week of 6 to 10 August 2007, Fair Trading's Home Building Service carried out a compliance operation in the Southern Highlands, including Queanbeyan and Yass. As a result 19 ACT-based traders were issued with penalty notices, bringing the total penalty notices issued to ACT operators to 44 over approximately a 12-month period.

Also, as a direct result of the information supplied by Mr T Smith, five warning letters and one penalty notice were issued to various traders.

\*0732 CYCLEWAYS—HORNSBY ELECTORATE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What plans are there for new cycleways in the Hornsby electorate?
- (2) How much funding has been spent on cycleways in the Hornsby electorate in 2006-07?
- (3) How much funding is budgeted to be spent on cycleways in the Hornsby electorate in 2007-08?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

\*0733 GRAVITY SEWERAGE SYSTEM—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

What is the proposed cost of a gravity sewerage system for Mount Kuring-gai industrial area as originally planned?

Answer—

Details of the costings can be found in the June 2006 Supplementary Options Report to the Mount Kuring-gai Industrial Estate Final Options Report (1999). This report is available for viewing on request at Sydney Water's City Customer Centre.

\*0734 HORNSBY/WAITARA POWER FAILURE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) What event caused the power failure to residents in the Hornsby/Waitara area (specifically McQuoin Park) on Sunday evening 24 June?
- (2) How many people were affected?
- (3) How long did the power failure last?

Answer—

The power failure was the result of a fault with the switchboard of McQuoin Park Retirement Village, not the EnergyAustralia network.

\*0735 BREAK AND ENTER—MIRANDA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many incidences of Break and Enter were recorded in 2006 in the Miranda Local Area Command?
- (2) How many arrests were made for Break and Enter in 2006 in the Miranda Local Area Command?
- (3) How many Break and Enters were visited by general duties police in 2006 in the Miranda Local Area Command?
- (4) How many Break and Enters were visited by forensic officers in 2006 in the Miranda Local Area Command?
- (5) What is the target for attendance by forensic officers to Break and Enters in the Miranda Local Area Command?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that generally Scene of Crime Officers assess Break, Enter and Steal offences with a view to attending the location to conduct a forensic examination. It should be noted, however, that not every crime scene is suitable or available for such examination.

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

\*0736 BREAK AND ENTER—SUTHERLAND LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many incidences of Break and Enter were recorded in 2006 in the Sutherland Local Area Command?
- (2) How many arrests were made for Break and Enter in 2006 in the Sutherland Local Area Command?
- (3) How many Break and Enters were visited by general duties police in 2006 in the Sutherland Local Area Command?
- (4) How many Break and Enters were visited by forensic officers in 2006 in the Sutherland Local Area Command?
- (5) What is the target for attendance by forensic officers to Break and Enters in the Sutherland Local Area Command?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that generally Scene of Crime Officers assess Break, Enter and Steal offences with a view to attending the location to conduct a forensic examination. It should be noted, however, that not every crime scene is suitable or available for such examination.

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

\*0737 ORGAN DONATION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health—

With respect to NSW residents who have registered for organ donation:

- (1) How many people have registered as at 30 June 2007?
- (2) What proportion of eligible people in NSW have registered for organ donation?
- (3) How does NSW compare with other Australian States and Territories?
- (4) What action has the NSW Government taken to increase the number of people registering for organ donation?
- (5) What evaluation has been carried out to assess the effectiveness of community education programs for organ donation?

Answer—

I am advised that the answer to the Honourable Member's question is as follows:

(1) and (2) NSW residents have the opportunity to register their consent for organ donation when they apply for or renew their driver's licence at the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority or by registering on the Australian Organ Donor Register managed by Medicare Australia. The Australian Organ Donor Register is the national organ and tissue donor register for transplantation.

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Statistical data on the number of registrations and the proportion of eligible people in NSW who have registered for organ donation is available and can be accessed through the Australian Organ Donor Register website at: [http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/yourhealth/our\\_services/aaodr.htm](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/yourhealth/our_services/aaodr.htm) and the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority through their website on: [http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/publicationsstatisticsforms/downloads/registration/stats\\_annual\\_2006.pdf](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/publicationsstatisticsforms/downloads/registration/stats_annual_2006.pdf)

(3) NSW compares favourably with the other States and Territories in terms of the percentage of the eligible population registered. Statistics indicate that between the two available donor registries, approximately half of the NSW eligible population have their consent recorded.

(4) NSW is one of only two states in Australia to maintain its own Roads and Traffic Authority registry to effectively allow an easy and efficacious avenue for the driving community to register their consent to organ and tissue donation.

Registration is enhanced by community awareness and within NSW, a number of awareness initiatives have reinforced the message to the public that they need to "sign on to save a life" including:

- Annual campaigns undertaken by Lifegift NSW during the Australian Organ Donor Awareness Week and World Organ Donation Day, featuring the photographic exhibition The Face of Donation. The Face of Donation has toured all major cities and regional and rural areas in NSW in the past two years; and
- The highly rated The Ultimate Donation, a reality television program which was broadcast during primetime on Network 10 and focused on the difference that donors make to the lives of transplant recipients.

NSW Health's support for these community awareness programs was instrumental in their development and staging.

(5) As part of a national reform agenda on Organ and Tissue Donation a program of initiatives proposed by the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing and agreed by all Jurisdictional Health Ministers in 2006 has sponsored a project to research the development of communication strategies to change attitudes and behaviours about organ and tissue donation in Australia.

The objectives of this research are to identify and report on various aspects of community education and awareness campaigns. The research will also investigate and report on how consent registration processes might be improved in response to the findings of the above research.

\*0738 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

With respect to Department of Housing properties in Millers Point and The Rocks:

- (1) How many residential properties does the Department of Housing own in Millers Point and The Rocks?
  - (a) How many of these properties were tenanted as at 30 June 2007?
  - (b) How many of these properties are unavailable for lease?
  - (c) How many households could be accommodated in these properties?
  - (d) What does the Department of Housing plan for these properties?
- (2) How many commercial properties does the Department of Housing own in Millers Point and The Rocks?
  - (a) How many of these properties were tenanted as at 30 June 2007?
  - (b) How many of these properties are unavailable for lease?
  - (c) What does the Department of Housing plan for these properties?
- (3) How many people are on the Department of Housing waiting list for accommodation in Central Sydney 1 Zone (CS1), which includes Millers Point and The Rocks?
- (4) How many people are on the Department of Housing waiting list for transfer and have established locational need for accommodation in Millers Point or The Rocks?

Answer—

- (1) There are 570 residential public housing properties. The number of properties that are tenanted varies from month to month for a variety of reasons, including 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. Similarly, the number of properties available for lease varies for these reasons. In terms of planning in the Miller's Point area, under the Department of Housing's Inner West Strategy 16 high value vacant properties in Miller's Point will be leased to the private sector for 99 years.

