



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2007-08

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 46

TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2008

The Questions and Answers Paper is published at the end of each sitting day and will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on that 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. During any adjournment of two weeks or more a Questions and Answers Paper will be published from time to time containing answers received.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 30 (Including Question Nos 1264 to 1299)	11 December 2007
Q & A No. 31 (Including Question Nos 1300 to 1357)	12 December 2007
Q & A No. 32 (Including Question Nos 1358 to 1420)	13 December 2007
Q & A No. 33 (Including Question Nos 1421 to 1444)	14 December 2007
Q & A No. 34 (Including Question Nos 1445 to 1483)	18 December 2007
Q & A No. 35 (Including Question Nos 1484 to 1535)	19 December 2007
Q & A No. 36 (Including Question Nos 1536 to 1600)	20 December 2007
Q & A No. 37 (Including Question Nos 1601 to 1627)	21 December 2007
Q & A No. 38 (Including Question Nos 1628 to 1685)	01 January 2008
Q & A No. 39 (Including Question Nos 1686 to 1737)	02 January 2008
Q & A No. 40 (Including Question Nos 1738 to 1805)	03 January 2008
Q & A No. 41 (Including Question Nos 1806 to 1839)	04 January 2008
Q & A No. 42 (Including Question Nos 1840 to 1881)	08 January 2008
Q & A No. 43 (Including Question Nos 1882 to 1945)	09 January 2008
Q & A No. 44 (Including Question Nos 1946 to 2017)	10 January 2008
Q & A No. 45 (Including Question Nos 2018 to 2035)	11 January 2008
Q & A No. 46 (Including Question Nos 2036 to 2057)	01 April 2008

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6 NOVEMBER 2007

(Paper No. 30)

*1264 GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Has the Department of Health carried out any investigation into any complaints from people suffering ill health caused by the consumption of genetically engineered (G.E.) foods?
- (2) Is the department aware of any such investigation being carried out in any other jurisdiction?
- (3) Is there any evidence available to the New South Wales Department of Health that would suggest that the consumption of any genetically engineered food is harmful to human health?
- (4) If so, what is this evidence?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The NSW Food Authority was established in April 2004 and is the State Government Agency responsible for food safety across the entire food industry from primary production to point of sale. The NSW Food Authority falls within the administration of my colleague, the Minister for Primary Industries.

*1265 REVESBY TURNBACK FACILITY—Mr Alan Ashton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the expected date for the completion of the Revesby Turnback facility in the electorate of East Hills?
- (2) When is it expected that the new train service on the dedicated Revesby to City line will begin?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Information regarding the construction of the Revesby Turnback Project is available on the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation's website, www.tidc.nsw.gov.au
- (2) I am advised that the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation is also developing the Kingsgrove to Revesby Quadruplication Clearways project, which will improve reliability and reduce congestion on the East Hills line by creating a dedicated Campbelltown Express Line.

Upon completion of the Kingsgrove to Revesby Quadruplication and Revesby Turnback Projects, RailCorp will provide regular train services from Macarthur and Revesby to the city via the new dedicated lines.

*1266 CHATSWOOD COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the Written Question I placed on 26 September 2007 (No 0816) regarding the Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre:

How do the 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004 trends compare with 2003 trends based on the performance assessment criteria as determined by the then head of the Area Health Service?

Answer—

I am advised:

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health), the Hon Verity Firth MP, and should be directed accordingly.

*1267 ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE—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 business case or return on investment assessment is done before expenditure for advertising campaigns is approved?

Answer—

I'm advised

Advertising proposals involving a total budget of \$50,000 or more are subject to an independent peer review system. This review process was established in July 2005 and is outlined in Premier's Memorandum M2005-06.

The Auditor General's Performance Audit of Government Advertising, tabled in August 2007, found that peer review is a key step in optimising value for money from Government funded advertising campaigns.

*1270 DISCHARGING OF HOSPITAL PATIENTS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the Health Department's policy on discharging patients from hospitals into taxis?
- (2) Does it concern the Minister that a patient who had received morphia for a kidney stone was discharged from hospital soon after and taken by taxi to his car to drive himself home?
- (3) Does the Minister agree that discharging a patient into a taxi when the patient is dressed in night wear and is without shoes or slippers is causing added distress to a patient, particularly if the patient is elderly?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) NSW Health PD 2007_034 Discharge Planning: Responsive Standards Policy Directive is largely silent on the use of taxis as suitable means of transporting the discharged patient home.
- (2) and (3) As the facts of the case in point are unknown it is inappropriate to comment specifically.

*1271 REFURBISHMENT OF CHILDREN'S WARD AT BOWRAL PUBLIC HOSPITAL—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Can the Minister confirm if treasury has approved funding to upgrade and refurbish the Children's Ward at Bowral Public Hospital?
- (2) When will the DA be lodged with Wingecarribee Shire Council for this project?
- (3) Does the Minister expect the DA will be approved before the end of 2007?
- (4) Has SSWAHS sought estimates for the demountables?
- (5) When will these demountables be in situ?
- (6) What is the estimated completion date for this refurbishment?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my media release of 4 December 2007 announcing the \$3.2 million redevelopment of the Bowral Hospital Paediatric Unit.

*1272 REPLY TO REPRESENTATIONS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) How many days or weeks, on average, does it take the Premier or his department to reply to representations, whether by post, fax or email, made to his office from members of the public?
- (2) What is the Premier's policy for designating email as 'spam' email?
- (3) Why would the Premier's Department decide to block emails sent to them from a website even though the number of emails may amount to hundreds?
- (4) If the emails sent via an internet site were congratulating the Premier rather than criticising him, would the emails still have been blocked?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Premier and Cabinet endeavours to respond to representations to the Premier, whether by post, fax or email, within:
 - (a) ten (10) working days for matters principally requiring referral to other Ministerial portfolios for any necessary attention; and
 - (b) twenty (20) working days for matters requiring substantive departmental consideration and response.
- (2) The email service provided to the Premier uses IronPort Email systems. These systems automatically filter spam from the Premier's email account using a global reputation database and the IronPort anti-spam engine to determine if an email is spam. The sender, subject and content of an email are inspected by the engine to determine if it is spam by reference, for example, to the email traffic volume and behaviour of the sender and of IP addresses or URLs referred to in the email.
- (3) Emails to the Premier's email address are blocked if they are determined by the above process to be spam, if they contain a virus attachment or if they are sent from an email address that has a low reputation or displays suspicious behavioural characteristics.
- (4) The IronPort Email system anti-spam engine used by the Department of Premier and Cabinet does not discriminate between emails that are congratulating the Premier and those that are criticising the Premier. Emails are blocked according to the categories detailed in response to question (3) above.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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*1273 EQUINE INFLUENZA—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) Will the Minister confirm reports that the Federal Chief Veterinarian advised the NSW Department of Primary Industries that horses in areas around race meetings should be vaccinated against Equine Influenza?
- (2) What actions has the Minister taken to prevent the spread of Equine Influenza following country race meetings held in Protected Areas such as the Snake Gully Cup in Gundagai?
- (3) Will the Minister confirm reports in "The Horse Magazine" that the current strain of Equine Influenza in NSW is H3N8, which is also infectious to dogs?
- (4) What action has the Minister taken to warn dog owners of the potential for transmission of this virus, which has been linked to greyhound deaths in Florida, to working farm dogs and family pets?

Answer—

- (1) No advice as indicated was received from the Federal Chief Veterinary Officer.
- (2) The Protected Area (Green) is free of equine influenza infection. As a result horse races and other events may be held provided they are registered with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) at least 48 hours before the start of the event and horses are moved with a Travelling Horse Statement.
- (3) The current outbreak in Australia is due to an H3N8 virus.
- (4) The AUSVETPLAN, the nationally agreed plan for the containment and eradication of equine influenza, spells out the risk that dogs can contract horse flu.

This is why NSW DPI has been asking owners of infected horses, via information on the web site and other published information, to keep them away from dogs and continues to promote on-farm biosecurity as an important strategy in the control of equine influenza.

*1274 BOWNING DEVIATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many accidents have occurred at the intersection of the Burley Griffin Way and Red Hill Road (formerly Burley Griffin Way), approximately 4 km north of Bowning, since the opening of the Bowning Deviation?
- (2) Has the RTA investigated whether the lack of signage at the intersection was a contributing factor in these accidents?
- (3) Will you upgrade the signage at the approaches to this intersection to provide greater warning to drivers?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has been monitoring signage requirements at the Bowning Deviation since it opened, and continues to monitor this intersection.

The signage in place currently exceeds Australian Standards.

*1275 LIVERPOOL DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES ASSOCIATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Did DoCS carry out an investigation into the management practices of Liverpool District Neighbourhood Centres Association in 2005?
- (2) (a) Was there a report produced on the investigation's findings?
(b) If so when was it finalised and what were its findings?
- (3) Can the Minister confirm that the last correspondence by DoCS to LDNCA on the issue was 30 June 2006?
- (4) What steps has DoCS taken since that date to ensure the Service Improvement Plan has been developed and implemented by LDNCA in accordance with the DoCS September 2005 Report?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. The report was finalised in June 2006 and indicated there was a need for Liverpool District Neighbourhood Centres Association to introduce changes to improve governance practices.
- (3) No. There has been written communication since 30 June 2006.

(4) The Department has met regularly with Liverpool District Neighbourhood Centres Association and is a member of a steering group established to monitor the implementation of a service improvement plan for the organisation. The steering group includes representation from Liverpool City Council, the Department of Education and Training and the Local Community Services Association, the peak organisation for NSW neighbourhood centres.

*1276 PROPOSED HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREAS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Why is the Minister not considering any of the draft plans for four proposed Hornsby Shire Council Heritage Conservation Areas (as per answer to Question No 0166)?

Answer—

The draft local environmental plan for the Hornsby Conservation Areas (HCAs) has not been submitted to me for consideration.

*1277 HORNSBY CYCLEWAYS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (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:

Planning of new cycleways in the Hornsby electorate is a matter for Hornsby Shire Council. Council has an existing Bike Plan. The implementation of proposed cycleways is subject to the priorities of the Council.

All NSW Councils have a yearly opportunity to submit candidate cycleway projects to the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) for 50/50 funding consideration.

*1278 SHORELINK PATRONAGE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the total bus patronage for Shorelink in the Hornsby electorate in (a) 2003, (b) 2004, (c) 2005 and (d) 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

Bus patronage is not available by electorate. Shorelink operates across a number of local government areas and electorates on the North Shore.

*1279 HUNTER MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

- (1) When was the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) established?
- (2) What was the purpose of the HMRI?
- (3) Where is the HMRI presently housed?
- (4) What are the future objectives (in terms of new buildings and accommodation) for the HMRI?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information in relation to the Hunter Medical Research Institute is available at www.hmri.net.au

*1280 MOREE BYPASS—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

With respect to the announcement by the Minister of the commencement of construction of the town bypass at a recent public function hosted by the Roads and Traffic Authority in Moree, what are the reasons for the latest delay?

Answer—

I am advised this is a matter for the Minister for Roads.

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- *1281 TRUANCY RATES—Mr Kevin Humphries 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/were the truancy rates in South Moree for both primary and secondary aged students over the last 5 years?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training does not collect truancy rate data on a locality basis.

Student attendance data is collected from all public schools and each school makes this information publicly available through annual school reports.

- *1282 MAINTENANCE WORK REQUESTS—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) What public schools in the Cronulla electorate currently have outstanding maintenance work requests with the Department of Education?

(2) What is this outstanding work?

(3) When is each work scheduled for completion?

Answer—

The NSW Labor Government is investing a record \$873 million this financial year to upgrade and maintain NSW public schools and TAFEs. This funding includes over \$700,000 per day on maintenance to ensure schools and TAFEs are safe and efficient places to teach and learn.

The Department of Education and Training has identified maintenance work to be carried out at the following government schools in the Cronulla electorate: Burraneer Bay Public School, Caringbah High School, Caringbah North Public School, Caringbah Public School, Cronulla High School, Cronulla Public School, Cronulla South Public School, Endeavour Sports High School, Kurnell Public School, Laguna Street Public School, Lilli Pilli Public School, Miranda North Public School, Sylvania Public School, Taren Point Public School, Woolooware High School, Woolooware Public School and Yowie Bay Public School.

Maintenance items include repairs to floor coverings, repairs to external movement areas, painting and other general repairs.

Work is scheduled to be completed during the current term of Government.

- *1283 SUMMER POLICING—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What arrangements will be implemented to ensure an adequate police presence in Cronulla during the summer months when there is traditionally a rise in the number of recorded crimes?

Answer—

Operation Summer Safe 2007-2008 commenced on 3 November this year and will continue until 4 March 2008, targeting high-risk areas over the summer period to crack down on crime and tackle alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour.

Summer Safe will focus on the beachside suburbs of Cronulla, Brighton le Sands, Maroubra, Coogee and Bondi, including both the beaches and other public areas including shopping malls, parks, car parks, transport interchanges and licensed premises.

This operation has been put in place to prevent and reduce crime, provide a safe and secure environment and maintain public confidence. Results and zone risk assessments are being closely monitored by the Region and I am advised that the operation has so far been well received by the community.

- *1284 TRANSFER OF SERVICES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

What medical services are being transferred from Sutherland Hospital to St George Hospital ?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question No. 0033 tabled in Parliament.

- *1285 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

How much, listed under the heading "Various" in the latest Budget 2007-2008, was allocated to Wagga

Wagga and to which project?

Answer—

Wagga Wagga Rural Fire District forms part of the Riverina Zone together with Coolamon, Junee, Lockhart and Urana Rural Fire Districts. One bid is submitted for the entire zone. In 2007/2008 the Riverina Zone was allocated \$5.293 million that included funding for - fire fighting appliances and other operational vehicles, brigade stations, protective equipment, maintenance & repair costs, council reimbursements, various hose, couplings and other related equipment, zone costs, volunteer insurances and State-wide programs.

*1286 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

How much, listed under the heading "Various" in the latest Budget 2007-2008, was allocated to Wagga Wagga and to which project?

Answer—

Under Budget Paper 4, \$1.15 million has been allocated to Housing NSW's Wagga Wagga portfolio for asset improvement and fire safety projects.

*1287 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

How much, listed under the heading "Various" in the latest Budget 2007-2008, was allocated to Wagga Wagga and to which project?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

The 2007-2008 Department of Local Government budget does not include any special allocations to Wagga Wagga for projects.

I refer the Honourable Member to the response by the Minister for Health to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice No. 1166.

Budget Papers 2007-2008, No. 3, Volumes 2 and 3 contain information relating to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs Budget and Operating Statement.

Neither of these Volumes has a heading titled "Various".

*1288 AMBULANCE COSTS—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Health—

Would the Minister advise why the costs to have an ambulance at the Narrandera Rodeo this year will cost \$2,250 when in 2005 it was \$734 and in 2006 it was \$873?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal review of the Ambulance Service of NSW fee structure recommended a more cost reflective fee scale, including the implementation of an operational stand-by charge for major and special events.

The fee scale provides for the recovery of costs only.

Changes to these fees were implemented from 17 November 2006. The fee for the Narrandera Rodeo in January 2007 was based on a quote calculated prior to the release of the policy and therefore honoured at the previous rate.

While the Ambulance Service has a general responsibility to the people of NSW to provide pre-hospital care and transport, coverage for special events in terms of the staffing and costs involved is not part of the ordinary operational duties of the Service and takes officers away from core business.

The principle of user charges is in line with other Government agencies and is based on the recovery of avoidable costs for services provided. It therefore ultimately reduces the impact that the provision of these services will have on the services provided to the rest of the community.

*1289 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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Given that the Director-General of Planning requirements for this upgrade require the RTA to assess the "business impacts on a case-by-case basis including impacts to the overall viability, profitability, productivity and sustainability of businesses":

- (1) Why has no approach been made to individual businesses or business groups to further this assessment?
- (2) When will the economic impact assessment on business in the area be carried out and what form will this assessment may take?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority has held discussions with property owners regarding potential impacts of the upgrade on their businesses.

Consultation has been ongoing as a result of submissions made by businesses in response to the announcement of the preferred concept design in October 2006.

Additional investigations regarding business and economic impacts are currently being undertaken as part of the environmental assessment for the preferred concept for the Banora Point project.

*1290 COUNTRYLINK SERVICES FROM TWEED TO CASINO—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to figures for both the previous year and the current year-to-date for CountryLink services from Tweed to Casino:

- (1) What is the number of passengers using this service?
- (2) What is the number of passengers using this service:
 - (a) paying the full-fare;
 - (b) paying the concession fare?
- (3) (a) What is the total annual cost for providing this service?
(b) What is the total value of fare subsidies provided by the Government for this service?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) RailCorp reports on passenger journeys as required in its annual report.
- (3) (a) RailCorp reports on expenditure as required in its annual report.
(b) RailCorp reports on fare subsidiaries as required in its annual report.

*1291 TWEED LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the total number of operational police officers assigned to the Tweed Local Area Command?
- (2) How many police officers are confined to light duties?
- (3) What is the current year-to-date number of police officers that have taken:
 - (a) short-term sick leave (i.e. less than a week);
 - (b) long-term sick leave (i.e. greater than a week)?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Force internet site, www.police.nsw.gov.au
- (2) and (3) Staffing allocations and leave management within a Command are matters for the Local Area Commander. Commanders monitor and manage their staffing situation and routinely explore a range of options to provide the most effective policing response.

Providing an accurate year-to-date number of officers that have taken sick leave would require an examination of daily rosters and would represent an unreasonable diversion of policing resources.

*1292 MAINTENANCE WORK REQUESTS—Mr Anthony Roberts 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 Lane Cove electorate currently have outstanding maintenance work

requests with the Department of Education?

- (2) What is this outstanding work?
- (3) When is each work request scheduled for completion?

Answer—

The NSW Labor Government is investing a record \$873 million this financial year to upgrade and maintain NSW public schools and TAFEs. This funding includes over \$700,000 per day on maintenance to ensure schools and TAFEs are safe and efficient places to teach and learn.

The Department of Education and Training has identified maintenance work to be carried out at the following government schools in the Lane Cove electorate: Artarmon Public School, Gladesville Public School, Lane Cove Public School, Putney Public School, Riverside Girls High School, Ryde East Public School and Ryde Secondary College.

Maintenance work includes painting, paving repairs and roof repairs. The work is scheduled to be completed during the current term of Government.

- *1293 INTER-TIDAL ZONE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to the land between the mean high water mark and the low water mark (the inter-tidal zone) at The Basin in Pittwater:

- (1) Does the land form part of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park?
- (2) If so, what are the land title details, including the number of the lot and the number of the deposited plan?

Answer—

I am advised:

The land comprising the inter-tidal zone separating Lot 14 DP752017 from Coasters Retreat forms part of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. Its addition to the park took place by notice in the NSW Government Gazette on 20 December 2002 (folio reference 10975).

- *1294 CAULERPA TAXIFOLIA—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—

How much money is the Government spending on projects to eradicate the outbreak of Caulerpa Taxifolia in Pittwater in the 2007-2008 financial year?

Answer—

Separate financial information for each waterway is not kept. However, NSW DPI funds an extensive community awareness campaign for all Caulerpa taxifolia infected areas.

- *1295 INTER-TIDAL ZONE—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—

Regarding the land between the mean high water mark and low water mark (the inter-tidal zone) at the The Basin in Pittwater:

- (1) Has a lot been created on this land?
- (2) Has it been transferred to Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park?

Answer—

This issue does not fall within my portfolio area of responsibility. The member may like to redirect his question to the relevant Minister.