- (2) There are 11 commercial leases and all are tenanted.
- (3) The number of people on the housing register varies and changes constantly. The number of people listed on the state-wide housing register in December 2006 was approximately 45,500.
- (4) Applicants approved for a transfer are listed for allocation zones and not specific suburbs.

\*0739 MANDATORY EMISSION REDUCTIONS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Given that during the election campaign the Premier said that it would review its greenhouse gas emissions goal of returning NSW emissions to 2000 levels by 2025, and that environment groups are calling for a 30 per cent emissions reduction target by 2020 on 1990 levels:

- (1) What consideration has the NSW Government given to changing the current goal, to a target that reduces emissions below 1990 levels by 2020?
- (2) Is the NSW Government aware that Sir Nicholas Stern has warned that Australia must legislate for mandatory greenhouse gas emission reductions to achieve the required reductions to prevent serious global warming leading to climate change?
- (3) What consideration has the NSW Government given to legislating a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target in NSW?
- (4) What assessment has the NSW Government made on the European Commission's intention to introduce a target of 20 per cent greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2020, or if there is global participation, 30 per cent?
- (5) Is the NSW Government aware of the UK draft Bill that proposes to legislate a 26 to 32 per cent greenhouse gas emission reduction target by 2020?
- (6) What assessment has the NSW Government made of the UK draft Bill?
- (7) What assessment has the NSW Government made on statements by the Shadow Federal Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Heritage that greenhouse gas emission cuts of 20 per cent of by 2020 are necessary?
- (8) What consideration has the NSW Government given to committing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent on 1990 levels by 2020?

Answer—

(1) to (8) The Government has committed to reducing New South Wales' greenhouse gas emissions to year 2000 levels by 2025 and a 60 percent reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2050 (from a baseline of year 2000 levels).

These targets are included in the State Plan under Priority E3 (Cleaner air and progress on greenhouse gas reductions), and in the NSW Greenhouse Plan. The NSW Government will seek approval from the Parliament to enshrine these targets in law.

The Government has already taken significant action towards meeting these emission reduction targets. The NSW Greenhouse Plan, released in November 2005, provides a strategic approach to combating climate change in NSW. The Plan is supported by a Greenhouse Innovation Fund, which aims to raise awareness about climate change, promote the adoption of emission reduction, research the impacts of climate change and develop adaptation initiatives.

In 2003, the NSW Government established the NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme (GGAS) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and use of electricity.

Other energy savings initiatives include:

- the Building Sustainability Index which delivers greater residential energy and water efficiencies;
- high energy users are required prepare Energy Savings Action Plans; and
- every household in NSW now has the option of choosing additional GreenPower for their home electricity.

In addition, the NSW Government recently introduced the Renewable Energy (New South Wales) Bill 2007 into Parliament to establish mandatory renewable energy targets which will require ten percent of electricity consumed in New South Wales to be supplied from renewable energy by 2010 and 15 percent by 2020.

The NSW Government has established the \$310 million Climate Change Fund to:

- extend the Water and Energy Savings Funds
- provide residential rebates for installing solar and gas hot water systems, rainwater tanks and insulation
- provide \$40 million for renewable energy pilot and demonstration projects

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- assist schools, hospitals, libraries and playing fields save energy and water
- provide all NSW schools with a rainwater tank for non-drinking purposes
- offer high schools the chance to have their lighting retrofitted to improve energy efficiency and provide participating high schools with grants for identified energy and water saving projects.

The NSW Government has repeatedly called on the Commonwealth Government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and commit to meeting our Kyoto targets. The States and Territories have led the development of a National Emissions Trading Scheme, which would provide a mechanism for the Australian economy to transition more smoothly to a carbon constrained future, and potentially link Australia to international carbon markets. Many aspects of the States and Territories' proposed scheme have now been adopted as Commonwealth Government policy.

The Government is committed to monitoring and responding to emerging scientific and technological developments as well as ongoing development of new policy responses.

The NSW Government is examining international developments in greenhouse emissions reductions strategies, including in the United Kingdom, to inform NSW Government policy.

\*0740 RAIL SAFETY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Have any rail safety issues been reported to the Roads and Traffic Authority in the 2006-07 financial year that relate to Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, Gordon or Pymble railway stations?
- (2) If so:
  - (a) How many?
  - (b) What are they?

Answer—

I am advised:

Rail safety issues are not reported to the Roads and Traffic Authority.

\*0741 DENTAL HEALTH VISITS TO SCHOOLS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Which schools in the Davidson electorate have dental health visits?
- (2) Which schools have not had dental health visits?
- (3) If there have been no visits to schools for dental health, why not?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to the response to Legislative Assembly Question No. 0200.

Further, I am further advised that NSW does not currently operate a school-based dental service along the same lines as other jurisdictions such as South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia. There is strong evidence that because of the change in distribution of dental disease that the traditional "school-based" dental programs are no longer an effective and efficient means of targeting dental prevention and services to children and adolescents.

I can further advise that an additional \$8 million for oral health was provided in the 07/08 Budget: \$4 million to reduce waiting lists for children and \$4 million to increase the number of dental therapists and hygienists and to expand Rural Oral Health Centres. I am advised that this brings the total oral health budget to \$138 million in 2007/08.

\*0742 MAINTENANCE WORK REQUESTS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What public schools in the Davidson electorate have outstanding maintenance work requests with the Education Department?
- (2) What is this outstanding work?
- (3) When is this scheduled for completion?

Answer—

Since 1995 this Government has spent \$1.5 billion on school maintenance.

In the financial year of 2006/2007 alone, over \$1 million was spent on maintenance projects at public schools within the Davidson electorate.

The Iemma Government is providing a record \$256 million for school and TAFE maintenance in 2007/2008, and schools in the Davidson electorate will again be receiving their share.

The program of maintenance works is currently being prepared, and the Department of Education and Training will advise schools of maintenance works scheduled for completion once the program has been finalised.

\*0743 HOTEL LIQUOR LICENCES—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) Of the 2,074 hotels holding a liquor licence in NSW, how many have an allocation of operating poker machines currently attached to their liquor licences?
- (2) How many of these 2,074 hotels holding a liquor licence have an entitlement that is not being used?
- (3) How many of these 2,074 hotels holding a liquor licence have had their poker machine entitlement transferred, or lost for any other reason, and therefore have no poker machine entitlement?

Answer—

- (1) As at 16 July 2007, there were 1,708 hotels operating poker machines.
- (2) As at 16 July 2007, there were 87 hotels with (505) poker machine entitlements that were not being used.
- (3) As at 16 July 2007, there were 146 hotels that had all of their poker machine entitlements transferred, or lost for any other reason, and therefore had no poker machine entitlements whatsoever.

\*0744 FISH NUMBERS—CAMDEN HAVEN—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Due to the increased stress that has been placed on the Camden Haven network of rivers and lakes because of the closure of estuary general fishing within the Hastings River and the partial closure in the Manning River:

What action is being taken to address this reduction in fish numbers in the Camden Haven network of rivers and lakes?