- *1296 CT AND ULTRASOUND SCANNING—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the availability of CT and ultrasound scanning for patients attending Kempsey District Hospital:

- (1) Does the Minister regard it acceptable that access to such scanning is currently only available via a private operator between 9 am and 5 pm, meaning that inpatients and seriously ill emergency patients have to undertake a 110 km round trip to Port Macquarie outside these hours?
- (2) When will the Minister honour your Government's promise to provide on-site 24/7 access to CT and ultrasound scanning at Kempsey District Hospital?

Answer—

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- (1) and (2) I am advised the Kempsey District Hospital is operating appropriately within the role delineation level and peer grouping as a District Hospital.

The North Coast Area Health Service is awaiting confirmation of an election commitment made by the incoming Rudd Labor Federal Government, that it will provide support to the purchase of a CT scanner and portable ultrasound machine.

- *1297 KILLICK CREEK—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to the mouth of Killick Creek at Crescent Head on the Mid North Coast:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of problems associated with the siltation at the mouth of the creek, including impacts on the local tourism-based economy, and die-back of mangroves in Killick Creek?
- (2) Has the Minister received from Kempsey Shire Council applications for funding for dredging and retaining wall works?
- (3) If so, will the Minister make a decision on these funding applications prior to the Christmas school holiday period?

Answer—

- (1) I am aware of the siltation at Killick Creek.
- (2) Kempsey Shire Council applied for funding to undertake a hydrosurvey and environmental impact assessment associated with the proposed dredging of Killick Creek, and to repair damage to the retaining wall.
- (3) Funding for these projects have been approved.

- *1298 EQUINE INFLUENZA—CASUAL EMPLOYMENT—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) How many people seeking casual employment with the NSW Department of Primary Industries as a result of the equine influenza outbreak in New South Wales have registered for employment with the four employment agencies registering data on job seekers?
- (2) How many people affected by the equine influenza outbreak have gained casual employment?
- (3) Have any of the programs for casual employment been able to accommodate horse dentists or those with horse dentistry skills?

Answer—

- (1) This information is held by the employment agencies and has not been provided to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI). However NSW DPI has encouraged people affected by equine influenza to register through the nominated employment agencies.
- (2) This information is held by the employment agencies and has not been provided to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI). However a significant number of people affected by equine influenza have been and continue to be employed in the fight against this virus.
- (3) This information is held by the employment agencies and has not been provided to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI). However NSW DPI has encouraged those with specialised horse skills to register through the nominated employment agencies.

- *1299 PLACEMENT OF AUTISTIC STUDENT—Mr Ray Williams 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—

Why has the application of Marcus Epifanino, for placement in a special education support class at Kellyville High School or any other high school in the North West of Sydney, been refused especially given Marcus has an autistic disorder/learning disability that was diagnosed at a young age and the application included accompanying documentation such as an autism assessment report from his psychologist?

Answer—

Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder are catered for in all educational settings in government schools, including support classes, special schools and regular classes.

Requests for enrolment in support classes for students with special needs, including those with Autism, are considered by a placement panel.

Priority for placement in a special class is given to students with the highest levels of educational need.

Marcus Epifanino will receive support at his local school, Kellyville High School.

The school is aware of Marcus' educational needs and will take into consideration the recommendations of his psychologist when designing and implementing his educational program.

7 NOVEMBER 2007

(Paper No. 31)

*1300 REGISTERED CHARITIES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) Are the salaries of the Chief Executive Officer and other executive positions of registered charities declared to the department or other State Government authority?
- (2) If so, are these salaries published for the information of the general public and donors?

Answer—

- (1) If a chief executive officer or other executive is a member of the governing body of a charitable fundraising organisation, the organisation must disclose the remuneration to the Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation.
- (2) Not by the Department. It is possible that the charitable fundraising organisation publishes such information in an annual report or other document.

*1301 RFS TANKER CREW SAFETY—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Does one of the safety measures for the new Cat 7 tankers result in the shutting down of the fire pump motor once the fuel tank is reduced to one third full?
- (2) Will any modifications be made to the tanker to ensure that the crew are provided water protection from a working fire pump during safe retreat once the fuel tank is reduced to one third full?
- (3) Why has volunteer crew safety been compromised by budgetary considerations?

Answer—

Rural Fire Service appliances, including Cat 7 tankers, have for the past 20 years incorporated an inbuilt safety mechanism. When the fuel level reaches a critical point, supply of fuel to auxiliary equipment is restricted in preference to the vehicle's engine. For Cat 7 appliances this happens when fuel levels drop to approximately eight per cent of fuel tank volume, not one third as suggested.

This essential safety system is designed to prevent crews being stranded by vehicles running out of fuel on the fireground. Keeping the vehicle mobile is the best way of ensuring a crew can get out of a hazardous situation.

The current system has proved over many years to be an effective way of enhancing crew safety. The Rural Fire Service has no plans to modify this inbuilt safety mechanism.

*1302 FOREST AND FIRE TRAILS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Will the Minister ensure that all dead-end State Forest roads and fire trails are signposted "No Through Road" to alert fire crews and the public?
- (2) Will the Minister ensure that "No Through Road" signage is installed, where appropriate, in all forest areas where Rural Fire Service volunteers may be required to operate?

Answer—

- (1) Determination of NSW policy on fire trail signage is the responsibility of the NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee (BFCC). Under the BFCC Fire Trails Policy, local Bush Fire Management Committees are responsible for deciding what permanent signposting is needed for fire fighting purposes locally, including State Forests. Land managers or owners may install signage beyond local Bush Fire Management Committee requirements, but this is in addition to any standard set by the BFCC.
- (2) The BFCC recognises the need to provide effective and reliable signposting to assist firefighters. After careful consideration of the issues, the BFCC has concluded that the best approach for NSW includes:
 - (a) The installation of permanent signposting where the local Bush Fire Management Committee considers it necessary.

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- (b) The creation of a Fireground Marking Kit, a portable signposting system for use on firegrounds wherever required. In conjunction with permanent signposting, the kit provides a flexible and cost-effective means of alerting firefighters to current trail conditions such as access and potential hazards.
- (c) Gathering of information about fire trails across all land tenures into Fire Trail Registers managed by local Bush Fire Management Committees to better ensure that reliable up-to-date information is readily available for firefighters in the future.

*1303 MALABAR TO WEST RYDE METRO LINE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the proposed Malabar to West Ryde metro line:

- (a) What is the cost of the project?
- (b) When will the project commence?
- (c) When will the project be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

I refer the honourable member to the Premier's press release of 10 December, 2007.

*1304 NSW TAXI ADVISORY COUNCIL—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the NSW Taxi Advisory Council:

- (a) Who are the members of the council?
- (b) When did the council last meet?
- (c) What are the responsibilities of the council?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) to (c) The Taxi Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Transport, NSW Taxi Council and the Transport Workers' Union and was established to advise on programs and projects concerning the provision of taxi services.

*1305 GEOTHERMAL ENERGY 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 geothermal energy generation:

- (1) What has the Government done to develop geothermal energy generation over each of the last five years?
- (2) What geothermal resources in NSW does the Government consider most feasible for geothermal energy generation?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government was one of the first in Australia to recognise the potential of geothermal energy and established property rights to the resource under NSW legislation to facilitate its development in NSW. In 1998 the Government allocated a geological resource licence for the development of a geothermal hot dry rock tenement in the Muswellbrook area following an open tender process.

Since the early involvement of the NSW Government, resource assessment and development have been undertaken by commercial enterprises.

For renewable technologies such as geothermal energy that are not yet commercial, funding will be available on a competitive basis from the Government's \$40 million Renewable Energy Development Fund for pilot and demonstration projects in NSW.

- (2) It is not the NSW Government's role to be involved in commercial resource investigation but to set in place policies which provide an environment which will support low emission technology development including the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme and renewable energy targets.

*1308 ACCESS VISITS—Mrs Dawn Fardell asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What arrangements are in place for the NSW Department of Community Services and other States community services to return children to their legal guardian in NSW?
- (2) As many children are not returned after access visits, how does NSW Department of Community Services and police deal with these situations in returning children to the safety of appropriate carers?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Unless the children are at risk of harm, no State or Territory child welfare agency will be involved in returning children following access visits. This is a matter to be pursued by the individuals in either the Federal Magistrates Court or the Family Court.

*1309 TAFE FEES—Mrs Dawn Fardell 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) Why have TAFE fees increased when in his election announcement this year the Premier said "we have capped fees for apprentices and trainees at around \$380 per year, no matter what the course"?
- (2) Will the Minister for Education cap all TAFE fees for all courses?

Answer—

The 2007-08 budget included record spending on TAFE NSW of \$1.7 billion.

However just like all other TAFEs and training organisations around Australia, NSW TAFE charges students fees. These fees represent a small proportion of the cost of providing courses by TAFENSW - less than five per cent of the overall cost.

While the NSW Government makes every effort to keep TAFE fees as low as possible, it is reasonable for students to contribute to the cost of their education. Even after these increases, NSW TAFE fees are still significantly lower than most other TAFEs and private training providers.

There are a number of provisions in place to support students:

Full fee exemptions for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;

- Full fee exemptions for 70,000 students enrolled in special access courses (in reading, writing and employment readiness).
- Students with a disability will continue to be exempt from paying fees for 1 course each year, with all subsequent courses in that year attracting the \$50 concession fee.
- A \$50 concession fee for individuals on Commonwealth benefits, the majority of which ought to be able to claim a rebate from their job network provider.
- TAFE Institute Directors will continue to be able to waive TAFE NSW fees or negotiate repayment options for students in case of severe financial hardship.
- 7,000 students undertaking HSC and University entry related courses at TAFE will be eligible for a 100 % rebate of their course fees on completion (\$654 for the HSC and \$890 for the Tertiary Preparation Certificate). The rebate will be a further incentive for students to finish their studies.

A fee rebate of up to \$500 for apprentices in skills shortage areas is now available from the Commonwealth. In 2008, the TAFE fee for an apprentice eligible for this rebate will be capped at \$480, meaning the apprentice will not be out of pocket. The fee for a New Entrant Trainee and an apprentice who is not eligible for this rebate from the Commonwealth will be capped at \$394.

Existing worker and school-based trainees do not currently pay the TAFE fee and will not pay the TAFE fee in 2008.

*1310 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—POLICE TRAINING—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Regarding training of police to deal with victims of domestic violence:

- (1) As the NSW Ombudsman's Annual Report 2006-07 in relation to policing domestic violence states "there is inconsistent application of good practices across the state" (p 64), how is police behaviour monitored in relation to dealing with domestic violence?
- (2) What training do general duty police officers receive to assist them in dealing with incidents of domestic violence?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

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- (1) The NSW Police Force is currently undertaking an extensive review of its Domestic & Family Violence Standing Operating Procedures as part of its response to the Ombudsman's recommendations. Once implemented, these new procedures will provide the framework for consistent good practice.

Policing practices dealing with domestic violence are also monitored through standard police management systems.

- (2) There is a variety of training provided to General Duties police in this area, both at the Goulburn Police College and the Westmead College for Continuing Education.

This formal training is complemented by additional training in the field. This includes online learning modules; Master Lectures, follow-up tutorials and workbook assignments for new recruits; DV scenarios including role playing and training on effective responses; studies in assault offences, dealing with vulnerable people and victim care; regular short intensive training sessions at LAC level; and extra DV induction training for Probationary Constables at high volume LACs.

Additionally, the Investigation and Management of Domestic Violence Workshop is currently being expanded and will be available for all General Duties police from February 2008. A new course for supervisors is also expected to be available from February 2008.

- *1311 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICING—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Regarding policing domestic violence:

- (1) Which local area commands are considered to be high-risk commands in relation to domestic violence?
- (2) How many of those local area commands have full-time domestic violence liaison officers?
- (3) How many domestic violence liaison officers are allocated to each of those commands?

Answer—

The Government, together with the NSW Police Force, remains committed to preventing domestic violence, providing support for victims and ensuring access to an efficient and effective justice system.

Every Local Area Command within New South Wales is responsible for the policing of domestic violence offences and its own investigative strategies and operational models to address domestic violence are tailored to meet local criteria and circumstances. There are currently in the order of 160 specially trained Domestic Violence Liaison Officers based in Local Area Commands throughout New South Wales who also provide specialist support and assistance to victims and to other police officers who deal with domestic violence.

Each Command has appointed a Region Domestic Violence Sponsor at Inspector level, with responsibility to support and monitor the management of domestic violence reduction within the Command. In addition, 43 Region-based domestic violence facilitators, whose role is to facilitate and present training courses to front line police, have been trained.

Statistics for "Assault - Domestic Violence related" are published by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research and are available online via www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au

- *1312 CAMPING FEES—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Regarding the increase of camping fees in national parks:

- (1) What, if any, consultation was carried out with park rangers before a decision was made to increase fees for camping areas in national parks in NSW?
- (2) Given that a camping group consisting of two adults and two children can expect to pay \$66 a night to camp in a national park in NSW rather than a flat rate of \$20 per camp site, how will the \$46 difference be spent?

Answer—

- (1) Consultation was undertaken with appropriate staff, including field staff, before the decision was made to adjust the statewide camping fee schedule.
- (2) It is incorrect to assert that two adults and two children can expect to pay \$66 per night to camp in a NSW national park. That fee (\$66) only applies to a group of two adults and two children at the powered, beachfront camping sites at the popular Arakoon State Conservation Area. Many campsites in NSW national parks remain free of charge and prices across the hundreds of other campgrounds in parks throughout NSW are considerably lower. There are around 500 identified campgrounds in

NSW national parks, of these only 130 or just 27% charge fees. The remaining 73% or 370 campsites are free.

Where fees are charged, the increase that became effective from 1 November 2007 was generally in the order of \$2 - \$6 per night and prices for some campgrounds did not change. This is only the second time camping fees have changed since 1999, despite a CPI rate of 2 - 3% year on year in that time.

All revenue collected in NSW national parks, including that from camping fees, is put back into the reserve system to provide facilities such as picnic tables, walking tracks, barbecues, camp kitchens, toilets, showers and sewerage upgrades. Revenue collected in parks also helps fund important conservation work, including pest and weed management.

*1313 NARRABEEN LAGOON CATCHMENT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

(1) Will conservation orders be issued to protect the 470-600 hectares of land in the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as promised by the former Minister Bob Debus?

(2) If so, when?

Answer—

I refer to my answer to Question 901 which was asked by Mr Hazzard on 16 October 2007.

*1314 BUS MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—MONA VALE BUS DEPOT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What was the total expenditure on maintenance of buses at Mona Vale depot in each of the last 5 years?

Answer—

I am advised:

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

*1315 BUS MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—BROOKVALE BUS DEPOT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What was the expenditure on maintenance of buses at Brookvale depot in each of the last 5 years?

Answer—

I am advised:

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

*1316 MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—DEE WHY POLICE STATION—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What was the total expenditure on maintenance at Dee Why Police Station in each of the last 5 years?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that the following amounts were spent on the maintenance of Dee Why police station over the last five years:

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 to date
\$49,980	\$79,867	\$12,559	\$7,686	\$36,619

*1317 BUS FARES—NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What were the total fares paid on bus routes during each of the last 5 years on buses from the following northern beaches depots:

- (a) Brookvale?
- (b) Mona Vale?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Transit reports on revenue as required in its annual report.

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*1318 MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—MANLY AND MONA VALE HOSPITALS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What has been the maintenance expenditure in each of the last 5 years on:

- (a) Manly Hospital; and
- (b) Mona Vale Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report expenditure on the basis of individual health facilities.

However, all Area Health Services use a standard proforma when preparing their financial statements. Information on Maintenance is detailed under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses, of the Area Health Service's publicly available Annual Reports. I refer the Honourable Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Annual Reports.

*1319 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE RENAL DIALYSIS PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Has the Greater Southern Area Health Service's Renal Dialysis Program to which you refer in your letter M07/9197 dated 1 November 2007 been finalised?
- (2) If so, in which GSAHS facilities are renal dialysis services available?
- (3) How many GSAHS patients receive renal dialysis in their homes?
- (4) How many GSAHS patients have to travel to GSAHS facilities for renal dialysis?
- (5) How many patients in the GSAHS have to travel to other area health services or interstate for renal dialysis?
- (6) How many of these patients have a one way travelling time of more than one hour?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The policy and procedure to support the introduction of Self Care Haemodialysis in a Hospital Setting have been completed.
- (2) Renal Dialysis Units are located in Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Moruya and Goulburn. A fifth unit will commence operating in Bega in shortly.
- (3) to (6) The aim of the Greater Southern Area Health Service renal plan is to establish sufficient satellite centres so patients can access a treatment centre within a reasonable travelling time of their home town. The number of patients receiving renal dialysis, the setting in which this treatment is provided, and the distance individual patients travel to access this treatment fluctuates on a needs basis. The data requested is not routinely reported by the Area Health Service and to provide a breakdown in the manner requested by the Honourable Member would be resource intensive and the diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified.

*1320 RAIL TRAILS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Are you aware of the proposals to construct bicycle/walking 'Rail Trails' along disused sections of railway lines in the Burrinjuck electorate?
- (2) If so, which railway lines are being considered for these proposals?
- (3) Is your approval required for these proposals to proceed?
- (4) Has your department held any discussions with the proponents of these proposals?
- (5) If so, will you provide details of the timelines proposed for these rail trails?
- (6) Have you sought comments from landholders through which these rail trails will pass?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (6) In recent years, the New South Wales Government has been approached by groups seeking to convert disused rail corridors into recreational walking trails.

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.

However under section 99A of the Transport Administration Act 1988, an act of the New South Wales Parliament is required to declare a railway line closed before infrastructure such as tracks and sleepers can be removed. The Crown Solicitor has affirmed this interpretation of the provision.

Rail trails could be developed where rail corridors are wide enough to accommodate both the remaining rail infrastructure and the recreational trail.

In such circumstances, an incorporated body such as a Council could potentially be granted a suitable lease or license for the construction of a recreational trail, subject to the relevant body contracting and maintaining the proposed trails at their cost and holding suitable insurance.

Final approval from the relevant rail entity would be assessed on a case by case basis and would be predicated on the use of the disused rail line being for a safe and fit purpose.

*1321 IMPENDING RETIREMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL SHEPHERD—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Given that Director General Shepherd is retiring in March 2008 has there been a replacement plan developed so that his departure and replacement occurs smoothly?
- (2) Has it been determined who his replacement will be?
- (3) Is DoCS looking externally to fill his position?
- (4) Given the recent media reports of children dying whilst known to DoCS and the NSW Ombudsman's continuing expression of concerns about the handling of child protection issues, are you considering accelerating the replacement process?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The process is underway.

*1323 AMBULANCE SERVICES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

What is the arrangement with patient retrieval by ambulance services on the islands and remote areas of the lower reaches of the Hawkesbury River?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Upon receipt of a call to attend the remote areas of the lower Hawkesbury River the Ambulance Service Operations Centre co-ordinates an appropriate response based on the information received. This response is normally provided by the Water Ambulance although, when necessary, the attending Ambulance Officers will request additional resources, such as assistance from the Water Police or Ambulance Helicopter.

The Water Ambulance is moored at the Mooney Mooney Workers Club Wharf, situated at a short distance from the Hawkesbury River Ambulance Station. The Water Ambulance is a project between the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (RVCP) and the Ambulance Service of NSW, and is a fully equipped vessel equivalent to a road ambulance. The Water Ambulance is operated by Ambulance Officers from Hawkesbury River Station who have met all qualification requirements of the RVCP.

At Dangar Island, an Ambulance Service stretcher is located at the wharf to enable easier access/egress to patients on the Island. In situations where a patient requests to travel in their own water craft, arrangements can be made for a road Ambulance to collect them from a designated point.

*1324 NEW LINE ROAD ACCIDENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many deaths have occurred on the Pyes Creek stretch of New Line Road, Dural? How many accidents have occurred on this stretch of road? How many injuries have occurred as a result of vehicle and pedestrian accidents?

Answer—

I am advised:

An analysis of the crash statistics for the most recent 5-year period ending December 2006 for the section of New Line Road between Purchase and Jenner Roads, Cherrybrook revealed 23 reported crashes, including:

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- one fatal crash; and
- ten injury crashes which included a crash involving a pedestrian which resulted in one injury.

*1326 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

How much revenue has been raised from car parking at Sutherland Hospital for the financial year period:

- (a) 2000-2001;
- (b) 2001-2002;
- (c) 2002-2003;
- (d) 2003-2004;
- (e) 2004-2005;
- (f) 2005-2006;
- (g) 2006 to 31 August 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

Each Area Health Service publishes information on revenue raised from other sources which includes car parking in their respective annual reports. Revenue raised from car parking is retained by the Area Health Service to fund clinical services.

This information is not published at a hospital or facility level, and to provide a breakdown of this data in the manner requested by the Honourable Member would be resource intensive. The diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified.

*1327 REPLY TO REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When will the Minister reply to my representations on behalf of Mr K Wilson, Ms R Wilson and Miss E Wilson of Yowie Bay?

Answer—

A response to this matter will be forwarded shortly.

*1328 REPLY TO REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the Minister reply to my representations on behalf of:

- (a) Mr George Cocokios of Caringbah;
- (b) Mrs J Hunt of Caringbah;
- (c) Mrs P Lavers of Cronulla;
- (d) Mr John Du Ross and Mr Claude Monmesson of Cronulla?

Answer—

I am advised:

A response has been sent.

*1329 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire 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)—

How much, listed under the heading "Various" in the latest Budget 2007-2008, was allocated to Wagga Wagga and to which project?

Answer—

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

*1330 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

How much, listed under the heading "Various" in the latest Budget 2007-2008, was allocated to Wagga Wagga and to which project?

Answer—

A thorough search of Budget Paper 3 (Volumes 1 [11-1] and 2 [17-7, 17-37-40]) makes no reference to the heading "Various". The only reference to this heading is found in Budget Paper 4 [5-46]; however it relates to the Department of Planning (Tab 2).

However it is noted that for the previous 2 financial years the following funding under the Capital Assistance Program has been approved for the Wagga Wagga Electorate:

- \$49,293 covering 5 separate projects for the 2006/2007 financial year
- \$45,588 covering 3 separate projects for the 2005/2006 financial year

In addition, for the 2006/2007 financial year, further funding to the value of \$6000.00 was also provided.

*1331 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

How much, listed under the heading "Various" in the latest Budget 2007-2008, was allocated to Wagga Wagga and to which project?

Answer—

I am advised:

A sum of \$55,000 has been allocated in the 2007-2008 major capital works to provide a fenced compound for the Barwon Custodial Accommodation Unit within the Riverina Juvenile Justice Detention Centre.

A further \$205,000 has been allocated as part of the 2007-2008 minor capital works within the Riverina Juvenile Justice Detention Centre.

*1332 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What strategies or policies have been recently been implemented at Royal North Shore Hospital to cut overtime costs for nurses?
- (2) Where are the additional nursing staff coming from to fill the shifts left vacant by the cuts to overtime?

Answer—

I am advised that Royal North Shore Hospital implements a range of strategies to reduce overtime costs of nurses, including:

- additional recruitment advertising;
- increased access to casual nursing staff with the introduction of a web based shift allocation system between September 2007 and October 2007;
- increased use of agency staff;
- additional part time shifts negotiated with staff;
- expressions of interest have been sought from other facilities within Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service to undertake short term secondments at Royal North Shore Hospital; and
- actively pursuing the development of a permanent pool of nursing staff.

*1333 AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF HEALTHCARE STANDARDS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

Is accreditation by the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards regarded by the Department of Health as a benchmark of excellence?

Answer—

I am advised:

The overall rating of a facility is one of accreditation, which is not a benchmark of excellence. However, areas of excellence for specific standards may be identified through the accreditation process.

*1334 AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF HEALTHCARE STANDARDS ACCREDITATION SURVEY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What was the outcome of the recent periodic Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS) accreditation survey at Royal North Shore Hospital?
- (2) Regarding High Recommendations raised at Royal North Shore Hospital:
 - (a) How many times has the ACHS Survey team raised High Recommendations at Royal North Shore Hospital since 2003?

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- (b) What is the nature of any High Recommendations?
- (c) How many of the High Recommendations have been administrative?
- (d) How many of the High Recommendations have been based on lack of clinical protocols?
- (e) How many of the High Recommendations have been based on credentialing of medical personnel?
- (f) What is the time frame in which the High Recommendations have been addressed?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Royal North Shore and Ryde Health Service underwent periodic review from the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS) from 30 April 2007 to the 4 May 2007. As a result, the Health Service maintained their accreditation until 19 October 2008.
- (2) The Health Service has received one High Priority Recommendation since 2003, relating to criteria 3.1.3 - processes for credentialing and defining the scope of clinical practice support safe, quality health care. This recommendation was issued on 9 May 2007 and withdrawn on 23 July 2007, following an Advanced Completion Review (AC-60) undertaken on 18 July 2007.

*1335 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

Over the past 12 months how many privately insured patients at Royal North Shore (Public) Hospital have complained about being refused or discouraged from accessing the co-located private hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

All complaints are recorded in the NSW Health IIMS Complaints database. A search of the complaints database at Royal North Shore Hospital revealed four complaints concerning refused transfer to the North Shore Private hospital over the past 12 months.

In two of these cases, the patient was too sick to transfer to the North Shore Private Hospital, in one case there was no bed available, in the last case the reason for not transferring the patient to the Private Hospital is unclear from the data recorded.

*1336 ISO 9001: 2000 CERTIFICATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service the only AHS that has achieved ISO 9001: 2000 certification for management of its corporate services?
- (2) If so, why are other Area Health Services not certified?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Area Health Services participate in a range of management system quality assurance programs including accreditation. There are number of accreditation providers. The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards, who offers both health service and corporate accreditation, and the ISO program are two such programs.
- (2) Participation in accreditation is not compulsory, however, most Area Health Services participate in management system quality assurance programs in one form or another.

*1337 AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF HEALTHCARE STANDARDS ACCREDITATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What percentage of public hospitals in NSW are accredited by the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS)?
- (2) Does the department know how this compares to the percentage of private hospitals accredited by the ACHS?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Hospital accreditation is reported annually in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's publication –Australian Hospital Statistics. This data is available on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's website: <http://www.aihw.gov.au>
- (2) No.

*1338 TRAFFIC COUNTS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When did the RTA last conduct traffic counts along the stretch of the Pacific Highway between Pearce's Corner, Wahroonga and Boundary Road, Chatswood?
- (2) At what location were the counts undertaken?
- (3) What were the recorded counts for these locations?
- (4) When were the previous counts if any, made at these locations?
- (5) What were the actual counts previously recorded at these locations?

Answer—

I am advised:

Traffic volume data is available on the RTA website.

*1339 WAITARA RAILWAY STATION—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is CityRail's estimate of the average weekly or daily number of people using train services to or from Waitara Railway Station?
- (2) Does CityRail have an estimate of the average number of commuters using the station during:
 - (a) am peak period; and
 - (b) pm peak period?
- (3) What is the latest estimate of weekly ticket sales for the station?
- (4) How do these estimates compare with figures for the 1999-2000 year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) RailCorp reports on passenger journeys and ticket sales as required in its annual report.

*1341 MATERNITY UNITS—TWEED ELECTORATE HOSPITALS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the current year-to-date and yearly average figures for childbirths carried out in Tweed hospitals?
- (2) What is the yearly average number of Queensland residents giving birth in Tweed hospitals, as a percentage of the total number of childbirths carried out in the Tweed?
- (3) What plans and projects have been budgeted to meet future childbirth growth in the Tweed electorate?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Year to date figures (as at October 2007) for the 2007/08 financial year indicate 575 births. The Member has not specified a timeframe for yearly average figures and any interpretation of the question would be subjective.
- (2) The Member has not specified a timeframe for yearly average figures and any interpretation of the question would be subjective.
- (3) The 30 bed ward currently under construction at The Tweed Hospital will enhance the Hospital's ability to accommodate growth in maternity patients.

*1342 ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS—TWEED ELECTORATE HOSPITALS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the total number of accident and emergency admissions to Tweed hospitals last year?
- (2) What is the current year-to-date figure on accident and emergency admissions?
- (3) What is the number of Queensland accident and emergency patients that are admitted to hospitals in the Tweed, as a percentage of the total number of accident and emergency admissions in the electorate?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) and (2) The NSW Department of Health and each respective Area Health Service publish information regarding public hospital activity levels in their respective Annual Reports.
- (3) The NSW Department of Health and each respective Area Health Service do not routinely report on activity levels on the basis of electorates.

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*1343 AMBULANCE SERVICES—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the total number of operational ambulance officers stationed in the Tweed electorate?
- (2) What is the current year-to-date number of ambulance officers that have taken:
 - (a) short-term sick leave (i.e. less than a week);
 - (b) long-term sick leave (i.e. greater than a week)?
- (3) What are the previous year and current year-to-date figures for the total number of ambulance trips conducted in the Tweed electorate and classified as being:
 - (a) an emergency;
 - (b) non-emergency?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Ambulance Service does not collect this data on the basis of electorates.
- (2) The Member has not specified the location of the ambulance officers he is referring to. The diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question, from a statewide perspective, is not justifiable.
- (3) The NSW Ambulance Service does not collect this data on the basis of electorates.

*1345 PROSPECT WATER FILTRATION PLANT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Will the Prospect water filtration plant remove blue-green algal toxins from water from Warragamba Dam?
- (2) If not, why did you tell the Budget Estimates Committee hearing on 15 October that Prospect water filtration plant treats water to a standard ten times higher than required by the national drinking water standard?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) As the Prospect Water Filtration Plant (WFP) can receive water from a number of sources apart from Warragamba Dam, the raw water it receives can be completely taken from elsewhere or shandied to address difficulties caused by blue green algae in Warragamba Dam.

Prospect WFP is capable of removing around 85 per cent of algae through the filtration process, with further substantial removal of algal toxins through the chlorination process.

I note that recent sampling shows no evidence of algal toxins in the raw water being drawn.

- (2) Prospect WFP treats water to an extremely high standard. As a key indicator, turbidity removal is around ten times higher than that required by the Australian Drinking Water Standard.

*1348 ENVIRONMENTAL TAXES—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Given that the Premier has requested the IPART review options for improvement to individual taxes, including introducing new State environmental taxes (Review of State Taxation Other Industries Issues Paper October 2007):

- (1) Did the suggestion of new environmental taxes come from your office, the Minister for Planning 's office, the Premier's office, or Treasury?
- (2) What areas is the Government considering taxing?

Answer—

This discussion paper was prepared by IPART. Conduct of the review is a matter for the Tribunal.

*1349 INCREASED SERVICE LEVELS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Given that under the new CityRail fare schedule commuters will pay an extra 40 cents to travel into the city from Pennant Hills, in which area(s) can a CityRail customer expect an increase in service levels:

- (a) Comfort;
- (b) On-time running;
- (c) Personal security;
- (d) Train cleanliness?

Answer—

I am advised:

Changes in rail ticket prices are determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal following consideration of a detailed submission in a public process of deliberation. Following the conclusion of just such a process this year, the Tribunal approved a modest increase in CityRail Fares.

The fare increase, effective from 11 November, 2007, was justified on the grounds of the record investment in the rail system, cost increases greater than inflation, an increased share being borne by taxpayers, and the improved performance of RailCorp.

The Tribunal found that rail fares have not kept pace with rising costs. I am advised that since 2001, average train fares have increased at 1.4 per cent less than the rate of inflation, while since 2003 the cost of running the network has increased by 1 per cent more than inflation.

The Government will spend almost \$950 million dollars in capital investment in 2007/08 on safety improvements, new rolling stock, station upgrades and improvements in communications. These record investments will bring major benefits to CityRail passengers and help deliver the services they deserve.

CityRail is meeting its on-time running targets and their improved performance is enticing people back to the rail network. An additional 10 million passenger trips were undertaken in the year to September over the previous 12 months.

RailCorp will continue to work hard to improve services to customers.

*1350 PROPOSED NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

When will details of the services to be provided at the proposed Northern Beaches Hospital be formally released?

Answer—

I am advised:

The recommended service configuration for the Northern Beaches is currently under consideration.

*1351 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

When will the Government formally release details of the services to be provided at Mona Vale Hospital once the proposed Northern Beaches Hospital is operational?

Answer—

I am advised:

The recommended service configuration for the Northern Beaches is currently under consideration.

*1352 BROKEN BAY WATER POLICE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to the Broken Bay Water Police:

- (1) What is the current authorised strength of the Broken Bay Water Police?
- (2) What is the current actual strength?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) 15.
- (2) 13 as at 4 December 2007. I understand two vacancies are expected to be filled in January 2008 when officers are released from other Commands.

*1353 BRISBANIA PUBLIC SCHOOL—TOILET FACILITIES—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—

- (1) Are there health and welfare concerns with the toilet facilities at Brisbane Public School?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) Why have conditions been allowed to deteriorate to this extent at Brisbane Public School?
 - (b) When will essential maintenance to fix the toilets be commenced and completed?

Answer—

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Under the Building Better Schools program, the NSW Labor Government will invest more than \$2 billion over the term of the current government to improve the learning environment for students and teachers across NSW.

This program will focus on a number of specific initiatives including the upgrade of 200 toilet blocks facilities at a cost of \$22 million.

A project to undertake a toilet upgrade at Brisbania Public School has been included in the Government's Building Better Schools Program and will be delivered during the current term of Government.

*1354 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS—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—

- (1) How many overseas students have studied at NSW government schools for the years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (2) What fees do these students pay to study at NSW government schools?
- (3) How much does it cost the Department of Education and Training per child per year to educate overseas students?
- (4) What is the total revenue derived from overseas students studying at NSW government schools for the years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (5) What is the NSW Government's policy in regard to overseas students compared to other States?

Answer—

- (1) The number of overseas students who have studied at NSW government schools is as follows:

2003 9,059
2004 9,711
2005 9,862
2006 9,879
2007 11,116 (to date)

- (2) The fees paid by overseas students at NSW government schools range from \$4,500 per annum to \$12,300 per annum, depending on the category of the student.

(3) Full Fee Paying Overseas Student fees charged represent full cost recovery, including the cost of the International Students Unit operations.

- (4) The total revenue derived from overseas students studying in NSW government schools is as follows:

2003 \$23,039,976
2004 \$34,376,346
2005 \$32,813,763
2006 \$32,832,461
2007 \$29,957,727 (to end October 2007)

(5) All States and Territories enrol overseas students in their government school systems. Each State and Territory determines their fees for temporary visa holders, including overseas full fee paying students.

*1355 SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS—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—

- (1) How many schools have been found to have traces of arsenic in their playground equipment?
- (2) What are the names and locations of these schools?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Department of Education and Training does not install playground equipment on school sites. However school communities sometimes fund the installation of play equipment. Therefore, the Department does not have a list available of schools which have copper chromium arsenate treated timber in their playground equipment.

The Department implements the controls placed on the use of copper chromium arsenate treated timber in its facilities in accordance with controls set by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and advice from NSW Health.

The 2006 Department of Education and Training publication, Guidelines for the Installation and Maintenance of Playground Equipment in NSW Government Schools, prohibits the installation of new equipment made from copper chromium arsenate timber in NSW government schools.

Both the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and NSW Health advised there was no requirement to replace existing copper chromium arsenate treated timber in these applications.

*1356 DEMOUNTABLES IN NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS—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—

- (1) How many demountables in NSW Government Schools were there in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (2) Of these demountables, how many were air-conditioned?

Answer—

- (1) The number of demountable classrooms in NSW Government schools were/are as follows:

2003 — 4,165
2004 — 4,045
2005 — 4,126
2006 — 4,196
2007 — 4,208

- (2) The NSW Labor Government air cooled all demountable classrooms and specialist teaching spaces by February 2005, ahead of its commitment to air cool these areas by June 2005.

*1357 FIRE STATIONS FUNDING—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Of the \$63,000 allocated for station communications to three fire stations in the Myall Lakes electorate as stated in your answer to Written Question No 0764, what is the exact amount allocated to Forster Fire Station?
- (2) What is the exact amount allocated to Taree Fire Station?
- (3) What is the exact amount allocated to Wingham Fire Station?
- (4) What will the funds be expended upon at each site?

Answer—

\$21,000 has been allocated to each of the three fire stations mentioned and will be used on the upgrade of Fire Station communication equipment as part of the NSW Fire Brigades ongoing Telecommunications Total Asset Management Strategy.

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*1358 TRANSACTIONAL SUBSIDIES—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 many applications have been received by the Department of Primary Industries for the grant of transactional subsidies for each of the last six months to the end of October 2007?
- (2) What is the percentage of the State of New south Wales that is currently affected by drought?
- (3) How has this figure changed over the last six months?

Answer—

- (1) October 2007 — 1,201
September 2007 — 2,380
August 2007 — 2,061
July 2007 — 3,899
June 2007 — 1,766

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May 2007 — 7,591

(2) As at November 2007, 81.9% of the State is Drought Declared.

(3) October 2007 — 78.6% Drought

September 2007 — 71.6% Drought

August 2007 — 76.5% Drought

July 2007 — 69.6% Drought

June 2007 — 80.3% Drought

May 2007 — 84.0% Drought

*1359 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ASSETS—Mr Greg Aplin 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 closed schools are still being serviced by maintenance contractors in the Albury electorate?

(2) What are the annual costs for gardening, utilities, building repairs and maintenance at Crestview Public School at Cookardinia, which has been closed for two years?

(3) What department assets in the form of unoccupied buildings and unused or surplus land could be sold in the Albury electorate to benefit local schools?

Answer—

(1) There are no closed schools in the Albury electorate, however, there are currently no students attending Crestview Public School. The Principal was withdrawn at the end of 2004.

(2) The annual cost to maintain Crestview Public School is approximately \$800.

(3) Currently, there are no approvals in place to sell surplus school land in the Albury Electorate.

*1360 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Why was a 13-year-old girl driven by ambulance and police to Albury Base Hospital from Cootamundra in the early hours of 31 October 2007?

(2) Why were no closer medical facilities available?

(3) Why was this youth then returned to Cootamundra later that same day?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The 13 year old patient was transferred to Albury Base Hospital to access specialist inpatient child mental health services.

(2) The closest child mental health bed is at Albury Base Hospital.

(3) The child was discharged on 31 October 2007 from Albury, into the care of Department of Community Services.

*1361 ELECTRONIC EMPLOYEE LEAVE SYSTEM—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) Does the NSW Government have an electronic employee leave system?

(2) If not, what measures are in place to monitor leave?

Answer—

I am advised:

All NSW Government agencies have an electronic employee leave system. It is generally a part of the payroll system deployed.

*1362 ACCRUED LEAVE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health—

(1) What is the total cost of accrued leave for employees in your department for each of the past five years?

(2) What was your department's IT expenditure for each of the past five years?

Answer—

Information in relation to accrued leave and IT expenditure is published in the NSW Department of Health's annual reports.

- *1363 ACCRUED LEAVE—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 is the total cost of accrued leave for employees in the education department for each of the past five years? What was your department's IT expenditure for each of the past five years?

Answer—

The economic entity as reported in the Department of Education and Training's annual audited financial statements comprises the Department of Education and Training, TAFE, the TAFE Commission Division, TAFE Global and the Adult Migrant Education Service.

The total accrued leave liability for the economic entity for the past five financial years as reported in the Department's annual audited financial statements is:

- 2002-03—\$224.9 million
- 2003-04—\$198.4 million
- 2004-05—\$215.9 million
- 2005-06—\$222.2 million
- 2006-07—\$223.4 million.