Answer—

The Recreational Fishing Haven created in the Camden Haven River has seen commercial fishing removed downstream of Dunbogan Bridge and North Haven Bridge, including Gogley's Lagoon.

A detailed environmental assessment was prepared for the Estuary General Fishery, which includes the Camden Haven River, in accordance with NSW and Commonwealth law. The resultant Fishery Management Strategy specifies the overall goals and the operational rules for the fishery. The strategy contains a range of performance indicators and trigger points designed to alert NSW DPI to any substantial changes in the fishery.

\*0745 OYSTER LEASES—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many oyster leases have been activated/reactivated in the Hastings, the Camden Haven, and the Manning Rivers over the past twelve months?
- (2) What price was received for the lease of each of these?

Answer—

- (1) One was granted, and an additional 10 leases went at auction in the Hastings River.
- (2) Auctioned Hastings leases went for between \$100 - \$2,500 each.

\*0746 WILDLIFE CORRIDOR—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Is there a proposal to locate a regional festival site near a State-significant wildlife corridor adjacent to the Billinudgel Nature Reserve in the Shire of Byron?
- (2) Has the Government invested approximately \$15 million over the last 20 years on the conservation of this area, including the wildlife corridor?
- (3) What measures have been put in place to protect the environmental integrity of the wildlife corridor should this proposal receive approval?

Answer—

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- (1) I understand that a development application was lodged last year with Byron Council for a single music festival on private land adjoining Billinudgel Nature Reserve. The event was originally planned for August 2007, but the development application was subsequently withdrawn.
- (2) It is not possible to calculate the total Government expenditure on conservation on the Far North Coast over the past 20 years. The 'wildlife corridor' includes Billinudgel Nature Reserve but also a range of other public and private lands. The Department of Environment and Climate Change encourages the management of these lands for conservation. Since the establishment of Billinudgel Nature Reserve in 1996, there have been three land purchases by the Department of Environment and Climate Change totalling about \$3 million. The construction of the upgraded Pacific Highway west of the Nature Reserve involved the purchase of further land by the Roads and Traffic Authority as compensatory habitat, and its addition to the Nature Reserve in 2006. In addition, a fauna overpass and underpass were constructed to facilitate wildlife movement across the upgraded highway. I understand these measures cost the Roads and Traffic Authority about \$3.5 million and \$1 million respectively.
- (3) Should any further development application be lodged with Council, the Department of Environment and Climate Change will carefully examine the proposal and provide advice to Council on any impacts on the natural and cultural heritage values of both Billinudgel Nature Reserve and the adjoining lands that broadly form a recognised wildlife corridor through the area. The results of this assessment will determine the measures that the Department will recommend that Council put in place to protect the environment and maintain the integrity of the wildlife corridor.

\*0747 1997 NSW COASTAL POLICY—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What is the Minister doing to update the 1997 NSW Coastal Policy, particularly in light of a number of initiatives that have occurred since 1997 that impact on Coastal Policy?
- (2) Has the Minister considered the following initiatives since 1997 that impact on the NSW Coastal Policy:
  - (a) The development of regional strategies for the Far North Coast, The Hunter and South Coast;
  - (b) The establishment of Catchment Management Authorities;
  - (c) The creation of the Native Vegetation Act 2003;
  - (d) The creation of several marine parks;
  - (e) The creation of new legislation enabling bio-banking;
  - (f) Establishment of the Natural Resources Commission;
  - (g) The latest forecast on climate?
- (3) If so, why has the Minister failed to amend the NSW Coastal Policy to take into consideration all these developments?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Coastal Policy remains relevant today and has underpinned the development of Regional Strategies for coastal areas. It is given effect through a number of Environmental Planning Instruments, particularly SEPP71 - Coastal Protection and the Major Projects SEPP.
- (2) All those initiatives are consistent with the NSW Coastal Policy.
- (3) Refer to answer (1).

\*0748 MARINE PARK—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water (Environment)—

In relation to Marine Parks:

- (1) Has there been any discussion at any Government level in regard to the creation of a marine park between the current one at Byron Bay and the Queensland border?
- (2) What plans (if any) does the NSW Government have for a new marine park to be developed between Byron Bay and the Queensland border?
- (3) On what date will these plans be released to the public?

Answer—

The NSW Government has no plans to establish new marine parks at this time.

\*0749 B-DOUBLE TRUCKS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the ability for B-Double trucks to travel on the Pacific Highway, which expires on 1 August,

2007:

- (1) What are the accident rates relating to B-Double trucks travelling on the Pacific Highway from Brisbane for the periods:
  - (a) 2002-03;
  - (b) 2003-04;
  - (c) 2004-05;
  - (d) 2005-06?
- (2) What are the accident rates relating to:
  - (a) B-Double trucks travelling on the Tweed electorate section of the Pacific Highway for the periods:
    - (i) 2002-03;
    - (ii) 2003-04;
    - (iii) 2004-05;
    - (iv) 2005-06?
  - (b) Light/medium vehicles travelling on the Tweed electorate section of the Pacific Highway for the periods:
    - (i) 2002-03;
    - (ii) 2003-04;
    - (iii) 2004-05;
    - (iv) 2005-06?
- (3) What are the review proceedings and steps involved in the renewal of the authority for B-Double trucks to travel on the Pacific Highway?

Answer—

I am advised:

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

I refer the Hon Member to my answer to a question without notice in the Legislative Council, asked by The Hon Duncan Gay MLC on 21 June 2007 and repeated by The Hon Melinda Pavey on 27 June.

\*0750 LOT 490—KINGSCLIFF—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to the recent selection of a tender and approval for development of the Lot 490 site at Kingscliff:

- (1) What is the extent to which the public were consulted prior to the approval for development being granted by the NSW Department of Planning?
- (2) Does the NSW Department of Planning intend to conduct any future public consultation on the development of the Lot 490 site?
  - (a) If yes, what is the extent to which the department plans to do this?
  - (b) If no, why not?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that no formal project application has been received by the Department of Planning for development of the site.
- (2) If and when a formal project application is received.
  - (a) In accordance with the statutory requirements.
  - (b) n/a

\*0751 DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING REVIEW—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to a number of old development applications in the Tweed electorate that have been revived by a Land and Environment Court ruling that redefined the term "substantial commencement":

- (1) (a) On what date will the review currently being undertaken by the Department of Planning be concluded?
  - (b) On what date will the terms of reference of the review be made public?
- (2) What level of public consultation is planned?
- (3) Will there be new guidelines and appropriate legislation allowing the Land and Environment Court



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to react to local community concerns, particularly in relation to current environmental issues?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The Department of Planning will be undertaking a review of section 95 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 as part of broader planning reforms.

\*0752 SHOWGROUND ROAD WIDENING—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many letters from members of the public have you and the RTA received asking that Showground Road, Castle Hill, be widened?

Answer—

I am advised:

An RTA review of records held since my appointment as Minister for Roads on 17 February 2006 revealed that three letters from members of the public have been received which relate specifically to the widening of Showground Road.

During the same period, the RTA has received no letters from members of the public relating to this issue.

\*0753 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES—CASTLE HILL ELECTORATE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

How many people with disabilities registered with your department are living in the electorate of Castle Hill?

Answer—

The Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (DADHC) Metro North regional records are able to identify that 387 people with a disability who are residents of the suburbs of Baulkham Hills, Castle Hill, Carlingford, Cherrybrook, Glenhaven, Kellyville, North Rocks and West Pennant Hills receive either case management, therapy, respite or a combination of services, directly operated by DADHC.

Within the Castle Hill Electorate, the non-government sector operates approximately ten group home accommodation services, servicing 40 people, two centre-based respite houses for adults with a disability and one centre-based respite house for children with a disability.

There are 13 people living in Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care operated group homes located within the Castle Hill Electorate.

\*0754 CONTAMINATED SITES—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

(1) How many contaminated sites were identified in NSW in each of the following years:

- (a) 1998;
- (b) 2001;
- (c) 2003;
- (d) 2005;
- (e) 2006?

(2) How many of these sites in each year were identified as posing a "significant risk of harm"?

(3) How many remediation orders were issued for these sites in each year?

Answer—

In 1998 there were 14 identified contaminated sites; in 2001 there were 50; in 2003 there were 32; in 2005 there were 42; and in 2006 there were 52.

In 1998 11 contaminated sites were identified as posing a significant risk of harm; in 2001 there were 27 identified; in 2003 there were 17 identified; in 2005 there were 21 identified; and in 2006 there were 13 identified.

In 1998 one remediation order was issued and in 2001 there were seven remediation orders issued.

In implementing the Contaminated Land Management Act the Department of Environment and Climate Change's experience is that mutually agreed outcomes are more likely to achieve positive environmental outcomes for all parties. The focus of the Department's regulatory activity is on achieving voluntary remediation proposals where possible.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change website provides a record of notices issued under the Act at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/clm/aboutregister.aspx](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/clm/aboutregister.aspx).

\*0755 THREATENED SPECIES ACT 1995—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) How many vulnerable species and ecological communities have been removed from the list published as a schedule to the Threatened Species Act 1995 since the Act was proclaimed?
- (2) How many endangered and critically endangered species, populations and ecological communities have been removed from the list published as a schedule to the Threatened Species Act 1995 since the Act was proclaimed?
- (3) How many endangered and critically endangered species, populations and ecological communities have been reclassified as vulnerable since the Threatened Species Act 1995 was proclaimed?

Answer—

- (1) Eight vulnerable species have been removed from the list since the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 was proclaimed. The category of vulnerable ecological community was introduced in 2004 and no ecological community has been listed as vulnerable to date. The Act including its schedules is publicly available and can be accessed through the NSW Government website.
- (2) Three endangered species and one endangered population have been removed from the list since the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 was proclaimed. The category of critically endangered ecological communities was introduced in 2004 and no ecological community has been removed from the list to date. The Act does not provide for the listing of critically endangered populations.
- (3) Five endangered species have been reclassified to vulnerable. The Act does not provide for the listing of vulnerable populations. No endangered ecological communities have been reclassified as vulnerable to date.

\*0756 "PARK AND RIDE" FACILITIES—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How much was spent on the provision of "Park and Ride" facilities in the Northern Beaches area of Sydney in the last financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government is very supportive of commuters leaving their cars at commuter parking facilities and travelling by public transport to their destination. Significant funding has been spent in establishing new and extending existing commuter car parks and there are currently an estimated 20,000 parking spaces in 166 dedicated commuter car parks across Sydney.

As part of the Government's \$660 million Urban Transport Statement, new and expanded commuter car parks providing an extra 4,000 car spaces will be built over the next four years under a \$45 million strategy to improve commuter parking facilities at key locations across Metropolitan Sydney.

The existing park and ride facility at Pittwater Park is sufficient to cater for park and ride demand in the foreseeable future.

\*0757 SEPP SENIORS LIVING POLICY—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Why did the Minister not agree to the inclusion of the following provisions in the Draft Amendment to the SEPP Seniors Living Policy following their submission:

- (a) that the policy should be consistent with AS 4299 Adaptable Housing Standard;
- (b) that there should be a requirement for the provision of disabled car parking facilities;
- (c) that there should be a requirement for the provision of visitors' car parking facilities;
- (d) that the policy should require bathrooms to be provided of an appropriate design for the intended residents?

Answer—

- (a) I am advised that AS 4299 Adaptable housing has not been adopted nationally at this point in time. The draft Policy amendment identifies accessibility and useability standards which combine elements of several different Australian Standards and would, if adopted, require development applications for hostels and self-contained dwellings to comply with these standards.
- (b) I am advised that the Policy facilitates provision of housing for seniors and people with a disability and contains standards which make the development suitable for these groups. The

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draft SEPP amendment includes a standard for private car parking where this is provided as part of the development.

- (c) I am advised that the draft Policy allows local standards for visitor parking to apply.
- (d) I am advised that that the draft amendment to the Policy includes standards for bathrooms.

\*0758 PROPOSALS FOR SAND MINING—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Is the Government investigating or considering any proposals for sand mining in Pittwater or Warringah Local Government Areas or any adjoining offshore areas?

Answer—

The part of the question relating to the Pittwater and Warringah Local Government Areas should be referred to the Minister for Planning. In relation to offshore areas, the question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

\*0759 KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK—ADDITIONS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What are the details of recent additions to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park at Ingleside, specifically:

- (a) the area of the additional land;
- (b) the exact location of the additional land;
- (c) the nearest public access to the additional land;
- (d) on what date was the additional land officially included in the Park?

Answer—

The addition to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park of four Crown lots at Ingleside was completed by gazettal notice on 29 February 2007.

The land, totalling 12 hectares, is bounded by Walter Road and Cicada Glen Road. The only practical public access is by foot from Cicada Glen Road.

\*0760 GARIGAL NATIONAL PARK—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Is the Government considering any extension to Garigal National Park?
- (2) If so, where is the land under consideration and what is its total area?

Answer—

The only potential addition to Garigal National Park currently under consideration comprises two blocks of Crown land at Middle Creek, totalling 14 hectares. This land is situated near the Wakehurst Parkway above Deep Creek, near Narrabeen Lagoon. The land's addition to the park may help create a more manageable park boundary in this area.

This land is part of 660 hectares of Crown land within the Narrabeen Lagoon catchment that was assessed by the Department of Lands in 2002 to determine future suitable land uses. I understand the Department of Lands has since acted to protect 520 hectares of this land by establishing the Oxford Falls Crown Reserve, and that Warringah Council has offered to manage a further part of the assessed lands at Wheeler Creek.