The Department's estimated information technology expenditure for the past five financial years is:

- 2002-03—\$229.4 million
- 2003-04—\$262.8 million
- 2004-05—\$272.1 million
- 2005-06—\$280.6 million
- 2006-07—\$271.7 million.

- *1364 ACCRUED LEAVE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the total cost of accrued leave for employees in the NSW Police department for each of the past five years?
- (2) What was your department's IT expenditure for each of the past five years?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that expenditure in relation to accrued leave is publicly available in the Auditor General's reports.
- (2) It is unclear whether this question relates to NSW Police Force IT expenditure in relation to accrued leave, or expenditure on IT generally.

- *1365 ACCRUED LEAVE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What is the total cost of accrued leave for employees in your department for each of the past five years?
- (2) What was your department's IT expenditure for each of the past five years?

Answer—

- (1) This information is published in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Reports.
- (2) Full data is not available for the past five years. Expenditure for the past three years reflects the increase in staff numbers under the DoCS \$1.2 billion reform program and upgrades to the Department's client information database:
 - 2004-05—\$24,958,000
 - 2005-06—\$36,446,000
 - 2006-07—\$45,297,000

- *1366 ACCRUED LEAVE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the total cost of accrued leave for employees in the transport department for each of the past five years?
- (2) What was your department's IT expenditure for each of the past five years?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Ministry of Transport reports on expenditure relating to employees as required in its annual

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report.

- (2) The Ministry of Transport reports on expenditure relating to Information Technology resources as required in its annual report.

*1367 FISHING LICENCE REVENUE—Mr Mike Baird 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 fishing licences were sold in the 2006-07 financial year and what was the revenue generated?
(2) What specific projects were funded from this revenue and in which parts of NSW?

Answer—

- (1) In 2006/07 there were over 485,000 recreational fishing receipts issued, which generated income to the Recreational Fishing Trust of \$10.2 million.
(2) There was a wide range of small and large projects funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts in 2006/07, including fisheries enhancement, fisher education, compliance and recreational research programs designed to improve recreational fishing in NSW.

Information on these projects is available on the NSW DPI website.

*1368 SPIT BRIDGE OPENING TIMES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Will the Government consider delaying the 7.30 pm opening time for the Spit Bridge until after 8.00 pm, or abandoning it altogether, in order to reduce delays to motorists coming home from work?

Answer—

I am advised:

Spit Bridge opening times are being considered by the Military Road Working Group.

*1369 MENTAL HEALTH ACCOMMODATION—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

Does the Government have plans to close its mental health accommodation at 10 Koolara Road, Harbord?

Answer—

I am advised:

The property in Kooloora Avenue, Harbord, has been listed for disposal, although a definite date for the sale has not yet been set. The residents, staff and families have been informed that the sale is likely, some time in the future.

The property is ageing and in need of significant work. Assets from the sale of housing for mental health clients will be re-invested in other mental health supported accommodation.

The residents living in the home, at the time, will be provided with more suitable accommodation. Support with daily living will continue to be provided to clients, as needed, with specialist mental health care from the Northern Beaches Mental Health Service.

*1370 COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL COSTS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a request for an ex-gratia payment from Ms Donna Cameron in relation to a legal custody and constitutional issue, first raised by the Member for Monaro with the previous Attorney General (AG)?
(2) Will the Minister provide compensation of \$85,000 to Ms Cameron for the incurred and unforeseen additional legal and associated costs for the inconsistencies between the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW) (CYPCP Act) and the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) (FL Act)?
(3) Is the Minister aware that the NSW AG's department did not adequately provide for NSW child welfare orders and omitted the sections relied upon for the CYPCP orders which were to be included in Schedule 5 of the Family Law Regulation 1984 and that this led to protracted and costly legal proceedings for Donna Cameron and her family?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The former Attorney General determined that it was not appropriate to agree to an ex gratia payment, however a discretionary payment was approved under the Suitors Fund Act 1951.
- (3) Questions concerning the specific content of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 fall within the jurisdiction of Minister for Community Services. The Commonwealth Attorney General is responsible for the Family Law Act 1975. I am not in a position to comment on either the actions of the Department of Community Services or the Commonwealth.

*1371 WHITE CITY TENNIS COMPLEX—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

With regards to the White City tennis complex and the Minister's response to Question 0818:

- (1) Given that the Minister stated that the site's nomination for the State Heritage Register is "yet to be considered by the Heritage Council of NSW", what is the usual timeframe for nominations to be considered?
- (2) When will the nomination be considered by the State Heritage Council of NSW?
- (3) Has the Minister made a submission to the State Heritage Council concerning the nomination?
- (4) If not, will the Minister make a submission to the State Heritage Council concerning the nomination?
- (5) Has the Minister for Sport and Recreation made a submission to the State Heritage Council concerning the nomination?

Answer—

- (1) I have been advised there are no timeframes stipulated under the Heritage Act outlining when a nomination to the State Heritage Register is to be considered by the Heritage Council.
- (2) I am advised the Heritage Council will consider the listing nomination in 2008.
- (3) No.
- (4) No.
- (5) I have been advised that the Minister for Sport & Recreation has not made a submission concerning this nomination.

*1372 STRICKLAND HOUSE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to Strickland House at Vaucluse and the Minister's response to Question 0467:

- (1) What is the financial year breakdown (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) of the 168 days the property was hired?
- (2) What was the financial year breakdown (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) of the total revenue of \$177,784.65, including a breakdown of revenue by type of event (e.g. weddings, charity functions, filming)?
- (3) What was the financial year breakdown (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) of the total expenses of \$892,770?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Property Authority reports on financial matters as required in its annual report.

*1373 ETHANOL-BLENDED FUELS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to ethanol usage in the NSW Government vehicle fleet and the Minister's responses to Questions 0645 and 0820:

- (1) Given that the Minister stated that a memorandum has been issued "to NSW public servants directing them to use ethanol-blended fuels in State Fleet vehicles", how will the use of ethanol-blended fuels in State Fleet vehicles be enforced?
- (2) Given the Minister stated the scheme "reinforces existing NSW Government requirements", what exactly were the "existing requirements" and how does the "Premier's announcement" reinforce those "existing requirements"?
- (3) Given the Minister stated "relevant staff to use E10 blends", which public servants are "relevant" and which public servants are "not relevant" to the E10 programme?
- (4) Will all vehicles in the Government fleet use ethanol blend E10 fuel?
- (5) By what date will all public sector vehicles be using ethanol blend fuel?
- (6) Will Government fuel cards be restricted to the purchase of only ethanol blend fuel?

Answer—

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I am advised:

Premiers and Cabinet Memorandum 2007- 16 was issued to reinforce the use of E10 in Government vehicles. It complements Memorandum 2006-5 which was released in 2006.

Since 1 July 2006, all executive officers and public service staff who drive government owned vehicles have been required to use E10 blends where it is practicable, available and cost effective.

Petrol vehicles capable of E10 use as identified by the vehicle manufacturers can use E10. Diesel powered and LPG powered vehicles cannot use E10.

*1374 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REDUCTIONS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Has the Department of Corrective Services not met its obligations to the people of Goulburn by transferring 105 administrative positions to Goulburn as promised by then Premier Bob Carr in 2003?
- (2) What has been the reduction in administrative staff positions in Goulburn since 2003?
- (3) Will there be further reductions in the number of administrative staff employed by the department in Goulburn?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The member is referred to various public announcements.

There has not been a reduction in the number of Corrective Services' staff in Goulburn.

*1375 GREENHOUSE GAS CREDITS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

As BlueScope Steel has been granted greenhouse gas credits by the NSW Government in exchange for considerable investment in cogeneration and the NSW Government has agreed to underwrite those credits in the advent of a national scheme:

- (1) (a) How much compensation is involved?
(b) How many other companies have been underwritten by the NSW Government in this way?
- (2) Why is the NSW Government agreeing to pay the compensation for greenhouse gas emission in exchange for industrial investment when it has declared its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and constantly claims to have done so by 40 million tonnes?
- (3) (a) How much ministerial discretion was involved in the development of this compensation arrangement with BlueScope Steel?
(b) What is the process involved in the identification of greenhouse gas credits in NSW and the development of compensation arrangements in case of a national scheme?
- (4) Has BlueScope Steel been exempted from any future carbon tax by the State?

Answer—

The NSW Government negotiated an agreement with one company, BlueScope Steel Ltd to secure the deployment of world leading low emissions technology at its Port Kembla plant. The agreement will deliver both greenhouse gas emission reductions, as well as a cleaner and more competitive steel industry in the Illawarra.

The agreement provides BlueScope Steel with 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.

BlueScope Steel has agreed to continue to monitor iron and steelmaking technological developments and, where commercially feasible, implement best practice greenhouse gas reducing technology.

The details of the agreement with BlueScope Steel have been publicly available since the agreement was announced on 16 November 2006. A copy of the agreement can be viewed on the BlueScope website, www.bluescopesteel.com.

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.

As the Commonwealth Government will be introducing a national emissions trading scheme, it will be responsible for decisions on how individual companies and industries are to be dealt with under that scheme.

*1376 GOVERNMENT WATER POLICY—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

With reference to the Government's water policy:

- (1) In NSW, is the water that falls on a person's roof the property of that person or the property of Government?
- (2) If it is not the property of the property owner, under what legislation or section of the NSW Constitution in NSW are rights to water that falls on a person's roof vested in the Government?
- (3) Under clause 2 of the NWI agreement, can the NSW Government set entitlement regimes for the use of water that falls on a person's roof in NSW?
- (4) What magnitude of rainwater collected from roofs would be sufficient to warrant the issuing of specific entitlements to use this class of water?
- (5) (a) Does the Government rule out setting an entitlement regime for persons to use water collected from roofs in rainwater tanks?
(b) If so, will the Government ask the Federal Government to amend the NWI agreement to make clear that no rights to water that falls on a person's roof are vested in the State Government?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Rainwater that falls on a person's roof may be collected in rainwater tanks and used by that person, subject to applicable environmental and planning legislation.
- (3) to (5) The National Water Initiative does not explicitly require nor preclude the establishment of water access entitlements for the use of water that falls on a person's roof.

*1378 WADALBA COMMUNITY 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—

- (1) At Wadalba Community School are two staff rooms being converted into a conference room?
- (2) What is the purpose of converting staff rooms into a conference room?
- (3) Will any classroom space be lost due to the conversion of staff rooms into a conference room?
- (4) Where will the new staff rooms be located?
- (5) What is the cost of the works to convert two staff rooms into a conference room?
- (6) How many demountable classrooms are there at Wadalba Community School?
- (7) Why are the staff rooms not being converted into classrooms?

Answer—

Accommodation changes proposed at Wadalba Community School are currently being reviewed by the Regional Director.

*1379 FOOD EXPENDITURE—MANLY AND MONA VALE HOSPITALS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What has been the budget and actual expenditure in each of the last 5 years for food supplies to patients at:

- (a) Manly Hospital; and
- (b) Mona Vale Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report expenditure on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, all Area Health Services use a standard proforma when preparing their financial statements. Information on Food Supplies is detailed under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses of the Area Health Service's publicly available Annual Reports. I refer the Honourable Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Annual Reports.

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*1380 MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—DEE WHY POLICE STATION—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What is the assessment of total maintenance expenditure needed for the current financial year for Dee Why Police Station?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

\$36,619 has been spent in 2007 to date on maintenance at Dee Why police station. Current maintenance requirements for the station are to fix carpet tiles and replace the ceilings in the meal room and staff amenities area, at an estimated cost of \$1,000.

*1382 CHILD ADMISSIONS TO ADULT PSYCHIATRIC WARDS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many children under the age of 18 years were admitted to adult psychiatric wards for:
 - (a) 2007 (to date);
 - (b) 2006;
 - (c) 2005;
 - (d) 2004?
- (2) How many were admitted to Hornsby Hospital Lindsay Madden Mental Health unit for each of the above years?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Admissions to psychiatric units are based on a clinical assessment of patient need and the involuntary admission requirements prescribed in the Mental Health Act.

In all circumstances, the particular needs of young people in adult wards are assessed and access to child and adolescent mental health staff provided. In addition, the levels of observation of young people in adult mental health facilities can range from one-to-one nursing, in direct line of sight, through to observations on an hourly basis.

The diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question in the manner requested by the Member cannot be justified.

*1383 ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY—STAFFING NUMBERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What are the documented staff establishment numbers for accident and emergency to appropriately cover the unit at Hornsby Hospital for:
 - (a) registered nurses
 - (b) doctors
 - (c) enrolled nurses?
- (2) What are the actual staffing numbers currently for the above (a), (b) and (c) categories?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) and (2) The Area Health Service does not routinely report on resources at facility level. However, all Area Health Services report their staffing numbers in their Annual Reports.

*1384 RESPITE SERVICES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Are the DADHC respite services in Burdett Street and Dartford Road "blocked"?
- (2) Why has this occurred?
- (3) How long has this been the case?
- (4) When will the situation be resolved?
- (5) What alternative arrangements have been made for the families that now cannot access respite care?

Answer—

This is a matter for my colleague the Hon Kristina Keneally MP, Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services.

*1385 JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health—

What are the activity levels at John Hunter Hospital in terms of:

- (1) Number of patients treated in the 2006-07 financial year?
- (2) Number of employees in the 2006-07 financial year?
- (3) What was the budget of John Hunter Hospital in the 2006-07 financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The NSW Department of Health and each respective Area Health Service publish information regarding public hospital activity levels in their respective Annual Reports.

Area Health Services generally manage their financial year accounts on a whole of Area basis for hospitals under their control and also publish localized workforce data in their Annual Report.

*1386 SCHOOL FUNDING—WATER SAVING DEVICES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) How many schools in the Cronulla electorate have been provided with funding by the State Government to install water saving devices?
- (2) What is the total amount of this funding?

Answer—

These matters fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water Utilities.

*1387 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What services are provided by the new Community Health Centre at Sutherland Hospital?
- (2) How many parking spaces are dedicated for the Community Health Centre?
- (3) What is the total number of parking spaces available in the grounds of Sutherland Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Sutherland Hospital and Community Health Service is a general metropolitan hospital, which provides a range of hospital and community based services to the residents of the Sutherland Shire. The services provided by the community health centre include:

- Paediatric Speech Pathology
- Paediatric Occupational Therapy
- Child Physical School Nurses
- Aboriginal Health
- Diabetic Clinic
- Drug & Alcohol Team
- Child Youth & Family Counselling
- Sexual Health
- Child Abuse Protection
- Sutherland Early Support Service
- Possum Cottage – Family Care Centre.

- (2) Although there are no dedicated car parking spaces for the Community Health Centre, general public parking is available in the designated parking areas. In addition there are 3 drop off zones that are adjacent to the Centre available for approximately 12 vehicles.

- (3) By mid December 2007, when construction is scheduled for completion, 686 parking spaces are proposed including 29 disabled parking spaces.

*1388 LICENSING PROPOSALS FOR OLDER DRIVERS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many submissions have been received by the Roads and Traffic Authority in response to the Discussion Paper on Licensing Proposals for Older Drivers?

Answer—

I am advised:

More than 24,000.

*1389 LEVEL CROSSINGS—SAFETY UPGRADES—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How much money is allocated to improve safety at level crossings in New South Wales per year?

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- (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:

- (1) to (7) Information regarding railway level crossings in NSW is available online at www.levelcrossings.nsw.gov.au

*1390 DEATHS DUE TO ZYPREXA, AROPAX OR RISPERIDONE—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many deaths reported on by the Coroner have been identified to be related to the drugs Zyprexa, Aropax or Risperidone?

Answer—

I am advised that this information is reported through the National Coroners Information System.

*1391 INCIDENTS RELATED TO ZYPREXA, AROPAX OR RISPERIDONE—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

How many reported incidents have been identified by health authorities and area health services to be related to the drugs Zyprexa, Aropax or Risperidone?

Answer—

I am advised that:

This matter concerns the Commonwealth Government's Therapeutic Goods Administration's Adverse Drug Reactions Reporting System. As such, the Honorable Member's question should be directed to the Commonwealth Minister for Health.

*1392 40 KPH WARNING LIGHTS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many schools in the Parramatta Local Government Area have 40 kph speed zone warning lights?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information was published on the RTA website and in a press release and is currently being updated in light of further investment in the Government's school zone flashing light program.

*1393 40 KPH WARNING LIGHTS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many schools in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area have 40 kph speed zone warning lights?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information was published on the RTA website and in a press release and is currently being updated in light of further investment in the Government's school zone flashing light program.

*1394 40 KPH SPEED ZONES—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many schools in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area have 40 kph speed zones?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information was published on the RTA website and in a press release and is currently being updated in light of further investment in the Government's school zone flashing light program.

- *1395 40 KPH SPEED ZONES—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many schools in the Parramatta Local Government Area have 40 kph speed zones?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information was published on the RTA website and in a press release and is currently being updated in light of further investment in the Government's school zone flashing light program.

- *1396 SPEED 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—

(1) How many infringement notices have issued in respect of alleged breaches of the 40 kph speed limit outside Jasper Road Public School on Seven Hills Road, Baulkham Hills, for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007?

(2) What is the total amount of the fines payable in respect of the infringement notices for the period?

Answer—

I'm advised

There were about 58 on-the-spot infringements issued for breaches of the 40kph speed zone outside Jasper Road Public School between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007.

The total amount payable for these fines was about \$10,124.

- *1398 GRAFFITI REMOVAL—ASSISTANCE TO COUNCILS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

(1) In relation to graffiti and the response to Question No 0926, what financial assistance does the NSW Government offer to local councils to help with prompt graffiti removal?

(2) What plans are there to offer local councils more assistance in future?

Answer—

The Attorney General's Department awarded Graffiti Reduction grants to seven local councils to pilot a number of different approaches to reducing and preventing graffiti vandalism. These grants have been used to redesign public spaces frequently targeted by graffiti vandals, support rapid removal programs and community volunteers who contribute to the reduction of graffiti in their communities.

The Government will consider the effectiveness of these pilot projects to inform its future approach to graffiti crime prevention.

A new graffiti website has been developed and offers practical help to councils, businesses and the community to reduce and prevent graffiti vandalism. The website, available at www.graffiti.nsw.gov.au includes a Graffiti Management Model for Councils, as well as a series of graffiti vandalism prevention fact sheets.

The Government has already amended the laws to give police power to confiscate spray paint from young people under the age of 18. The NSW Anti-Graffiti Action Team is currently undertaking a review of graffiti related legislation and is examining the possibility of a total ban on the sale of spray paint.

- *1399 ROADS AND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY—GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) Following reporting, what is the target response time for the removal of graffiti for the RTA?

(2) How does the actual performance compare with relevant targets set by the RTA?

Answer—

I am advised:

RTA maintenance guidelines provide varying response times for removal of graffiti depending on the nature and location of the material. The guideline requirements are generally met or exceeded.

- *1400 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

(1) What is the number of beds set aside for mental health patients in Tweed hospitals?

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- (2) What is the total number of these beds that are presently occupied?
- (3) What is the size and timeframe of the waiting lists for these beds?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Twenty five (25) beds are provided for Mental Health patients in the Tweed Valley Clinic.
- (2) Bed occupancy fluctuates on a regular basis according to clinical demand and patient needs. NSW Health has an online bed identification system that assists clinicians manage this demand.
- (3) The Tweed Valley Clinic Mental Health Inpatient facility does not have a waiting list.

*1401 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that the Minister has advised "The RTA has informed the Department of Transport and Regional Services of the preferred option and its cost estimate":

- (1) What is the cost estimate of the Government preferred option that was supplied by the RTA to the Department of Transport and Regional Services?
- (2) Does the independent consultant assessment document regarding the Government preferred option state "We note advice via the RTA that, Parsons Brinkerhoff has 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:

Detailed information regarding the project cost estimate and preferred option, including the independent consultant report, is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1402 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that the Minister has advised "Traffic modelling has shown that the Kirkwood Road interchange would not be required as part of or before the construction of the Banora Point upgrade":

- (1) What is the current level of vehicle movements on the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway?
- (2) What is the projected growth of vehicle movements on the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway?
- (3) Will a copy of the Kirkwood Road traffic modelling report and statistics be available on the RTA website?