\*0761 KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Is any unreserved land currently being considered for incorporation in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park?

Answer—

In addition to the four Crown lots near Cicada Glen Road, Ingleside, that were added to the park earlier this year, the Department of Environment and Climate Change is considering the possible addition of Crown land at lots 195 and 196 Cabbage Tree Road, Ingleside.

Their addition to the park may help create a more manageable park boundary in this area. However, before any addition of these lots to the park can proceed, some issues regarding the existing uses of these lands need to be resolved by the Department of Lands.

\*0762 “PARK AND RIDE” FACILITIES—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What plans are there for the provision of additional "Park and Ride" facilities, or the upgrading of existing "Park and Ride" facilities, in the Pittwater electorate and electorates adjoining the Pittwater electorate in the coming financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government is very supportive of commuters leaving their cars at commuter parking facilities and travelling by public transport to their destination. Significant funding has been spent in establishing new and extending existing commuter car parks and there are currently an estimated 20,000 parking spaces in 166 dedicated commuter car parks across Sydney.

As part of the Government's \$660 million Urban Transport Statement, new and expanded commuter car parks providing an extra 4,000 car spaces will be built over the next four years under a \$45 million strategy to improve commuter parking facilities at key locations across Metropolitan Sydney.

The existing park and ride facility at Pittwater Park is sufficient to cater for park and ride demand in the foreseeable future.

\*0763 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-62 there is noted:

Minor Works

Road Development  
Road Management  
Road Use

Maintenance and other works

Road Development  
Road Management  
Road Use

- (1) What Minor Works for road development, road management and road use and their value, will occur in the Myall Lakes Electorate?
- (2) What maintenance and other works for road development, road management and road use and their value, will occur in the Myall Lakes Electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on roads projects across NSW is publicly available in the RTA's Annual Reports and State Budget papers.

Information regarding specific roads projects is also regularly updated on the RTA website at [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au) and is available in community newsletters distributed by the RTA.

\*0764 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at pages 5-29 and 5-30 the following entries appear:

Human Resources System - various  
Records Management System - various  
Community Fire Units - various  
Replacement of Aerial Fire Appliances - various  
Replacement of Fire Pumper Appliances - various  
Replacement of Special Appliances - various  
Station Communications - various  
Communications Equipment - various  
Motorised Hydraulic Cutters - various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate?

Answer—

An amount of \$63,000 has been allocated from the above entries for Station Communications in three fire stations in the Myall Lakes Electorate; namely, Forster, Taree and Wingham.

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\*0765 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-18 the following entries appear:

Purchase of Perpetual Crown Leases for Conservation - various  
Improve Fire, Feral Animal and Weed Control - various  
Acquisition of Satellite Imagery various  
Acquisition of Spatial Data various  
Establish Newly Acquired Parks various  
Implementation of Native Vegetation Reforms various  
Infrastructure Improvements Within National Parks various  
Land Purchases - funded by grants and donations various  
New Parks in Hunter Valley various  
Riverbank various

What is the amount allocated under each entry to the Myall Lakes Electorate?

Answer—

The items listed are primarily state-wide programs that can not be itemised on a regional basis. In particular:

- the location of private land or Crown leases to be purchased by the Department of Environment and Climate Change during 2007-08 is not yet known, and will depend on the location and values present on any properties or leases that may be voluntarily offered for sale by their owners;
- the location of Riverbank funding for the purchase of water allocations by the Department will depend on conservation priorities and the location of water allocations that may be voluntarily offered for sale by their owners;
- the location of funds spent under the Government's native vegetation reforms will depend on the location of landholders who may apply for funds in the form of sustainable farming grants or industry exit assistance; and
- the acquisition of satellite imagery and spatial data is to enhance conservation planning and management by the Department's staff throughout NSW.

In terms of the management of national parks and reserves, it possible to provide some breakdown on a broad regional basis. Much of the Myall Lakes electorate is contained within the Department's Hunter Region, for which the 2007-08 operating budget is approximately \$2.1 million. Key items include:

- more than \$280,000 for feral animal and weed control (which includes an estimated \$60,000 for works in the Myall Lakes electorate); and
- more than \$230,000 for the maintenance of roads and fire trails (which includes an estimated \$90,000 for works in the Myall Lakes electorate).

The 2007-08 budget for the Hunter Region also includes more than \$2.57 million for a range of infrastructure projects within national parks. These generally relate to the provision of roads, parking, signage, toilets, bridges, shelters and other visitor facilities. Myall Lakes, Booti Booti and Wallingat National Parks have been allocated \$420,000 of this funding.

\*0766 MATTHEWS BRIDGE—MAUDE—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Matthews Bridge at Maude:

- (1) What is the the status of this bridge?
- (2) Will the RTA take back the maintenance of this bridge from the Hay Shire?

Answer—

I am advised:

Matthews Bridge over the Murrumbidgee River at Maude is located on a Regional Road managed by Hay Shire Council. It is understood Council carried out repairs to the Bridge in 2006.

Council can apply for funding under the State Government's Timber Bridges Partnership to upgrade the Bridge. Funding is provided on a 50:50 matching basis with local councils.

In 2007/08 the NSW Government is providing Council with \$771,000 in Block and REPAIR grant funding to assist with the maintenance of its regional roads. Council can also apply for funding under the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery Program.

\*0767 PURCHASE OF SRA LAND—Mr John Williams asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When can the Hay Shire purchase SRA land which has been in negotiation since 26 August 2004?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 28 June 2007 the land in question was vested to the Rail Infrastructure Corporation.

The Rail Infrastructure Corporation is currently reviewing the situation and is hoping to reach an agreement with the Government Asset Management Committee which will allow the sale to proceed.

\*0768 PRISONER ESCORT DUTY—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

When will prisoner escort duty cease for police offices stationed at Hay and other centres within the Deniliquin Local Area Command?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

An Inter-Departmental Working Party, consisting of representatives from the NSW Police Force, Attorney General's, Juvenile Justice and Corrective Services, meets regularly to discuss issues of custody including the transport of prisoners in rural and remote areas.

On 18 May 2007 a trial of juvenile bail determinations from remote locations using Audio-Visual Link commenced in Griffith and Coffs Clarence Local Area Commands. This trial, if successful, has the capacity to substantially reduce the number of prison escorts undertaken by police of Corrective Services prisoners.

\*0769 BUS TRANSPORT—WESTERN SYDNEY—Mr Ray Williams asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Are residents of Western Sydney required to use 40-year-old buses previously decommissioned by State Transit Authority?
- (2) If so, are 40-year-old buses twice their use-by date age?
- (3) Are these 40-year-old buses roadworthy?
- (4) Do many private bus operators have buses that are over the 12-year average fleet age, as regulated by the Ministry for Transport?
- (5) Why have the P-tips (bus priority activation for traffic lights) not been implemented on the new North West T-Way?
- (6) Why is public transport being neglected in the North West by not implementing the P-tips?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) No.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) To achieve a 12-year average fleet age, it is expected that operators will have buses both over and under 12 years of age.

(5) and (6) The matter of the Public Transport Information and Priority System (PTIPS) falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and should be directed accordingly.

\*0770 WATER SUPPLY CHARGES—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Has Sydney Water recently increased water charges for reticulated water provided to residents who are connected to the Rouse Hill recycling programme?
- (2) Will New South Wales residents have to pay more for their water supplies?
- (3) Will NSW taxpayers pay over \$2 billion for the desalination plant when only 5% of Sydney residents will be provided with water from this plant?
- (4) Will all NSW residents using electricity suffer rate rises to pay for the provision of electricity to a desalination plant?
- (5) If a mere 5% of Sydney residents were provided with rain water tanks, would this negate the need for a desalination plant or an additional large water storage dam for the next decade?

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Answer—

(1) to (5) These questions should be referred to the Minister for Water Utilities.

\*0771 BUSINESS IMPOSITIONS—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) Has the cost of a Builders Licence increased by almost 12% on last year, from \$494 to \$554?
- (2) Is there virtually zero relief in payroll tax in this year's budget?
- (3) How can the Minister stand by the Government's claim that New South Wales is open for business, when the Government is locked into policies which make life more difficult each day for business?

Answer—

- (1) This question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Fair Trading, the Hon Linda Burney MP.
- (2) This question would be more appropriately directed to the Treasurer, the Hon Michael Costa MLC.
- (3) On 17 January 2006, the Premier announced a three-pronged approach to reviewing NSW Government regulation to cut red tape and to enable small business operators to spend more time running their business.
  - The Small Business Regulation Review Taskforce was established to identify opportunities to reduce the red tape burden on small business. This is a targeted sector-by-sector review of regulation from a small firm perspective, involving consultations with peak business groups, individual businesses and key government agencies. The Taskforce comprises senior industry and government representatives. The Taskforce has completed reviews of the motor vehicle retailing services sector and the accommodation, food and beverage services sector. A review of the manufacturing (fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment, and furniture) sector is currently under consideration. A review of the business and professional services sector is being finalised.
  - A review by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to identify unnecessary administrative or compliance burdens on business, local government and the community. The final report was released in November 2006. The initial NSW Government response to the report was also released in November 2006.
  - A review of internal government red tape to ensure that NSW Government agencies minimise their paperwork and focus on the efficient delivery of frontline services to the community. The review is addressing both financial and non-financial reporting requirements that add an impost to the operations of NSW public sector agencies, and will also report on other red tape issues identified.

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(Paper No. 19)

0772 VALUATION OF LANDS ACT—SECTION 35AA—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Under Section 35AA of the Valuation of Lands Act it is noted that a person is not entitled to object to any valuation used as the basis of a land tax assessment if the valuation has previously been the subject of an objection (except with the permission of the Valuer-General). Why is this provision within the Act?
- (2) Further in the same section it is stated that the fact that the person seeking to make the objection was not an owner, occupier or lessee of the land at the time that the earlier objection was made does not of itself constitute a special reason for allowing the person to make an objection. Why is this provision within the Act, and does it not prejudice people who may have legitimate objections on taking ownership of the land after an earlier objection to the valuation?

0773 EQUITY DIVISION—SUPREME COURT—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How many cases were lodged in the Equity Division of the Supreme Court of New South Wales during the year 2006?
- (2) How many claims have been lodged in the first six months of 2007?

- (3) How many cases lodged actually go to a full hearing of the Supreme Court?
- (4) How many full hearings were heard in the year 2006?
- (5) How many Court rooms are set aside to hear Equity matters in the Supreme Court?

0774 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LICENCES—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to the Environmental Protection Licences for power stations:

(1) For the following electricity generators what were the licensed load limits for assessable pollutants in 2004-05, 2005-06 or 2006-07:

Coal Fired Generators

- (a) Bayswater
- (b) Eraring
- (c) Liddell
- (d) Mt Piper
- (e) Munmorah
- (f) Redbank
- (g) Vales Point
- (h) Wallerawang?

Gas Turbine and Reciprocating Gas Generators

- (i) Appin Mine
- (j) Broken Hill
- (k) Camellia
- (l) Lucas Heights
- (m) Hunter Valley
- (n) Smithfield
- (o) Teralba
- (p) Tower Mine
- (q) Wilga?

Biomass Combustion Generators

- (r) Broadwater Sugar Mill
- (s) Harwood Sugar Mill
- (t) Visy Paper, Tumut
- (u) Whytes Gully?

(2) For the above electricity generators what were the licensed concentration limits for discharged pollutants in 2004-05, 2005-06 or 2006-07?

(3) For the above electricity generators what were the licensed volume and mass limits for discharged pollutants in 2004-05, 2005-06 or 2006-07?

(4) In the years 2004-05, 2005-06 or 2006-07 have any of the above electricity generators exceeded any of the licensed pollutant limits described in (1) to (3)?

0775 BELLS LINE EXPRESSWAY—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the proposed Bells Line Expressway:

- (1) Have any Treasury officials undertaken an assessment of the Bells Line Expressway proposal?
- (2) Has the Treasurer received any briefing from "The Bells Line Expressway Group" on the proposed Bells Line Expressway?
- (3) Has the Office of Infrastructure Management completed analysis of the proposal, and if so, will this analysis be made publicly available?

0776 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

What cost-benefit and opportunity cost analyses does Treasury undertake when evaluating proposed capital expenditure projects?

0777 FUNDING FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SERVICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—



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At what level of indexation were payments to non-Government organisations, providing social and community services in NSW, increased in the 2007-08 State Budget?

0778 UNLICENSED ELECTRICAL WORK—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) Has the report to Mr D McIntre of the Office of Fair Trading's Home Building Service by Mr T Smith of Yass about the ACT company Climaterol Air-conditioning (Jeff Manny Pty Ltd) carrying out unlicensed electrical work in Murrumbateman on 12 December 2002 been investigated?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) As Mr Smith is identifying about 2-4 situations a week where heating/cooling units have been illegally installed by unlicensed companies, predominantly from the ACT, and I first brought this matter to the attention of the Minister for Fair Trading in February 2005, why has enforcement action not been taken?

0779 SMOKE DETECTORS IN NSW GOVERNMENT OFFICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Does NSW Government legislation and regulation require that all NSW Government offices, including electorate offices, be fitted with smoke detectors?
- (2) When were these requirements introduced?
- (3) Which electorate offices are not equipped with smoke detectors?
- (4) When will smoke detectors be fitted in these electorate offices?

0780 HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will Hornsby Hospital come in on budget in the 2006-07 financial year?
- (2) If not, is there a budget surplus or deficit?
- (3) If so, what is this budget surplus or deficit?