Answer—

I am advised:

Details regarding traffic volume and growth are available in the preferred concept design report available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

Further traffic assessment will form part of the environmental assessment for the project.

The RTA announced the Lower Tweed and Pacific Highway Traffic Master Plan in October 2006. This document is also available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1403 BLUE-GREEN ALGAL INCIDENT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to the Warragamba Dam blue-green algal incident in August:

- (1) Was the 28 August incident only declared after SCA Media and Public Affairs co-ordinator Shannon O'Connell heard reports on the 8:30 news at 2UE?
- (2) How many Government and Government agency staffers worked on the 10-line press release that was approved by your office on 29 August following Channel 7's request for information on the 'green murk'?
- (3) How long did people work on the 10-line press release that was approved by your office on 29 August following Channel 7's request for information on the 'green murk'?
- (4) Why was Carolyn Haupt, Plant Manager for Orchard Hills and Warragamba not included in the direct issue group for Warragamba Algae Site reports until 3 September?
- (5) Why did acting SCA Chief Executive Ian Tanner say on 2 November that it is safe to drink water from the top 12 metres of Warragamba Dam when he was aware of tests on 7 and 9 September that showed extremely high levels of potentially toxic algae down as far as 20 metres?

Answer—

Sydneysiders continue to drink high quality water that meets and exceeds the standards in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

The NSW Government has made significant investment in Sydney's water supply infrastructure and the catchments to maintain a supply of good quality water to all residents. This means that Sydney has a world class water supply system with the flexibility to draw the highest quality water available from a number of different sources.

The Sydney Catchment Authority and Sydney Water undertake extensive water quality monitoring throughout the water supply network. The SCA is working very closely with Sydney Water and NSW Health during the current algal bloom at Warragamba to conduct sampling, monitor the algal conditions and ensure the continuous supply of high quality water to Sydney and surrounding regions.

I am advised that no toxins have been detected in either the water being drawn from the dam or the treated drinking water below the filtration plant at Prospect. The Sydney Catchment Authority is drawing water from well below the algae level and there continues to be no concern with the quality of the water that comes out of Sydney's taps.

Regular testing and monitoring of the water will provide the Sydney Catchment Authority with data to enable it to implement responses well in advance of any potential impact on the quality of the raw water it supplies.

Sydney Water and the Sydney Catchment Authority have developed and tested incident response procedures in consultation with NSW Health to enable timely, effective and efficient responses to water quality events. These agencies have followed the appropriate protocols during the management of the algal bloom.

*1404 BLUE-GREEN ALGAL INCIDENT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to the Warragamba Dam blue-green algal incident in August:

- (1) What is the average time taken to change the level of the off-take?
- (2) When the Sydney Water Corporation declared an incident on 4 September, why wasn't NSW Health informed until 7 September?
- (3) Why did Associate Professor Brett Neilan say on 29 August that blue-green algae blooms occur several times each summer when the SCA knew that only one very small bloom had ever occurred in the 46-year history of the lake?
- (4) Why was Brett Neilan thanked by SCA staff on 31 August after he forewarned the SCA and delivered incorrect information to the press on 29 August?

Answer—

Sydneysiders continue to drink high quality water that meets and exceeds the standards in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

The NSW Government has made significant investment in Sydney's water supply infrastructure and the catchments to maintain a supply of good quality water to all residents. This means that Sydney has a world class water supply system with the flexibility to draw the highest quality water available from a number of different sources.

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I am advised that no toxins have been detected in either the water being drawn from the dam or the treated drinking water below the filtration plant at Prospect. The Sydney Catchment Authority is drawing water from well below the algae level and there continues to be no concern with the quality of the water that comes out of Sydney's taps.

Regular testing and monitoring of the water will provide the Sydney Catchment Authority with data to enable it to implement responses well in advance of any potential impact on the quality of the raw water it supplies.

Sydney Water and the Sydney Catchment Authority have developed and tested incident response procedures in consultation with NSW Health to enable timely, effective and efficient responses to water

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quality events. These agencies have followed the appropriate protocols during the management of the algal bloom.

*1405 GUIDELINES FOR THREATENED SPECIES ASSESSMENT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Why has the draft "Guidelines for threatened species assessment", released by the Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Primary Industries in July 2005, not been finalised after two years?
- (2) When will these guidelines be finalised?
- (3) What finalised guidelines and policies are in place to oversee developments made under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act?
- (4) Has your department been relying on discussion papers, rather than proper Government policy, to guide Part 3A development applications?

Answer—

The document entitled "The Assessment of Significance - Threatened Species Assessment Guidelines" is now available on the website of the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The guidelines were finalised following consultation with a range of stakeholders, integration of comments, legal review and Ministerial concurrence.

The Department of Planning is the determining authority for Part 3A project applications. The Department of Environment and Climate Change provides advice to the Department of Planning to assist it to fulfil this role. My Department uses both Part 3A specific and other more generic government policy and guidance, for example industrial noise policy, to inform this advice. Where guidance and policy has not been finalised, my Department uses draft policy if available and expert advice as needed. In fact, the draft Threatened Species Assessment Guidelines were provided to the Department of Planning to inform decisions prior to finalisation of the guidelines.

As Part 3A specific guidelines are documents of the Department of Planning, further questions should be directed to my colleague, the Hon Frank Sartor MP, Minister for Planning.

*1406 SPEED CAMERAS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many school zones in NSW have speed cameras existing within their boundaries?

Answer—

I am advised:

As part of the Government's school safety program a total of 50 additional fixed speed cameras are being installed in school zones.

*1407 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many school zones in NSW that have speed cameras do not have flashing lights?

Answer—

I am advised:

None.

*1408 OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many items of correspondence are outstanding for a period exceeding three months with respect to a response to the questions raised in that correspondence for the Roads and Traffic Authority?

Answer—

I am advised:

The departments process approximately 15,000 items of correspondence annually.

The length of time taken to prepare an answer to a question or representation for a Member of Parliament varies depending on the issues involved in the inquiry, the complexity of those issues and the need to obtain advice from third parties for incorporation in the final response.

- *1409 INSTALLATION OF FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What is the timeframe for all school zones in NSW to be equipped with flashing lights?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 26 September 2007, the Premier announced a \$46.5 million four-year program to further enhance the safety of students in school zones.

Flashing light technology and electronic alert systems will be installed in a further 400 school zones, comprising the rollout of 100 systems a year over the next four years.

This new technology is reliable, highly visible and doing a good job slowing people down in school zones.

School zones are being selected for the new technology rollout based on risk criteria including traffic and pedestrian volumes, surrounding speed limits and crash history.

- *1410 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many school zones in NSW are equipped with flashing lights?

Answer—

I am advised:

165 school zones are equipped with flashing lights.

On 26 September 2007, the Premier announced a \$46.5 million four-year program to further enhance the safety of students in school zones.

Flashing light technology and electronic alert systems will be installed in a further 400 school zones, comprising the rollout of 100 systems a year over the next four years.

This new technology is reliable, highly visible and doing a good job slowing people down in school zones.

School zones are being selected for the new technology rollout based on risk criteria including traffic and pedestrian volumes, surrounding speed limits and crash history.

- *1411 40 KPH SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many 40 kph school zones are there in NSW?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are more than 11,000 school zones at 3,153 schools across NSW.

- *1412 FUNDING FOR WATER SAVING DEVICES—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

How much funding has been provided to schools in the Lane Cove electorate to install water saving devices?

Answer—

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water Utilities.

- *1413 SCHOOL FUNDING—WATER SAVING DEVICES—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

How many schools in the Lane Cove electorate have been provided with funding by the State Government to install water saving devices?

Answer—

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water Utilities.

- *1414 YOUTH ORCHESTRA—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

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What funding opportunities are provided by your department to support the development of an orchestra for young people on the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

I am advised youth orchestras are eligible to apply under the Arts NSW Cultural Grants Program—Music for assistance towards fees for guest artists and tutors.

*1416 AVALON POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Will the proceeds from the proposed sale of Avalon Police Station be returned to improve police resources within the Northern Beaches Local Area Command?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that, in line with Treasury requirements, the proceeds from the proposed sale of Avalon police station will be allocated to the NSW Police Force capital program to refurbish and rebuild stations across the State.

*1417 SCHOOL AIR-COOLING SYSTEMS—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 regards to the 80 NSW schools to receive air-cooling systems:

- (1) What schools will receive air-cooling systems?
- (2) For each school, when will the air-cooling systems be installed?

Answer—

The NSW Labor Government is investing a record \$873 million this financial year to upgrade and maintain NSW public schools and TAFEs. As part of this investment \$5 million has been allocated to the 2007/08 Air Cooling Program with 78 air cooling projects identified at 76 schools.

Schools across the State will benefit from this investment, including 6 schools in the North Coast Region, 48 schools in the Riverina Region, 11 schools in the Hunter/Central Coast Region, 4 schools in the Western NSW Region, 3 schools in the New England Region, 1 school in the Illawarra/South East Region and 3 schools in the Western Sydney Region.

The Department of Education and Training anticipates that these projects will be delivered this financial year.

*1418 SCHOOL BUS ROUTES—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Has the Government engaged independent experts to conduct a risk assessment of school routes across New South Wales?
- (2) If so, have school bus routes in Forster and Tuncurry been assessed?
- (3) If so, what routes were assessed?
- (4) If so, what was the outcome of such assessment?
- (5) If no assessment was done of bus routes in Forster and Tuncurry, why wasn't any assessment undertaken?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) The Ministry of Transport is undertaking a state wide assessment of school bus routes based on national guidelines for risk assessment of school bus routes, including those in the Forster/Tuncurry area.

*1419 WATER CHARGES—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Has Sydney Water recently increased water charges for reticulated water provided to residents who are connected to the Rouse Hill recycling program?
- (2) Will New South Wales residents have to pay more for their water supplies?
- (3) Why 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 5% of Sydney residents were provided with rainwater tanks, would this negate the need for a desalination plant or an additional large water storage dam for the next decade?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes. This was in line with a decision by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).
 (2) and (3) Only Sydney Water customers will be paying for the desalination plant.
 (4) No.
 (5) No.

- *1420 REHEARING THRESHHOLD—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

In relation to your response to my letter on behalf of Mr Ron Clark of Colo, who was overcharged by the company Patricks for services he did not receive when importing goods into this country, and given your statement that "the amount in dispute is less than 500 dollars, therefore a re-hearing by the tribunal is barred":

- (1) Does your department condone this overcharging given it is not prepared to fully investigate the matter?
 (2) What action is the department taking to give confidence to businesses and consumers who import goods into this country and particularly NSW?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

- (1) The Office of Fair Trading does not condone overcharging for goods and services and there are avenues available to parties seeking to resolve disputes of this kind. Mr Clark's matter was heard and determined by the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal and I am advised by the Tribunal Chairperson that, based on the evidence provided, the Tribunal was not satisfied Mr Clark was overcharged. I am also advised that both parties were given the opportunity to present evidence and the Tribunal provided them with written reasons outlining the basis on which the decision was made. Mr Clark was informed of the appeal option available to him in the legislation.

A rehearing is not an option in this matter as the amount claimed was less than \$500. In order to have some finality to proceedings, the legislation precludes rehearings where the amount claimed or in dispute is under \$500.

- (2) Fair Trading aims to achieve fairness for all in the marketplace by safeguarding consumer rights and advising business and traders on fair and ethical practice. In addition to providing services directly to individuals, Fair Trading administers a legislative framework which sets the rules for fairness in countless daily transactions between consumers and traders.

Fair Trading commissions annual market research aimed at gauging whether NSW consumers and traders feel they can safely buy products and services knowing that most businesses are fair and ethical. This year, 73% of consumer respondents and 81% of trader respondents indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with this proposition.

Consumer protection laws ensure high levels of consumer confidence, which is an essential ingredient for both economic stability and expansion. To underpin this, consumers must also have access to fair, effective and transparent redress mechanisms to resolve disputes, including those that occur across borders.

Fair Trading administers the Consumer Claims Act 1998, which lets people take consumer disputes to the Tribunal where a range of remedies are available. The Tribunal resolves disputes in an accessible, informal, efficient and inexpensive manner.

The Act has been reviewed by Fair Trading and an amendment Bill, which introduces a number of improvements to dispute resolution processes for parties involved in consumer and general marketplace disputes, is currently before Parliament.

Businesses and consumers who import goods into NSW will benefit from proposed amendments that will clarify and improve the Tribunal's jurisdiction. These amendments will ensure that contracts made outside NSW are clearly within the Tribunal's jurisdiction. In particular it will be made clear that the Tribunal has jurisdiction where:

- the supply of goods or services has taken place in NSW, or

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- the supplier has agreed to supply goods or services in NSW, or
- the contract for the supply of goods or services was made in NSW.

The amendments will assist the people of NSW by giving both consumers and suppliers clearer rights and easier dispute resolution processes.

9 NOVEMBER 2007

(Paper No. 33)

*1421 MOUNT PIPER 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—

- (1) On what day was the last time that fly ash from the Mount Piper Power Station fell on the neighbouring townships of Blackmans Flat and Lidsdale?
- (2) Do the fly ash plumes present a health risk to local residents?
- (3) When did Delta Energy first become aware of this problem?
- (4) How has Delta Energy addressed this problem?
- (5) Can residents be certain no more fly ash will fall on their townships?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Prior to 2006 was the last occasion when dust from the Mount Piper stockpile fell on Blackmans Flat. Lidsdale is not a neighbouring township to Mount Piper Power Station.
- (2) The medical assessment of fly ash is that it is not carcinogenic and presents no risk to health unless respired as a thick dust.
- (3) The residents of Blackmans Flat, and the Lithgow Environment Group have been campaigning against the construction of the ash stockpile since the late 1990s. Throughout this time Delta Electricity has been continually improving its ash containment measures to eliminate the possibility of dust escaping Delta's property.
- (4) There have been no recent changes in ash storage at Mt Piper, as there has been no problem in this area adjacent to Blackmans Flat.

Delta has hosted an inspection of the stockpiles in both locations by Lithgow Councillors and Management, and on each occasion of high winds has hosted representatives of the Department of Environment and Climate Change who have been inspecting the facilities to ensure no dust was escaping.

The Department of Planning has audited the operation at Mt Piper against the Development Consent and found no issues with the management of dust suppression and control.

Additionally, Delta has initiated a formal Community Reference Group including representatives of Blackman's Flat and Lidsdale to ensure that local community concerns with Delta's operations are brought forward.

- (5) Residents can be certain that all practical steps are being taken to ensure there is no escaping dust from Delta's stockpiles, and that these steps are regularly monitored by the appropriate authorities to ensure compliance.

*1422 BIOENERGY 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—

Given that both the Australian Business Roundtable and the Clean Energy Future study estimate that between a fifth to a fourth of our future electricity supply will come from renewable bioenergy, what is the Government doing to directly develop bioenergy electricity generation?

Answer—

In 2004 the NSW Government published the NSW Bioenergy Handbook. This analysed all available information on the actual and potential capacity of the full range of bioenergy resources in NSW. The Handbook shows that the greatest potential capacities for increasing the generation of bioenergy in NSW are from agricultural residues such as bagasse, horticultural prunings and cereal straw; growing dedicated energy crops such as short-rotation tree plantations; waste wood from plantation forests; and municipal, industrial and commercial wastes.

The NSW Government is committed to expanding the use of renewable electricity in NSW. The NSW Government welcomes the commitment of the Federal Labor Government to implement an increased Mandatory Renewable Energy Target of 20 per cent by 2020. This will provide a significant incentive for bioenergy project development in NSW.

*1423 CARBON CAPTURE PILOT 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 Munmorah "\$5 million carbon capture pilot plant" project:

- (1) What funding is the Government contributing to the "pilot plant"?
- (2) Where is captured carbon from the project to be stored and how will it be stored?
- (3) What other by-products will come from the plant and where will it be stored or released?
- (4) When is work on the pilot plant expected to be completed?

Answer—

- (1) The New South Wales Government through its ownership of Delta Electricity plans to contribute up to \$2.25 million in cash and in-kind to the project. The remainder will be contributed by the CSIRO and the Commonwealth Government by way of its Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (AP6) initiative.
- (2) Carbon captured from the stack gas will be released back into the power station stack. The purpose of the research is to investigate the ammonia based capture process for possible use in a future demonstration scale plant which would also store the carbon. The NSW Department of Primary Industries is investigating suitable geological storage sites for the future demonstration project.
- (3) Small quantities of chemicals will be disposed in the power station's existing chemical treatment system.
- (4) It is planned that the plant would commence operation in mid 2008 followed by a campaign of up to 10 experiments over an 18 month period.

*1424 HAZARD REDUCTION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Have the hazard reduction aims for 2007 been achieved to meet the start of the summer season?
- (2) If not, which areas need to be hazard reduced?

Answer—

Hazard reduction works programs are developed by local Bush Fire Management Committees with activities being undertaken in order of priority, subject to weather conditions. It is the aim of all land managers to carry out as much of the planned hazard reduction activities as possible during any given year. However, scheduled activities that are not able to be undertaken during a particular year are addressed and prioritised in subsequent years.

*1425 AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIME—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Was an ambulance called to the Hilton Hotel on the evening of 4 November 2007 to attend to a man who had collapsed in George Street in front of the hotel?
- (2) Why was the caller kept on hold for over seven minutes?
- (3) Why was the call 'overflowed' to the Wollongong call centre?
- (4) Why did it take 37 minutes for the ambulance to arrive to a person with a serious head injury?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) At 1:25am on 4 November 2007, a triple 0 call was received by the Ambulance Service of NSW to attend to a male outside 488 George Street, Sydney who had collapsed and was unconscious and breathing.
- (2) to (4) The Ambulance Service of NSW and Telstra have a procedure to ensure all triple 0 calls are answered immediately. The Ambulance Service has four operational centres throughout NSW, and when one or more centre is inundated with triple 0 calls, the excess overflows to other centres.

On 4 November 2007, at 1.25am the Ambulance Service received a triple 0 call to attend to a man with head injuries outside 488 George Street, Sydney. Due to the Sydney Ambulance Operations Centre being inundated with calls at that time, the call was routed to the Southern Ambulance Operations Centre by Telstra. The Southern Centre transferred the call to the Sydney Centre, who assigned paramedics to the incident at 1.30am. Paramedics arrived at the scene at 1.41am.

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Ambulance Service records indicated that the response time i.e. from the time the triple 0 call was received by the Southern Ambulance Operations Centre to the ambulance arriving at the scene was 16 minutes.

*1426 HORNSBY HOSPITAL DENTAL CLINIC—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

Why is Mr Stephen Dent waiting more than a year for an appointment to have a broken tooth fixed at the Public Dental Clinic at Hornsby Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that the client has been triaged as a Code 5 patient and will be treated in approximately 3-4 months from the time he was triaged at the Hornsby Dental Clinic.

The State benchmark for Code 5 patients is under 12 months.

*1427 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—OPERATING THEATRES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

(1) How many operating theatres are currently in use full-time at Sutherland Hospital?

(2) How many surgical operations were carried out at Sutherland Hospital in 2006?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) There are 5 operating theatres and an endoscopy suite at the Sutherland Hospital. On average 3.5 operating theatres and an endoscopy suite are fully operational Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:30pm. After hours and on weekends an emergency theatre is staffed.

(2) The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely collect or report activity data at facility level. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

*1428 PORT HACKING FERRY CHANNELS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Why did the Department of Environment and Climate Change resolve not to dredge the ferry channels in Port Hacking?