0781 RENAL DIALYSIS—HORNSBY ELECTORATE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) (a) How many people in the Hornsby electorate are being transferred to a renal dialysis unit within the electorate?  
(b) Where are these units located?
- (2) (a) How many people in the Hornsby electorate are being transferred to a renal dialysis unit outside the electorate?  
(b) Where are these units located?

0782 JERSEY STREET NORTH—POWER POLES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

What was the nature of the work to power poles in Jersey Street North, Hornsby, over the weekend 23 and 24 June 2007?

0783 RED LIGHT CAMERA—BAULKHAM HILLS—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

How much revenue has been generated by the red light camera on the Windsor Road/Old Northern Road and Seven Hills Road intersection in the following years:

- (a) 2003 to 2006 inclusive?
- (b) How many infringement notices have been issued for the same intersection during this period?

0784 SPEED CAMERA—CASTLE HILL—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) How much revenue has been generated by the speed camera on Old Northern Road Castle Hill since it was installed for:
  - (a) traffic proceeding in the direction of Dural/Pennant Hills;
  - (b) traffic proceeding in the direction of Baulkham Hills?

- (2) How many infringement notices have been issued in respect of (1) (a) and (b) above?
- 0785 SPEED CAMERA—KURRAJONG—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- (1) How much revenue has been generated by the speed camera on Bells Line of Road Kurrajong in the years 2004 2005 2006 inclusive for:
- traffic proceeding in the direction of Lithgow;
  - traffic proceeding in the direction of Richmond?
- (2) How many infringement notices have been issued in respect of (1) (a) and (b) above?
- 0786 ULTIMO PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- With respect to Ultimo Public School:
- How many classes can this school provide since it was refurbished in 2003, and how many classrooms are available at this school?
  - What is the total student capacity of this school?
  - What classes are currently operating, how many students are enrolled in each class, which classes are full and how many student places are available in those classes that are not full?
  - How many students are on waiting lists for enrolment at this school?
  - How many students have been refused enrolment over the past two years and for what reasons?
  - What other Public Schools are available close to Ultimo and Pyrmont where students could be enrolled?
  - What changes have been made to the school's catchment area since 2003?
  - What changes are planned to the school's catchment area?
  - What does the 2006 Census data show about future student needs for this school?
  - Based on the 2006 Census data, how many school age children are expected to be living in Ultimo and Pyrmont in 2011?
  - How will the Government manage the increasing demand for student places in Ultimo and Pyrmont?
- 0787 BIOENERGY IN NSW—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- Given that "The Great Opportunity: 25% Renewable Energy for NSW" report by environment groups including the Total Environment Centre and the Nature Conservation Council, states that New South Wales produces 90 megawatts of bioenergy and has a potential capacity of 1535 megawatts:
- What assessment has the NSW Government made on the gap between current and possible capacities of bioenergy in NSW?
  - What are the findings of that assessment?
  - Is the NSW Government aware of the biomass plant under construction in Lockerbie, Scotland that will provide 70,000 homes with electricity and reduce emissions by 140,000 tonnes?
  - What plans does the NSW Government have to increase bioenergy production to reach the potential capacity?
  - What measures will the NSW Government take to increase bioenergy produced from municipal waste in NSW?
  - What measures will the NSW Government take to increase bioenergy produced from agricultural byproducts in NSW?
- 0788 PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESS FOR THE MOBILITY IMPAIRED—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- With regard to accessing public transport for people with disabilities:
- Is the NSW Government aware that passengers who use mobility aids, such as scooters, are being turned away by bus drivers even when public transport staff inform them that their aids are suitable for use on public transport?
  - Is the Minister aware of special permits being issued to passengers who use mobility aids during special events such as past 'city to surfs' to reduce public transport access problems?

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- (3) What consideration has the Government given to creating a permanent permit system to prevent mobility impaired passengers unnecessarily being declined access to public transport by drivers?
  - (4) What are the NSW Government's plans to ensure that all bus and train stations are fully accessible by mobility impaired passengers, including being appropriately fitted with lifts?
  - (5) What is the time line for these plans?
  - (6) Is the NSW Government aware of complaints from mobility impaired patrons that lifts in disability access train stations are often out of order?
  - (7) How often are City Rail staff required to check that lifts are operational?
  - (8) How soon are lifts that are out of order required to be fixed?
  - (9) What training are bus drivers and City Rail staff required to undertake on assisting mobility impaired passengers access public transport?
- 0789 RAIL SAFETY ISSUES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- (1) Have any rail safety issues been reported to CityRail since 1 July 2007 that relate to Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, Gordon or Pymble railway stations?
  - (2) If so:
    - (a) How many?
    - (b) What are they?
- 0790 CITY TO BELROSE BUS SERVICES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- Given the lack of evening bus services from the City to Belrose, what plans are there to increase services beyond 8:00pm?
- 0791 ST IVES BUS INTERCHANGE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- (1) What plans are there for a new major bus interchange facility to be built at St Ives?
  - (2) When will it be built?
- 0792 WILDLIFE CORRIDOR—BILLINUDGEL NATURE RESERVE—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) (a) Is there a development application for a three day trial event – Splendour in the Grass – for August 2008 on a site which includes a State significant wildlife corridor adjacent to the Billinudgel Nature Reserve in the Shire of Byron where it is proposed some 22,500 patrons would be present each day?
  - (b) Has the NSW Government invested approximately \$15m over the past 20 years in the conservation of this general area including the wildlife corridor?
  - (c) Has the RTA invested approximately \$6m in compensatory habitat, fauna movement devices and extensive rehabilitation associated with the Pacific Highway upgrade in an effort to enhance the functioning of the wildlife corridor?
  - (d) Is the Marshall's Ridge (Jones Road) wildlife corridor already protected on a State-level, after the NSW Planning Minister initiated the Cleland Inquiry in 1997 to resolve conflicting land uses?
  - (2) (a) Is there any proposal for the applicant to enhance the corridor or will the corridor be adversely affected by the proposed event?
  - (b) If so, what are the details in relation to this situation?
- 0793 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- The Minister for Roads has advised that the RTA will continue to consult with local businesses and the community about the options to assist businesses situated on the eastern side of Minjungbal Drive including the provision of on-ramps and off-ramps as part of the upgrade to the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway.
- Will the Minister arrange a high-level, on-site meeting between the Minister for Roads, the Minister for Commerce and the Tweed Heads Chamber of Commerce and local business owners to address the ongoing concerns of the business community?

- 0794 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway and previous advice from the Minister for Roads to refer to the RTA website for information regarding the drilling and blasting of material for the Pacific Highway upgrade at Banora Point:

As the RTA website does not contain the required information, can the Minister advise why the RTA told the community that Community Option C would require drilling and blasting, but withheld information that the RTA's own preferred option would require blasting of up to 36,000 cubic metres of material in the proposed deep cutting?