Answer—

The Department of Environment and Climate Change resolved to dredge the ferry channel. In fact, the dredging was completed on 4 December 2007.

*1429 NEW SPEED CAMERA—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

On what date were advertisements placed in the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader advising of the new speed camera at King Georges Road, Beverly Hills?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) routinely provides information to local media about the introduction of new speed cameras and all major road changes.

The RTA sent a media release to the St George Leader on 22 June 2007 regarding the new speed cameras on King Georges Road, Beverly Hills.

In addition, portable electronic display signs were installed at the time the cameras became operational and are still in place today. Placing electronic message signs at the site of any new speed camera is one of the most effective ways of advising motorists.

*1430 AQUATIC WEEDS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

(1) What measures are being taken to stop the sale of aquatic weeds in New South Wales?

(2) Does our legislation mirror that of Queensland and Victoria in relation to aquatic weed sales legislation?

(3) What inspections are carried out to ensure aquatic weeds/sales are monitored?

(4) Have there been any prosecutions of illegal weed retailers or growers?

- (5) Have any examples been uncovered of individuals deliberately spreading weeds in an aquatic environment with the intention to harvest the weed for sale in nurseries and pet shops?
- (6) Who monitors the sale of aquatic noxious weeds?
- (7) Under which jurisdiction does prosecution take place?

Answer—

This matter 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.

*1431 SANE COURSE—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many nurse practitioners have completed the SANE course in the Greater Southern Area Health Service and in New South Wales?
- (2) How many nurse practitioners who have completed the course have been accredited?
- (3) How many who have completed the course have not been accredited and why?
- (4) (a) Where are the sexual assault examiners located?
(b) In which towns and how long has each examiner been accredited?
- (5) How much are sexual assault examiners paid for assessing victims:
 - (a) per house;
 - (b) per event;
 - (c) per on call request?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Seven nurses have completed the SANE course in New South Wales, including two nurses in Greater Southern Area Health Service.
- (2) Seven nurses who have completed the SANE training course have been accredited to practice as a SANE.
- (3) A further two nurses have completed all SANE training requirements and will send their written work to be assessed shortly.
- (4) (a) The Sexual Assault Services where trainee and accredited SANEs are located are Albury, Broken Hill, Central Sydney, Dubbo, Griffith, Nepean, Newcastle, Nowra, Queanbeyan, Tamworth, Taree, Wagga Wagga, and Westmead.
(b) The location of nurses that have been accredited as SANEs, and the duration they have been accredited are as follows:
 - Queanbeyan – 18 months
 - Taree – 11 months
 - Westmead – 5 months
 - Dubbo – 3 months
 - Wagga Wagga – 2 months
 - Newcastle – 2 nurses have been accredited in the past month
- (5) (a) to (c) The NSW Health Policy Directive PD2005_614 Clinical Practices – Adult Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations Conducted by Nurse Examiners states that it is the responsibility of Area Health Services to provide payment and conditions for nurse examiners in accordance with existing awards and/or local 'on call' arrangements.

*1432 ILLEGAL WATER EXTRACTIONS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What is the department doing to monitor illegal water extractions in the Murrumbidgee Valley?

Answer—

There are about 8,500 groundwater licences in the Murrumbidgee Valley. Most (about 7,000) are for stock and domestic purposes.

State Water and the Department of Water and Energy (the department) collectively monitor water use and compliance with the conditions of these licences in the valley.

The department risk manages and prioritises any reported alleged breaches (including illegal water extractions) into three categories (high, medium and low). Matters deemed to be high risk are prioritised and allocated for investigation. Investigations include desktop analysis, background inquiries, inspections, and interviewing of witnesses and suspects. Depending on the outcome of this investigation

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a range of options are available to the department which include warning letters, penalty infringement notices, and directions for remediation, suspension or cancellation of licences, and prosecutions.

The department also conducts targeted operations with teams formed from all available compliance staff. One such operation is currently being conducted into the lower Murrumbidgee area with regard to groundwater use.

*1433 PRISONER FOOD COST—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What is the average daily cost to feed a prisoner in a NSW gaol?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on the costs of managing offenders in custody is contained in the Department of Corrective Services' Annual Report.

*1434 PUBLIC HOUSING—KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) In relation to public housing and the Minister's response to question No. 0928, what is the location of the one new public housing residence created in the Ku-ring-gai Council area over the last 10 years?
- (2) How many public housing residences are there now in the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area?
- (3) What is the average number of public housing residences in all local government areas across NSW?

Answer—

- (1) Pymble.
- (2) 32.
- (3) Information concerning the number of public housing residences across NSW is available in Housing NSW's Annual Reports.

*1435 AREA HEALTH SERVICE DIRECTOR—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Which Area Health Service Director role is responsible for leading the planning for the new Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest?
- (2) When was this position filled, or is it still vacant?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) In the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service the position of Director Population Health Planning and Performance is currently responsible for leading the planning for the new Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest.
- (2) This position is currently filled on a temporary basis pending the finalisation of permanent recruitment action.

*1436 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that under the AusLink 2 initiative, each state was required to submit a list of priorities regarding state highways to the Federal Government by 2 July 2007:

- (1) Did the NSW Department of Roads not submit a list of its priorities for NSW highways to the Department of Transport and Regional Services?
- (2) What are the priorities for future upgrades of the Pacific Highway?
- (3) For each of the priorities for the Pacific Highway listed in response to (2), what is:
 - (a) the cost breakdown (i.e. provide figures on Federal and NSW Government contributions to planned upgrades);
 - (b) the estimated start and finish dates for each priority?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Iemma Government is committed to investing in the long-term and complete upgrade of the Pacific Highway.

We have made it clear where our priorities lie under AusLink 2. The Premier wrote to the former Prime Minister earlier this year outlining key roads, freight and urban transport projects. In addition, I met with the former Deputy Prime Minister to discuss NSW's priorities for AusLink 2.

As outlined in the draft Sydney to Brisbane Corridor Strategy prepared by Department of Transport and Regional Services, the priority for the Pacific Highway in the AusLink 2 program is the substantial completion of dual carriageway.

The NSW Government is currently managing a \$1.3 billion joint State/Federal upgrade program that will cover Pacific Highway projects up to 2009.

As part of the NSW Government's 2007/08 record roads budget more than \$447 million has been allocated to projects to upgrade and improve the Pacific Highway.

Around \$404 million has been allocated in this year's budget to continue construction and planning work on the highway upgrade and a further \$43.6 million will be spent on maintenance work for the highway.

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

The NSW Government is committed to the upgrade of the Pacific Highway beyond 2009, and is working cooperatively with the new Federal Government to ensure the upgrade is completed as soon as possible.

*1437 FIREARM INCIDENT—TWEED RIVER HIGH 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—

Given that on 8 November 2007 a firearm was exchanged on the Tweed River High School premises by two youths:

- (1) What is the NSW Department of Education's safety protocol for when incidents such as this occur?
- (2) What is the NSW Department of Education's protocol regarding communication to parents on the day, when incidents such as this occur?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I am advised that on 8 November 2007 a parent reported that an object resembling a firearm was exchanged after school hours outside Tweed River High School. Police enquiries have not confirmed that a firearm was involved.

When incidents occur that threaten the safety of students and staff the NSW Department of Education and Training has clear protocols in place. All personnel are removed from the location of the danger either through evacuation or lockdown. Lockdown and evacuation processes are documented and subject to regular rehearsals. If appropriate, the police are contacted. The Department's Safety and Security Unit is available to provide expert advice on managing emergency situations.

Contact is immediately sought with the parents of students directly involved in such incidents. It is normal practice for staff and students to be briefed at the first appropriate opportunity following an incident and parents informed through a special note or a school bulletin.

*1438 TWEED VALLEY WAY—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given the growing concern amongst the Tweed electorate regarding the safety of the Tweed Valley Way due to a number of recent fatalities:

- (1) What are the traffic flow statistics for the Tweed Valley Way for the past year and the current year-to-date for:
 - (a) average daily vehicle travel;
 - (b) total number of accidents?
- (2) What changes are being made and what measures are planned by the Government to improve the safety of the Tweed Valley Way?
- (3) (a) Does the Government plan to commit funds to introduce more speed cameras and improving the exit and on-ramps on the Tweed Valley Way to the number of small communities as a means of improving safety on this road?
 - (b) If yes, how much funding does the Government plan to commit, and what are the proposed start and finish dates for these initiatives?

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(c) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

Traffic counts undertaken in 2004 and in May 2007 indicate traffic counts have remained relatively consistent.

The Tweed Valley Way is a Regional Road under the responsibility of Tweed Shire Council. The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) will assist Tweed Shire Council to analyse road conditions and crashes to help prepare further proposals to improve safety for all road users.

The existing access arrangements for this section of the Pacific Highway were put in place after a lengthy public consultation process. Current and future community needs, land use patterns, safety and the economic viability of providing additional access points were considered in the process.

The NSW Government has committed \$146 million in 2007/08 under the REPAIR Program and Block Grant Scheme to local councils across NSW to assist with improvements and upgrades to their Regional Roads. This includes \$2.27 million to Tweed Shire Council.

Council also has other programs such as the AusLink Blackspot Program available to nominate works for the Tweed Valley Way.

*1439 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How much revenue has been raised from car parking at the Children's Hospital at Westmead for each of the financial years between 2000-01, up to and including 2006-07?

Answer—

I am advised

The Children's Hospital at Westmead and each Area Health Service publishes information on revenue raised from other sources which includes car parking in their respective annual reports. Revenue raised from car parking is retained by the Children's Hospital Westmead Area Health Service to fund clinical services.

To provide a breakdown of this data in the manner requested by the Honourable Member would be resource intensive. The diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified.

*1440 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How much revenue has been raised from car parking at the following hospitals for each of the financial years beginning 2000-01, up to and including 2006-07 for:

- (a) Bankstown/Lidcombe;
- (b) Concord;
- (c) Gosford;
- (d) John Hunter;
- (e) Liverpool;
- (f) Penrith-Nepean;
- (g) Prince of Wales (whole campus including Sydney Children's and Royal Hospital for Women);
- (h) Royal North Shore;
- (i) Royal Prince Alfred;
- (j) St George;
- (k) St Vincent's;
- (l) Westmead;
- (m) Wollongong?

Answer—

I am advised

Each Area Health Service publishes information on revenue raised from other sources which includes car parking in their respective annual reports. Revenue raised from car parking is retained by the Area Health Service to fund clinical services.

This information is not published at a hospital or facility level, and to provide a breakdown of this data in the manner requested by the Honourable Member would be resource intensive. The diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified.

*1441 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How much revenue has been raised from car parking at the following hospitals for each of the financial years beginning 2000-01 up to and including 2006-07 for:

- (a) Auburn;
- (b) Blacktown;
- (c) Campbelltown;
- (d) Canterbury;
- (e) Fairfield;
- (f) Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai;
- (g) Manly;
- (h) Mona Vale;
- (i) Mount Druitt;
- (j) Ryde;
- (k) Sutherland;
- (l) Wyong?

Answer—

I am advised

Each Area Health Service publishes information on revenue raised from other sources which includes car parking in their respective annual reports. Revenue raised from car parking is retained by the Area Health Service to fund clinical services.

This information is not published at a hospital or facility level, and to provide a breakdown of this data in the manner requested by the Honourable Member would be resource intensive. The diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified.

*1443 BRIDGE WIDENING—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Are there any plans to widen the bridge over Deep Creek on the Wakehurst Parkway at North Narrabeen to allow safe passage for cyclists?
- (2) If so, what is the cost of widening the bridge?

Answer—

I am advised:

Planning of new cycleways in the Pittwater electorate is a matter for Pittwater Council. Council has an existing Bike Plan. The implementation of the proposed works from within that bike plan is subject to the priorities of the Council.

All NSW Councils have a yearly opportunity to submit candidate cycleway projects to the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) for 50/50 funding consideration.

*1444 WATER PIPE INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

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

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Expenditure on capital and maintenance work for water pipe infrastructure in the Pittwater Local Government Area from 2003/04 to 2006/7 was \$6,820,500.
- (2) Forecast expenditure for capital and maintenance work for water pipe infrastructure in the Pittwater Local Government Area from 2007/08 to 2010/11 is \$25,757,000.

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*1445 INVESTIGATION—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the allegations surrounding Carol Scanlan at Queens Road House Westmead, part of the Metro West residences at Marsden?
- (2) Given the nature of these allegations, will the Minister investigate this situation?
- (3) Will the Minister respond to correspondence from Mr Ken Scanlan who wrote to the former Minister, who forwarded the matter to the Director-General?
- (4) Did Carol Scanlan attend Westmead Hospital at any point during the past 12 months?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that neither my office nor the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care have received allegations surrounding this resident of Queens Road House, part of the Metro Residences at Westmead. Senior staff from Metro Residences met with Mr Scanlan on 5 October 2007, after he requested a meeting in a telephone call. I am advised that a discussion was held regarding an accident, when Carol Scanlan was injured in a fall. I am further advised that the Department is not aware of any allegations or correspondence in relation to this matter.
- (2) I am advised that there have been no allegations made to the Department to investigate.
- (3) I am advised that all previous correspondence from Mr Scanlan has been responded to with his last correspondence being in 2006 and was not concerning allegations about Carol Scanlan.
- (4) Yes.

*1446 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How much money has been spent on refurbishment and general maintenance at the Mount Drutt Hospital over the last three years to 30 June 2007?
- (2) How much is to be spent on such projects in the current financial year?
- (3) In general terms, what type of work is to be carried out to refurbish the internal sections of the hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) and (2)

Financial Year	Refurbishment Costs	General Maintenance Costs
2004/05	\$0.390m	\$1.015m
2005/06	\$0.656m	\$1.226m
2006/07	\$0.389m	\$1.015m
2007/08*	\$0.300m	\$1.187m

* In progress

(3) General maintenance and internal service relocations within the hospital will necessitate minor refurbishment to rooms i.e. inclusion of doors, walls, power points and ports, etc, along with painting, general repairs of an electrical and plumbing nature and the acquisition of minor items of equipment.

*1447 2004 ENERGY GREEN PAPER—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 NSW Government's 2004 Energy Green Paper:

- (1) How many submissions did the Government receive?
- (2) Which individuals and organisations made submissions?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Details of submissions made to the Energy Directions Green Paper were available for approximately two years on the website of the former Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability.

*1448 RTA ADVERTISING, PROMOTIONAL AND SPONSORSHIP EXPENDITURE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to RTA advertising, promotional and sponsorship expenditure:

- (1) What advertising, promotional and sponsorship programs have been approved for the current financial year?

- (2) What expenditure has been approved for each of these programs?
 (3) What is the process for approval of advertising, promotional and sponsorship programs?

Answer—

I am advised:

The following Road Safety advertising campaigns and Customer marketing campaigns have been approved by the Standing Committee on the Budget for the current financial year:

- Speeding.
- Drink Driving.
- Outdoor advertising.
- Double Demerits.
- Motorcycle Safety.
- E-Toll: Sydney Harbour Tunnel cashless tolling.

The following sponsorship has been approved by the Roads and Traffic Authority:

- Speed Blitz.
- On the Road.

Campaigns with a media cost in excess of \$50,000 are approved by:

- The Chief Executive of the RTA.
- The Minister for Roads.
- A Peer Review panel established by the Department of Commerce.
- The Standing Committee on the Budget.

- *1449 RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET SCHEMES—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—

With regard to state-based renewable energy target schemes:

- (1) Will the NRET scheme commence on the 1st January 2008?
- (2) What agency or department will administer the new scheme?
- (3) How many staff will administer the NRET scheme, and how much is budgeted for staff costs related to the NRET scheme?
- (4) Given the "Explanatory Paper" states that the "NSW Government will initiate discussions with the Victorian Government" (pg. 7), what meetings has the Minister had with the Victorian Minister for Energy, or the Minister's representatives, concerning the proposal that the VRET administrator administers the NRET scheme, and where and when did the meetings take place?
- (5) Given the "Explanatory Paper" for the NRET scheme states that the NSW Government will seek "to determine whether the Victorian Renewable Energy Target administrator (the Essential Services Commission) is also able to administer the NRET scheme" (pg. 7), is this still the intention of the Minister?
- (6) If so, when does the Minister intend the VRET administrator commence administering the NRET scheme, and for what length of time after 1 January 2008 will NSW administer the NRET scheme?
- (7) Under a NRET scheme administered by the VRET administrator could NRET RECs be generated from anywhere within the National Electricity Market?

Answer—

- (1) No. The newly elected Federal Labor Government has committed to a 20 per cent renewable energy target. The NSW Government continues to support mandatory renewable energy targets and will work closely with the Commonwealth Government to bring about a single harmonised national renewable energy target. The Government will seek to ensure that no company that has responded to the NRET policy is disadvantaged in a national scheme. A single national scheme will enable the most cost-effective resources to be used, will reduce red tape and will minimise the costs of compliance passed on to consumers.
- (2) to (7) Not applicable.

- *1450 SYDNEY TO GOULBURN RAIL SERVICE—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) On how many occasions over the past month did the 3:46 pm rail service from Sydney to Goulburn have only two passenger cars?

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- (2) As the 3:46 pm service on 23 October 2007 had only two carriages, can the Government confirm reports from passengers that the cars were so overcrowded people were either left standing or forced to sit on other passengers and on a number of occasions were unable to disembark before the train moved away from the station?
- (3) On how many occasions did State Rail provide buses between Campbelltown and Moss Vale because there are only two rail carriages available for this part of the journey?
- (4) Do the rail carriages suffer air pollution because of the lack of maintenance on the exhaust seals and if this is not the reason, what is the cause of persistent fumes in the carriages?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) Advice concerning CityRail services and service changes is available on the CityRail website, www.cityrail.info

(4) The engines are maintained in accordance with manufacturers recommendations using original parts supplied by the manufacturers of the engines.

*1451 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Of the NSW Ombudsman's 44 recommendations noted in a special report tabled in Parliament in December 2006 concerning policing domestic violence, how many of those recommendations have been implemented?
- (2) Which recommendations are they?

Answer—

The NSW Ombudsman made 43 recommendations concerning the policing of domestic violence, of which 31 related specifically to police. The NSW Police Force supported 29 of these recommendations and advises that to date 15 have been fully implemented.

The remaining recommendations are being progressed by a special steering committee within the NSW Police Force. These relate to such issues as the review and revision of internal police procedures and training, and the recruitment and appointment of new staff.

1452 PIPELINE FUNDING—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

*1453 BRISBANIA SCHOOL TOILETS—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—

What action will the Minister take to improve students' toilets at Brisbania Public School which has a serious odour problem?

Answer—

Under the Building Better Schools program, the NSW Labor Government will invest more than \$2 billion over the term of the current government to improve the learning environment for students and teachers across NSW.

This program will focus on a number of specific initiatives including the upgrade of 200 toilet blocks facilities at a cost of \$22 million.

A project to undertake a toilet upgrade at Brisbania Public School has been included in the Government's Building Better Schools Program and will be delivered during the current term of Government.

*1454 NURSE NUMBERS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many nurses were employed at (a) Gosford Hospital and (b) Wyong Hospital as at 30 September 2007?
- (2) What is the authorised strength for nurses at (a) Gosford Hospital and (b) Wyong Hospital as at 30 September 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Report.

(2) It is unclear what the Hon Member means by "authorised strength for nurses".

*1455 CHILDREN AT RISK—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Community Services—

How many children known to the Department of Community Services in (a) the City of Gosford and (b) the Shire of Wyong, have died since 1 January 2000?

Answer—

Reporting on the number of reviewable deaths is a matter for the Ombudsman and he produces a report on this matter each year.

*1456 CASEWORKERS IN COWRA—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many caseworker positions are there servicing the town of Cowra?
- (2) How many of these positions are filled with Full Time Equivalent staff?
- (3) How many indigenous children in the town are taken by caseworkers for a meal at local food outlets and how often does this occur?
- (4) How many non-indigenous disadvantaged children are taken out for a meal by DoCS within the Cowra township?
- (5) Will the Minister investigate how two DoCS workers in Cowra mistook a non-indigenous child for an indigenous one and took the wrong child out for a meal?
- (6) What action has been taken by the Cowra DoCS staff to ensure this error does not reoccur?

Answer—

(1) and (2) An additional six new positions will be created in Cowra by the end of the \$1.2 billion reform of the NSW Department of Community Services. This will take the number of caseworker positions in Cowra to nine.

(3) and (4) No children are taken for meals with caseworkers. As part of contact visits, the majority of which are Court ordered, children may be escorted by caseworkers or contact officers to meet with family members.

(5) and (6) Departmental officers have reviewed this incident in conjunction with the local school and implemented measures to prevent a recurrence.

*1457 DISABILITY ACCESS FOR CASUAL EMPLOYEES AT ELECTORATE OFFICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Which electorate offices have provisions in place to allow for employees that use wheelchairs to work in their offices?
- (2) What funding has been made available for permanent alterations to electorate offices to allow employees who use wheelchairs access to their places of work?
- (3) How many electorate office employees who use wheelchairs are there in the State?
- (4) Is this figure affected by the lack of automatic doors and permanent wheelchair accessible ramps at electorate offices?
- (5) What will the Government do to ensure all NSW Parliamentary electorate offices are made wheelchair accessible?

Answer—

I am advised that issues related to the fitout and maintenance of electorate offices are the responsibility of the Parliament and should be referred to the Presiding Officers.

*1458 GRENFELL MULTI-PURPOSE SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) On what date was the Grenfell Multi-Purpose Service last painted externally?
- (2) When is the Grenfell MPS next scheduled for painting to preserve its heritage exterior?
- (3) Has the Greater Western Area Health Service held discussions with the Weddin Shire Council regarding the preservation of this iconic community building?
- (4) If so, what was the outcome of these discussions?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) and (2) The Grenfell Multi-Purpose Service is made up of a new residential aged care wing which was opened in December 2001 and an older section which has buildings dating back to the 20th century. The older buildings were painted in 1988-89. The older buildings at the Grenfell Multi-Purpose Service are scheduled for painting in the 2008-2009 financial year.

(3) and (4) During 2006 the Weddin Shire Council were contacted by the local health service to engage Council's heritage advisor in undertaking an inspection of the western facade of the 20th century

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building. A detailed report was received in July 2006 and this report will prove a useful guide for planned painting works in 2008-2009.

*1459 HORNSBY QUARRY—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Has the Minister for Planning (or his Ministry or department) been contacted at any time by Hornsby Shire Council in relation to planning and development issues associated with the Hornsby quarry?
- (2) If so, under what circumstances and what topics were discussed?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

*1460 SOUTH DURAL SERVICE CENTRE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In regard to the South Dural Service Centre which has recently been the subject to correspondence regarding its zoning:

What is the latest update on the ability of a wider variety of businesses to be able to operate in the centre to improve its viability?

Answer—

I am advised that the Department of Planning did not support Hornsby Council's proposed draft LEP to amend the range of permissible uses in the Business E (Service Centre) zone (known as the Dural Service Centre), as the proposal seeks to allow out of centre office development and is inconsistent with the aims of the Metropolitan Strategy.

Notwithstanding this, Hornsby Council is currently investigating opportunities and constraints in relation to the viability of Dural Service Centre, though a Subregional Employment Strategy.

Any proposed amendments to the permissible uses at South Dural will need to be justified in terms of the outcomes of the Subregional Employment Strategy and the aims of the Metropolitan Strategy.

*1461 HORNSBY HOSPITAL ADVERTISEMENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What advertisements were placed to attract trained staff (nurses and doctors) to work in the Mental Health Intensive Care Unit (MHICU) at Hornsby Hospital for:
 - (a) 2006 June, July, August, September, October, November and December?
 - (b) 2007 Every month including November?
- (2) What success was achieved by these advertisements?
- (3) What are the staff numbers as at 9 November 2007?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) (a) and (b) Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service placed advertisements for trained doctors and nurses to work in the Mental Health Intensive Care Unit in leading State and local newspapers. Vacancies were also advertised across the NSW Health system including calls for Expressions of Interest as short-term secondment opportunities. At times vacant positions were also more widely advertised to reach a wider audience and to capture the specific target group. In such cases, advertisements were placed in National print media, The Australia New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses' website and the National Association of Psychiatric Intensive Care Units' website (UK).
- (2) These advertisements have succeeded in the recruitment and appointment of full time Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses, one Clinical Director Psychiatrist, one staff specialist and two full time Psychiatric Registrars.
- (3) The Area Health Service does not routinely report on resources at facility level. However, all Area Health Services report their staffing numbers in their Annual Reports.

*1462 PUBLIC HOUSING IN WALLSEND—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) What is the current status of public housing in Wallsend?
- (2) (a) Are there any new projects for 2007-08 for the electorate of Wallsend?
 - (b) If so, what are they?

Answer—

- (1) Information concerning the status of public housing is available in Housing NSW's 2007 Annual Report.
- (2) (a) and (b) The NSW Government will spend \$14.269M in 2007/08 on the upgrading of existing social housing and on the supply of new social housing in the Wallsend electorate.

*1463 SPEED CAMERA REVENUE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What are the total amounts of revenue from the fixed speed camera located on President Avenue, Gymea for the years ended 30 June 2006 and 30 June 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is matter for the Treasurer.

*1464 STAFF PARKING SPACES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the need for 29 staff parking spaces at Cronulla Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

The staff parking at Cronulla Station is designated for the use of station staff, cleaners, supervisory staff and approximately 50 train crew and depot staff.

*1465 SUPPORT FOR CYCLING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given City of Sydney research that identified barriers to cycling and council's Cycle Strategy and Action Plan: 2007-2017 which provides strong leadership to encourage cycling, and given that cycling reduces transport greenhouse emissions:

- (1) What funds will the Government provide for cycling initiatives this financial year and does the Government plan to increase these funds?
- (2) Given the Government's BikePlan 2010 promised \$25 million per year for building the "principal bike network", with some cycleways part of road projects and others stand alone links, how much was spent last year and the previous year on regional cycleways that are not part of road projects?
- (3) When is work expected to begin on the Harbour Bridge to Woolloomooloo BikePlan 2010 route 17 that was scheduled for completion in 2005?
- (4) What is the budget for this Harbour Bridge to Woolloomooloo route and for what years is it allocated to?
- (5) When is work expected to begin on the University of NSW to Sydney University BikePlan 2010 route 17 that was scheduled for completion in 2005?
- (6) What is the budget for this University of NSW to Sydney University route and what years is it allocated to?
- (7) Given that local councils provide most of the infrastructure for cycling in NSW, what additional help will the NSW Government provide to help councils expand cycling infrastructure?
- (8) What action will the NSW Government take to provide more dedicated bike lanes/off road routes to encourage increased cycling?
- (9) What new action will the NSW Government take to increase driver awareness of cycling to improve safety?
- (10) Will the Government set targets for increasing cycling, such as those in the City of Sydney Cycle Strategy and Action Plan?
- (11) Following the decisions to reduce cycling access on road works associated with the Cross City Tunnel and M2 Motorway, how will the Government ensure that future motorways include improved cycling access?

Answer—

I am advised:

Since BikePlan 2010 was released in 1999, the Government has exceeded the \$251 million over 10 years committed in the Plan.

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The Government continues to invest in facilities for cyclists through a number of infrastructure programs, including the \$15 million allocated in the Roads and Traffic Authority's (RTA) 2007/08 budget for cycling infrastructure, education and promotion.

Bicycle facilities have been and continue to be delivered by major road infrastructure projects, some of which were not represented in BikePlan 2010. These major projects have changed the delivery priorities as originally outlined in BikePlan 2010.

The NSW Government will continue to work with local government to provide improved facilities for cyclists through the development and implementation of local council bike plans by way of 50/50 funding for selected projects, and will continue to improve access and safety for cyclists by providing off-road shared paths wherever practicable, when major roads are built or upgraded.

The RTA regularly reminds motorists of cyclists by broadcasting the message "Watch for Cyclists – the Road is There to Share" via the RTA network of variable message signs (VMS). The slogan "Watch for Cyclists" is also one of six messages printed on the back of motor vehicle registration labels.

The needs and awareness of cyclists are also included in the RTA Road User Handbook for people obtaining a driver's licence and the Government continues to promote safe cycling through sponsorship of major events such as the annual Sydney Spring Cycle and NSW Big Ride.

The RTA is working closely with the Council of the City of Sydney to realise the provision of an effective network of bicycle routes to service the CBD and neighbouring areas of Sydney.

*1466 GAY HATE CRIMES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Given the newly released study by Gregory Herek in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence showing that gay men, lesbian women and bisexual people in the USA experience higher personal and property crime victimisation up to 25 per cent being assaulted or threatened with assault, nearly 13 per cent having objects thrown at them and half suffering oral abuse:

- (1) Has the NSW Government assessed these types of crimes, and if so what results have been found in NSW?
- (2) If the Government has not carried out any assessment, will the Government investigate this type of crime?
- (3) Will the Government consider similar legislation to the federal USA Hate Crimes Statistics Act 1990 to document anti-gay victimisation and the success of measures to address this crime?
- (4) What action has NSW Police taken to address gay hate crimes?
- (5) What plans does the Government have for action to address gay hate crimes?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The NSW Police Force collects data on assaults tagged with an associated factor of 'sexual preference prejudice' (SPP). This is the main method for tracking gay hate crimes in NSW.
- (2) A forum on homophobic violence was held on 14 November 2007 with Police and stakeholders such as ACON. As a result of this forum, Police and community stakeholders are considering ways to improve the reporting of homophobic violence.
- (3) As noted in the question, the US legislation referred to is federal. Similar legislation in Australia would also need to be addressed federally in order to standardise reporting between jurisdictions.
- (4) The NSW Police Force considers all homophobic attacks against gay people to be serious crimes against the person which attract the full attention of the law. The NSW Police Force has a number of strategies to address the concerns of the gay and lesbian communities including:
 - Categorising crimes of violence against gay, lesbian and transgender people as "sexual preference prejudice";
 - Education campaigns in partnership with agencies such as ACON;
 - Information exchange with ACON to forward unreported homophobic crime to Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers;
 - Training police to better understand gay and lesbian issues; and
 - High-visibility policing patrols.
- (5) The NSW Police Force is a key partner in the whole of Government strategic framework 2007-2012 Working Together: Preventing Violence Against Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender People. This framework was recently launched and together with State Plan priorities and NSW Police Force corporate priorities, will guide action taken on gay hate crimes in NSW.

Also, a forum with Police and stakeholders was held on 14 November to discuss options to improve Police response to victims of homophobic violence. A number of actions have resulted from the forum including police from Surry Hills LAC contacting the recently opened "Safe Place" shopfront in Oxford Street about information exchange on incidences of homophobic violence.

*1467 WATER CANNONS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

With regard to the water cannon acquired by the NSW Police Force:

- (1) What are the policies/guidelines used by the NSW Police Force to determine the exact circumstances under which the water cannon can be used?
- (2) What safeguards are there to ensure that the water cannon is not used on innocent people?
- (3) What safeguards are there to ensure that the water cannon is not used on people vulnerable to falling seriously ill (eg the elderly, children) as a result of being sprayed by the water cannon?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Standard Operating Procedures have been developed which outline the circumstances under which the water cannon can be used.
- (2) and (3) The water cannon is a piece of specialist equipment for deployment at public order incidents and is not used unless a specific set of circumstances exist. Safeguards for use include that the authority to use the water cannon can only be provided by a Region Commander or equivalent and the controller must provide two verbal warnings over a speaker system of the imminent use of water.

*1468 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that the noise modelling study conducted north and south of Sexton Hill in February 2007 was rejected by the RTA as not being a true representation of the actual annual average daily traffic on this section of highway:

- (1) Will a new noise modelling study that gives a true representation of the actual annual average daily traffic on the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway be commissioned?
- (2) If yes, when will it be conducted and will the findings be made available to the public?
- (3) If no, why not?

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.

*1469 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that the RTA acknowledges that the modified preferred option B will impact on businesses due to the drilling and blasting that is required to remove hard rock from the deep cutting at Sexton Hill, and that the modified option will still contain a grade of 4-5% over the hill:

Will consideration be given to Community Option C as a viable alternative to the modified preferred option B, which fails to meet the expectation of the Tweed community?

Answer—

I am advised:

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.

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

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*1470 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that the modified Government-preferred option B has been largely rejected by the constituents of the Tweed electorate:

Will the Minister agree to meeting with a community delegation to discuss this project, either onsite or in Sydney?

Answer—

I met with a number of community members at Tweed Heads in June 2006. Following this meeting, I requested an independent review of costings for design options (including both the preferred option and the deep tunnel Option C).

I am advised:

The preferred route for Banora Point was selected in September last year after careful consultation with the community. The RTA is continuing to refine this route.

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

The environmental assessment will be placed on display for further public comment following an adequacy assessment by the Department of Planning.

*1471 PART 3A DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

(1) (a) Why has the document "Draft Guidelines for Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act" released by the Department of Planning in September 2005 not been finalised?

(b) When will the document be finalised?

(2) (a) Why have the draft "Guidelines for threatened species assessment" released by the Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Primary Industries in July 2005 not been finalised?

(b) When will they be finalised?

(3) What finalised guidelines and policies are in place to oversee developments made under Part 3A?

(4) Has the Department of Planning (and previously DIPNR) been using discussion papers to guide Part 3A development applications?

(5) Why has the Planning Department moved faster to regulate communities opposing developments than it has in regulating the developers creating them?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) (a) The draft Guideline has been available on request from the Department of Planning and is being improved based on feedback from users before being finalised.

(b) The third quarter of 2008.

(2) (a) The draft Guideline has been updated as a result of amendments to the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, and to reflect recent policy development formulated by the Department of Environment and Climate Change in relation to the Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme.

(b) The third quarter of 2008.

(3) "Guidelines for State Significant Sites", "What are Major Projects under Part 3A" and "Guidelines for Major Project Community Consultation".

(4) No. The "Guidelines for State Significant Sites", "What are Major Projects under Part 3A" and "Guidelines for Major Project Community Consultation" have been finalised and are available on the Department of Planning's website. Other draft guidelines are available on request from the Department of Planning.

(5) The Department of Planning has not done this.

*1472 PART 3A DOCUMENTS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

(1) (a) Why has the draft document "Steps in the Assessment and Approval of Major Projects under Part 3A" released by DIPNR on 26 July 2005 not been finalised?

- (b) When will the document be finalised?
- (2) (a) Why has the draft document "Protocol for working with Councils on matters of major infrastructure and development proposals" released by DIPNR in August 2005 not been finalised?
- (b) When will the document be finalised?
- (3) (a) Why has the draft document "Integrating threatened species assessment and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage assessment into Part 3A of the EP&A Act" released by DIPNR on 28 July 2005 not been finalised?
- (b) When will the document be finalised?
- (4) (a) Why has the document "Draft guideline criteria for construction projects under the Major Projects SEPP" released by DIPNR on 26 July 2005 not been finalised?
- (b) When will the document be finalised?
- (5) (a) Why has the draft document "What are major projects under Part 3A?" released by DIPNR on 26 July 2005 not been finalised?
- (b) When will the document be finalised?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) The draft Guidelines referred to in questions 1 to 5 are available on request from the Department of Planning and are being improved based on feedback from users before being finalised.
- (b) The third quarter of 2008.
- (2) The draft Guideline is being updated as a result of the increasing role of local government in the assessment of Major Projects.
- (3) (a) and (b) Refer to answer (1).
- (4) (a) and (b) Refer to answer (1).
- (5) (a) and (b) Refer to answer (1).

*1473 FINALISATION OF DRAFT DOCUMENTS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) (a) Why has the document "Draft guidelines State Significant Sites" released by DIPNR on 24 July 2005 not been finalised?
- (b) When will the document be finalised?
- (2) (a) Why has the draft document "Concept plan application process under Part 3A" released by DIPNR on 24 July 2005 not been finalised?
- (b) When will the document be finalised?
- (3) (a) Why has the draft document "Steps in the Assessment and Approval of Major Projects under Part 3A" released by DIPNR on 26 July 2005 not been finalised?
- (b) When will the document be finalised?
- (4) (a) Why has the draft "Guideline - what is the level and scope of assessment for Major Projects? Preliminary Assessment" released by DIPNR on 18 July 2005 not been finalised?
- (b) When will this guideline be finalised?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) The "Guidelines for State Significant Sites" document has been finalised and is available on the Department of Planning's website.
- (b) Refer to (a).
- (2) (a) The draft Guidelines referred to in questions 2, 3 and 4 are available on request from the Department of Planning and are being improved based on feedback from users before being finalised.
- (b) The third quarter of 2008.
- (3) (a) and (b) Refer to answer (2).
- (4) (a) and (b) Refer to answer (2).

*1474 FTE NURSE NUMBERS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many FTE nurses in the North Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service payroll (excluding agency nurses) were working at:

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- (a) Royal North Shore Hospital;
- (b) Ryde Hospital;
- (c) Mona Vale Hospital;
- (d) Manly Hospital;
- (e) Hornsby Hospital;
- (f) Gosford Hospital; and
- (g) Wyong Hospital

as at 30 June in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Report.

*1475 FTE NURSE NUMBERS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many FTE nurses are on the North Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service payroll and how many of them are agency nurses?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Report.

*1476 HOSPITAL BED COUNT—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

On the 30th of each month in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, what was (i) the midnight bed count and (ii) the number of beds with patients in them at:

- (a) Royal North Shore Hospital;
- (b) Ryde Hospital;
- (c) Mona Vale Hospital;
- (d) Manly Hospital;
- (e) Hornsby Hospital;
- (f) Gosford Hospital; and
- (g) Wyong Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information about available and occupied beds is published in the NSW Department of Health's annual reports. To provide a monthly breakdown of this data in the manner requested by the Honourable Member would be resource intensive and the diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified.

*1477 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

What are the Government's plans for providing direct public access for all Pittwater residents to the proposed new Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The local area is well served by bus routes along Warringah Road, Wakehurst Parkway and Frenchs Forest Road. To ensure access to the site ancillary works will be further considered in consultation with the agencies responsible for these roads.

*1479 CARE WORKERS FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Community Services—

How many Department of Community Services care workers are assigned to deal exclusively with vulnerable children in Pittwater?

Answer—

The electoral district of Pittwater is within the service area of Chatswood Community Services Centre. As at 18 October 2007, there are 27 caseworker positions at this Centre, up from 19 prior to the \$1.2 billion reform of the Department of Community Services.

*1480 TRAIN DELAYS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

For what reasons was the Brisbane to Sydney CountryLink XPT service late arriving at Macksville Station on 27 occasions between 3 September 2007 and 19 October 2007, on average more than 1 hour and 5 minutes late over that period?

Answer—

I am advised:

Delays to CountryLink services can be caused by a range of unique challenges such as delays on the CityRail network, increasing use of longer freight trains on interstate lines and speed restrictions imposed by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) during extreme heat conditions.

Many of these factors are often out of CountryLink's hands, however, CountryLink aims to work closely with the ARTC to ensure that passengers are given a more reliable service and more certainty of arrival and departure times when unexpected issues arise.

*1481 VALUATION OF LANDS ACT—SECTION 35AA—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 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 permission of the Valuer-General). Why is this provision within the Act?
- (2) 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?

Answer—

The amendment to section 35AA Valuation of Land Act 1916, occurred following the introduction of land tax being generally assessed based on the average of the last 3 years' valuations, instead of only on the most recent valuation.