- 0795 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway and previous advice from the Minister for Roads to refer to the RTA website for information concerning the construction of two bridges over the Terranora Inlet in the South Tweed:

- (1) As the RTA website does not contain the required information, can the Minister explain if there is any arrangement between the RTA and Tweed Shire Council relating to the two bridges which require construction over the Terranora Inlet as part of the traffic management plan for the South Tweed?
- (2) (a) Will the RTA be providing the Tweed Shire Council with any financial assistance in the construction of these two bridges?  
(b) If yes, how much?

- 0796 SPEED CAMERAS—LANE COVE TUNNEL—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) How much revenue has been raised from the speed cameras in the Lane Cove tunnel since their implementation?
- (2) How many infringement notices have been issued with respect to question (1)?

- 0797 ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why has legislation on assisted reproductive technology still not been tabled in Parliament, given that the exposure bill was presented in 2003 and the previous Minister advised me in 2005 that the Government was "considering the submissions made in response to the exposure draft Bill and . . . developing legislation for introduction into Parliament"?
- (2) What action is the Government taking in the meantime to secure the records of donor offspring already conceived in NSW?
- (3) (a) Will the Government put in place a voluntary register to enable donor offspring and past donors to lodge their details, so that identification may take place if desired by both parties?  
(b) Given that the previous Minister advised in 2005 that this issue was being considered as part of the review process, what determinations, if any, have since been made?

- 0798 NORTH COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) In relation to Tweed Hospital:
  - (a) What is the estimated electricity and water load at Tweed Hospital?
  - (b) Is it correct that the Hospital is currently at capacity for these services?
  - (c) Are there plans to expand Tweed Hospital to cope with growing demand?
  - (d) If so, to where, and when?
  - (e) If not, why not?
- (2) In relation to Murwillumbah Hospital:
  - (a) What consideration has the Government/NCAHS given to expanding Murwillumbah Hospital to cater for the region's growing needs?
  - (b) When was the upgrade of two operating theatres at the Hospital completed?
  - (c) What was the cost of the upgrade?
  - (d) To what average capacity are these operating theatres used, that is, for what proportion of available time are these operating theatres used?
  - (e) Why are surgical procedures for which there is a backlog at Tweed not transferred to

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Murwillumbah instead?

- (f) Why were these theatres upgraded if they are not being fully utilised?
- (g) If Murwillumbah GPs were to withdraw their services from Murwillumbah Hospitals' emergency department, how would NCAHS ensure this department would remain open?
- (h) Would Murwillumbah patients have to travel to Tweed Heads?
- (i) Would they be given priority over patients from the Gold Coast?
- (j) If Tweed Hospital were on bypass, where would these patients be sent?
- (3) How many full-time equivalent staff doctors, and how many visiting GPs service the emergency departments of Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah Hospital?
- (4) (a) What proportion of the NSW population lives in the North Coast Area Health Service?
- (b) What proportion of health services funding is allocated to this Area?
- (5) In relation to doctor training:
  - (a) Are Tweed and Murwillumbah Hospitals used as teaching hospitals for Bond University?
  - (b) Does the university pay the NSW Government for the teaching services provided at the hospitals?
  - (c) (i) If so, how much?
  - (ii) Is the revenue directed to the hospitals, NCAHS or consolidated revenue?
  - (d) (i) Given that Murwillumbah Hospital is the centre of a rural-doctor training program, why are facilities at Murwillumbah Hospital being downgraded?
  - (ii) What plans are in place to maintain the quality of the training program?
- (6) (a) Did Gold Coast Medical Imaging offer to provide a CT scanner at Murwillumbah or Tweed Hospitals, on a commercial or subsidised basis?
- (b) If so, what was NCAHS's response?
- (7) (a) Does the North Coast Area Health Service Advisory Committee have any representation from the Tweed LGA?
- (b) If not, why not?

0799 STATE ROAD FUNDING—Mr George Souris to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What is the amount of expenditure provided by the State Government for State funded roads, and which are not regional or local roads, on a local government area by local government area (LGA) basis for the years ended 30 June 2005, 2006 and 2007 for:
  - (a) funding provided to councils under single invitation maintenance contracts;
  - (b) council contracted works on behalf of the State Government; and
  - (c) works contracted by the State Government with external contractors?
- (2) What is the breakdown by lengths in kilometres of these State funded roads for each LGA in NSW?
- (3) What is the breakdown by lengths in kilometres of roads classified as highways within each LGA in NSW?

0800 WATER POLICE UNITS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—  
How many Water Police units are permanently and exclusively assigned to Pittwater?

0801 PENINSULA TOY REPAIR GROUP—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to the licence agreement between the Peninsula Toy Repair Group and the Department of Education regarding the site of the Toy Repair Workshop on Department of Education land at Ingleside:

- (1) What are the details of the current licence agreement?
- (2) Is there an option to renew the licence, and, if so, how long is the renewal term?
- (3) Will any part of the land subject to the licence be rezoned as part of the proposed Ingleside Land Release?

0802 WATER AND SEWAGE CONNECTION—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

Is it illegal for households to be connected to the mains public water supply if they are not also connected to the mains public sewage system?

- 0803 OUTSTANDING LEGAL CASES—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

How many outstanding legal cases are there against the NSW Department of Education and Training concerning bullying in NSW Government schools?

- 0804 TEACHER TRANSFERS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the total number of primary and secondary school teachers transferred throughout 2006?
- (2) What is the total number of primary and secondary school teachers transferred to start at the beginning of Term 1, 2007?
- (3) What is the total number of primary and secondary school teachers transferred after the start of Term 1, 2007?
- (4) What is the number of students affected by these transfers?

- 0805 STAFF VACCINATION—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Health—

In relation to the NSW Health regulation concerning the compulsory vaccination of all staff, be it medical or otherwise:

- (1) Why was this policy introduced?
- (2) Who was involved in drafting the policy and for what purpose?
- (3) Have there been cases reported whereby an unvaccinated hospital staff member has been proven to have passed on a vaccine-preventable illness to a patient?
- (4) Have there been cases of vaccinated staff members doing the same?

- 0806 24-HOUR POLICING—GREAT LAKES AREA—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Has the Minister met with the Commissioner of Police to discuss 24-hour policing in the Great Lakes area?
- (2) If so, when did that meeting take place?
- (3) If so, where did that meeting take place?
- (4) If so, what was the outcome of that meeting?

- 0807 FLEXIBLE CYSTOSCOPY EQUIPMENT—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the flexible cystoscopy procedure is not available at the Manning Rural Referral Hospital?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware that hospitals without flexible scopes require the patient to undergo the procedure using a rigid cystoscope under a general anaesthetic as opposed to the flexible cystoscopy procedure, which only requires a local anaesthetic?
- (3) Are there any plans to provide Manning Rural Referral Hospital with flexible cystoscopy equipment including a sterilising unit?
- (4) If so, when will the flexible cystoscopy procedure be available at the hospital?
- (5) If no plans exist for the provision of flexible cystoscopy equipment at the Manning Rural Referral Hospital, why not?