Legislation was enacted to ensure that a land tax valuation previously the subject of a land tax objection cannot be the subject of a further objection where the same issues or concerns have previously been investigated by the independent valuer reviewing the objection and a decision issued.

Importantly the legislation contains provision that the Valuer General can accept a new objection if a new landowner raised valid fresh issues as to why a land value should be further reviewed.

*1482 RE-LICENSING OF FIREARMS—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Given many collectors across NSW have purchased antique muzzle loading percussion revolvers, some at considerable expense, for no other purpose other than to keep as a historical firearm, will the Minister for Police please advise why he is proposing to re-license these firearms?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

The requirement to register pre-1900 muzzle loading black powder percussion lock pistols derives from resolution 6 of the Council of Australian Government's Handgun Agreement, which states that "all handguns other than pre-percussion handguns be registered". NSW sought an exemption from registration of single shot percussion lock pistols from the Commonwealth, however multiple shot percussion lock pistols still require registration.

In recognition of the regulatory burden this places on collectors of such items, an amnesty for registration will be given until 31 December 2008. During this time, the Police portfolio will consult with collectors to determine a suitable scheme.

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*1483 COMPENSATION PAYMENT—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

Given Kamal Boules of Kellyville has fought for 8 years to rectify problems with the building of his new home, and given that his family have already incurred legal expenses of \$100,000 and the expected cost to repair the home will be in the vicinity of \$200,000, will the Minister advise when the appropriate compensation will be paid to Mr Kamal Boules for defective work and legal costs regarding this matter?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

Mr Boules did lodge an insurance claim with HIH Insurance in 1999. However the matter was not brought to Fair Trading's attention until two years later, when Mr Boules applied to the then Fair Trading Tribunal in March 2001. The Tribunal dealt with the matter quickly, handing down orders in May 2001 for the builder to make rectifications and make a payment to Mr Boules. I am advised the Tribunal's orders were based on the report of Mr Boules original building consultant.

Mr Boules subsequently obtained another consultant's report and then lodged another insurance claim in August 2002 against his HIH Insurance policy. As HIH had collapsed by this time, the claim was considered by the Building Insurers' Guarantee Corporation, the body set up by the Government to administer claims on home warranty insurance policies issued by HIH before its collapse. As other consultants' reports vastly differed from this new report the Corporation was not able to justify a payment the size claimed by Mr Boules. This matter is now before the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal.

Offers have been made to Mr Boules to settle this matter with the Corporation prepared, on a 'without prejudice' basis, to pay Mr Boules \$80,000. This offer was based on the reports of two separate engineers who inspected Mr Boules' home.

Mr Boules has refused all offers and, because of the disparity in the engineers' reports, the matter remains before the Tribunal and as such it would be inappropriate for me to comment any about proceedings still before the Tribunal.

14 NOVEMBER 2007

(Paper No. 35)

*1484 ACCREDITED TRANSCRIPTION AGENTS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How many persons have been approved as "Accredited Transcription Agents" by New South Wales, Births Deaths and Marriages?
- (2) How many of these persons currently hold accreditation?
- (3) (a) Is the number of such agents for the State of New South Wales limited by regulation?
(b) If so, what is the maximum number approved for New South Wales?
- (4) Why is the number of these agents so limited/regulated?

Answer—

Three transcription agents are currently accredited by the NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages. The transcription agents were selected through an open tender process. The number of transcription agents is not regulated however agents are required to meet standards prescribed in the tender process.

*1485 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION—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 renewable energy generation:

- (1) Since 2003, has the Treasurer visited sites of wind, solar, wave, or geothermal energy generation within Australia?
- (2) If so, which locations and particular facilities were visited and what were the dates of the visits?

Answer—

I'm advised

This question should be directed to the Minister for Energy.

*1486 RENEWABLE ENERGY 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 renewable energy generation:

- (1) Since 2003 what visits has the Minister made to sites of wind, solar, wave, or geothermal energy generation within Australia?
- (2) Where and when were the site visits?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The question is misguided. The Minister was only appointed as Minister for Energy on April 2, 2007. The Minister has made regular visits to energy facilities of all kinds since that time.

*1487 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to renewable energy generation:

- (1) Since 2003, has the Premier visited sites of wind, solar, wave, or geothermal energy generation within Australia?
- (2) If so, which locations and particular facilities were visited and what were the dates of the visits?

Answer—

The Premier regularly visits companies and organisations to discuss initiatives which have benefits for New South Wales including energy and environmental projects. Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

*1488 CORRESPONDENCE TO PREMIER'S OFFICE—Ms Pru Goward asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) What percentage of all correspondence received by the Premier's office is designated as "no response required"?
- (2) When representations to the Premier, either from a Member of Parliament or direct from a constituent, acknowledge receipt but advise that the matter in question has been forwarded to an alternative Minister, how is that correspondence tracked by the Premier's office to ensure a reply?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Premier and Cabinet handles correspondence to the Premier on his behalf. In the 2006-07 financial year, 38 per cent of correspondence to the Premier was designated 'no response required'. In the period from 1 July 2007 to 29 November 2007, 32 per cent of correspondence to the Premier has been designated 'no response required'.

Examples of the types of correspondence that would be designated 'no response required' include:

- advice provided by Ministers and agencies on particular issues;
- correspondence that is not directly addressed to the Premier (i.e. courtesy copies);
- correspondence that is provided to the Premier as an administrative or statutory matter (eg. Departmental annual reports);
- newsletters and other correspondence that is provided for information only; and
- simple thank you letters and acknowledgements of Premier's responses.

- (2) The Premier receives about 60,000 letters per year, most of which refer to matters which are the responsibility of other Ministers. The Department of Premier and Cabinet, on behalf of the Premier, may refer representations to another Minister with a request that they be given 'all necessary attention' or 'consideration and reply direct'. It is the responsibility of the Minister to whom a matter has been referred to determine the most appropriate action. On occasion, the Department may also request that the responsible Minister furnish the Department with a copy of his or her response to the letter.

*1489 ELIGIBILITY TERMINATION PAYMENT—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Given that the NSW Police Force fill out the Eligibility Termination Payment Summary form which is then forwarded to the Australian Taxation Office, how is the Eligibility Termination Payment classified for taxation purposes for a police officer who is medically discharged and deemed permanently unfit for duty?

Answer—

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The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Taxation for such payments is a maximum rate of 30%, however this can be reduced depending on how the payment is taken. Members are advised to seek independent financial advice in this regard.

*1491 HOME-BASED BUSINESSES—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Does the Minister support home-based business?
- (2) If so, what action has he taken in respect to Fairfield City Council placing a ban on the employment of non-resident employees by home-based small business since 1999?
- (3) In an article published on Wednesday 3 October 2007 in the Fairfield City Champion, the Mayor of Fairfield City, Mr Nick Lalich is quoted as saying: "Once you have two adults, a few kids and then two workers, you have a small factory."

Will the Minister condemn this?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

While planning and development is a local government function, it is not a function of councils controlled by the Local Government Act 1993, and therefore does not fall within the local government portfolio area of responsibility.

The Honourable Member may therefore wish to direct his question to the Minister for Planning, the Hon Frank Sartor MP.

*1492 HOME-BASED BUSINESSES—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Does the Minister support home-based business?
- (2) If so, what action has he taken in respect to Fairfield City Council placing a ban on the employment of non-resident employees by home-based small business since 1999?
- (3) In an article published on Wednesday 3 October 2007 in the Fairfield City Champion, the Mayor of Fairfield City, Mr Nick Lalich is quoted as saying: "Once you have two adults, a few kids and then two workers, you have a small factory."

Will the Minister condemn this?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As part of the New South Wales Planning Reforms, the Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006 was prepared to standardise provisions in the local environmental plans (LEPs) across the State. The new definition of "home business" in the Standard Instrument allows for one or more permanent residents of the dwelling along with two persons other than those residents of the dwelling. This definition will be included in the new Fairfield Comprehensive LEP, expected to be made by March 2009.
- (3) No.

*1493 YOUNG DEFENSIVE DRIVER TRAINING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Why has the Minister not replied to my letter, dated 6 August 2007, on behalf of Ms M Jamieson of Young regarding funding for a defensive driving course for P-Plate drivers (your reference M07/5222 refers)?
- (2) Will the Minister provide funding to subsidise the running of a defensive driving course in Young?

Answer—

I am advised:

Both this letter and a previous letter sent on behalf of Mrs Jamieson have been responded to.

The Iemma Government is committed to improving the safety of young drivers. Each year around \$2.8 million is allocated for road safety education programs in schools.

In 2007-2008, two new resources will be introduced in high schools, focussing on issues such as country road safety, drink and drug driving, fatigue, speeding and pedestrian safety. These resources will support high schools in the delivery of driver education to senior students.

A statewide professional development program for English teachers is being conducted for one of the new road safety curriculum resources, In the driver's seat. This resource addresses road safety through the Higher School Certificate English course.

The NSW Government is working with the Victorian and Federal Governments and other funding partners including NRMA Insurance to develop, trial and evaluate a driver training program.

The Novice Driver Programme Trial will target P-plate licence holders, focussing on driver behaviour and hazard perception. If it is found to be effective, consideration will be given to the possibility of including the program in the graduated licensing system.

*1494 SECURITY AT ELECTORATE OFFICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Which electorate offices that have been surveyed for additional security measures, and have been recommended to have enhanced security measures installed, have had these measures fitted out?
- (2) Which election offices still waiting for additional security measures in place?
- (3) How long have they been waiting?
- (4) How much longer will they have to wait?

Answer—

I am advised that issues related to the fitout and maintenance of electorate offices are the responsibility of the Parliament and should be referred to the Presiding Officers.

*1495 CASEWORKER SHORTAGE IN HUNTER REGION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) As at 1 November 2007, how many caseworker positions remain unfilled in the Hunter region?
- (2) What is the staff turnover rate for the Hunter Region?
- (3) What policies does your department have in place to ensure cases are properly file managed as staff turnover in the region?
- (4) What correspondence did the Hunter Region DoCS staff receive from Sydney staff regarding the relocation of Shellay Ward and her family into the region?
- (5) How many times did caseworkers visit the Ward residence since they moved into the area in August?
- (6) How long has the family been known to DoCS?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) As the sad death of this child is now subject to criminal court proceedings, it is inappropriate to provide details related to this case at this time.

*1496 HORNSBY HOSPITAL OPERATING THEATRES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

How much money has been spent and what has been done to the operating theatres at Hornsby Hospital in each financial year 2002 to 2006 inclusive, and in 2007 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

Approximately \$340,440 has been spent on capital works (excluding equipment) undertaken on the Operating Theatres at Hornsby Hospital during the period in question. This includes:

- Air-conditioning upgrade
- Refurbishment of the Recovery Room
- Medical air plan
- Standby rated diesel generator

*1497 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES NOTIFICATIONS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many children under the age of 18 years are currently known to the Department of Community Services in the Hornsby electorate?
- (2) How many children under the age of 10 years are currently known to the Department of Community Services in the Hornsby electorate?
- (3) How many children in the Hornsby electorate have been removed from their family by the Department of Community Services in each year 2003 to 2006, and in 2007 to date?

Answer—

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(1) and (2) The Hornsby Electorate is within the Department of Community Services (DoCS) Metro Central Region.

In 2006/07 there were 13,739 children under the age of 18, and 8,188 under the age of 10 involved in reports that were referred to the Metro Central Region.

(3) The number of children and young people in DoCS Metro Central Region entering care was 343 in 2005/06 and 421 in 2006/07. Information from July 2007 is not yet available.

*1498 PEAT ISLAND PATIENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Community Services—

(1) What is the plan for Peat Island and the facility currently operating thereon?

(2) How many patients are currently resident on Peat Island?

(3) If the facility is going to close, where will the existing residents be placed?

Answer—

This is a matter for my colleague the Hon Kristina Keneally MP, Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability Services.

*1499 CALVARY MATER HOSPITAL—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health—

(1) What are the activity levels at Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital in terms of:

(a) number of patients treated in the 2006-07 financial year;

(b) number of employees in the 2006-07 financial year?

(2) What was the budget of Calvary Mater Hospital in the 2006-07 financial year?

Answer—

I am advised

(1) and (2) The Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital is an affiliated health organisation under the Health Services Act 1997. The Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital has an agreement with Hunter New England Area Health Service to provide a comprehensive range of services.

The Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital details staffing and activity data in their Annual Report. Similarly, the Annual Report includes detailed financial information. It is anticipated the 2006-07 Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital Annual Report will be available shortly. The 2005-06 Annual Report can be found at: <http://www.mater.net.au>

*1500 BURRANEER BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL—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—

What action will the Minister take to improve students' toilets at Burraneer Bay Public School?

Answer—

A project to upgrade facilities at Burraneer Bay Public School was announced in as part of the 2004/05 Budget. \$2.75 million has been expended on the upgrade which included a refurbishment of the existing toilet facilities.

Under the Building Better Schools program, the NSW Labor Government will invest more than \$2 billion over the term of the current government to improve the learning environment for students and teachers across NSW.

This program will focus on a number of specific initiatives including the construction of 27 new primary school halls and 17 secondary school gymnasiums across the state.

A project to construct a hall at Burraneer Bay Public School has been included in the Government's Building Better Schools Program. The hall will be built within the current term of Government.

New student toilet facilities will be included as part of a future project at the school.

*1501 PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

(1) What is the current status of public housing in Caringbah and Cronulla?

(2) Are there any projects for 2007-08 for the electorate of Cronulla?

(3) If so, what are they?

Answer—

(1) Information concerning the status of public housing is available in Housing NSW's 2007 Annual

Report.

- (2) and (3) The NSW Government will spend \$1M in 2007/08 on the upgrading of existing social housing and on the supply of new social housing in the Cronulla electorate.

*1502 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How much money has been spent on refurbishment and general maintenance at Sutherland Hospital?
(2) How much is to be spent on such projects in the current financial year?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) and (2) The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report expenditure on the basis of individual health facilities.

However, all Area Health Services use a standard proforma when preparing their financial statements. Information on Maintenance is detailed under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses, of the Area Health Service's publicly available Annual Reports. I refer the Member to the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service Annual Reports.

*1503 PSYCHIATRIC HELP—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What are the priorities for psychiatric help, in order, for all conditions that request or require treatment in public psychiatric facilities or with psychiatric practitioners?
(2) (a) With limited resources for psychiatric assistance in country areas, are the priorities different from those in the metropolitan areas?
(b) Are services reduced to more specific categories, for example people seriously affected by drug addiction, bereavement, etc?
(3) (a) How is the distribution of limited resources determined?
(b) What formula is applied when deciding who will access psychiatric care as a priority?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Access to mental health services is not defined by diagnostic category but rather by the severity of the symptoms, level of risk to the person and others and the level of functional impairment the person is experiencing. The determination of access to the service is based on a comprehensive assessment by clinical mental health staff. The priorities are determined in the same way in both rural and metropolitan areas.

(3) The planning tool known as the Mental Health Clinical Care and Prevention Model (MH-CCP) is used to determine the distribution of mental health resources. This tool is a population based planning method that allows service needs to be calculated based on population numbers in any given geographical area.

*1504 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many RTA-funded school crossing supervisors are presently employed in the Parramatta local government area?
(2) What is the total cost of employing such persons?
(3) How many school crossing supervisors were employed in the Parramatta local government area in the years 2000 to 2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are more than 1000 school crossing supervisors, or "lollipop" personnel, across schools in NSW.

The NSW Government spends more than \$10 million a year on road safety awareness campaigns, and more than \$120 million a year is spent directly on road safety measures.

Around \$3.1 million is dedicated to school road safety education programs each year, providing an integrated approach to road safety for young people from the time they start school until the time they reach driving age.

*1505 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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- (1) How many RTA-funded school crossing supervisors are currently employed in the Baulkham Hills local government area?
- (2) What is the total cost of employing such persons?
- (3) How many school crossing supervisors were employed in the Baulkham Hills local government area in the years 2000 to 2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are more than 1000 school crossing supervisors, or "lollipop" personnel, across schools in NSW.

The NSW Government spends more than \$10 million a year on road safety awareness campaigns, and more than \$120 million a year is spent directly on road safety measures.

Around \$3.1 million is dedicated to school road safety education programs each year, providing an integrated approach to road safety for young people from the time they start school until the time they reach driving age.

*1506 NORTH WEST T-WAY—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many persons have travelled on the North West T-way in each of the months March, April, May, June, July, August, September and October 2007?
- (2) How many persons have travelled on the North West T-way since it was opened?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Bus services commenced on the North West T-way in March, 2007.

Since it opened approximately 560,000 people have travelled on the North-West T-way.

This equates to an average of 70,000 people per month who have travelled on the North West T-way since it opened (as at October, 2007).

*1507 ADDITIONAL BUS LANES—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many additional lanes are to be provided during the next twelve months for Hills M2 City and North Sydney bus route?

Answer—

I am advised that bus priority measures are a matter for the Minister for Roads.

*1508 448 BUS SERVICE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

With regard to the Pre-Pay bus service from the casino to QVB building:

- (1) Does this bus service stop only at the casino and the QVB building?
- (2) Is this service directed at gamblers and patrons of the casino?
- (3) Does the casino contribute financially to the cost of providing the 448 bus service?
- (4) Apart from the termini, what other bus stops can Pymont residents use to travel to and from the city and what is the rationale for this?
- (5) Do 448 route buses return empty to the city as buses that are "Not in Service" in the mornings and what is the rationale for this?
- (6) Do 448 route buses return empty to Pymont as buses that are "Not in Service" in the afternoons and what is the rationale for this?
- (7) What impact does the Government expect this route to have on the existing 443 bus service?
- (8) How does the Government intend to coordinate this route with the existing 443 bus service?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (8) The Route 448 bus service operates between the Queen Victoria Building and Pymont, providing services to businesses such as Channel 7, Fairfax Newspapers and American Express.

The Route 448 is an express, peak hour only service which transports workers from Town Hall Station to Pymont and return, and does not receive any financial contributions from the casino.

The Route 448 complements the services of the Route 443 by providing additional capacity. The

Route 501 service is also available, along with Metro Light Rail and the Monorail.

Both the Routes 443 and 448 are expected to experience further patronage growth. State Transit will monitor both routes to ensure appropriate levels of service are provided on each.

*1509 COMMUTER CONGESTION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

With regard to CityRail peak commuter congestion:

- (1) Is the NSW Government aware of the Victorian Government trial to offer free train travel to passengers arriving at their destination before 7.00 am?
- (2) Will the NSW Government monitor the success of the trial?
- (3) If the trial successfully achieves its aim of reducing travel loads during morning peak times by five per cent, what consideration will the NSW Government give to introducing a similar trial in Sydney?
- (4) What other proposals is the NSW Government considering to reduce commuter congestion while still increasing CityRail patronage?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) I am aware of the trial underway in Victoria.

The NSW Government will monitor the trial, and its outcomes, for its duration.

1510 PEAK OIL—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

*1511 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many staff are employed in your ministerial office?
- (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
- (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media-related responsibilities are employed in your ministerial office?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Ministers' staff are employed by the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet, pursuant to the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. This question should be directed to the Premier.

*1512 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) How many staff are employed in your ministerial office?
- (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
- (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media-related responsibilities are employed in your ministerial office?

Answer—

This question should be directed to the Premier.

*1513 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many staff are employed in your ministerial office?
- (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
- (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media-related responsibilities are employed in your ministerial office?

Answer—

Ministers' staff are employed by the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet pursuant to the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. This question should be directed to the Premier.

*1514 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) How many staff are employed in the Department of Premier and Cabinet?
- (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
- (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media-related responsibilities are employed in the Department of Premier and Cabinet?

Answer—

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Information about the number of staff employed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and their roles is available in the Department's Annual Report and in the Budget Papers.

Since 1 April 2007, 112.13 full time equivalent staff have left the employment of the Department of Premier and Cabinet as a result of the conclusion of temporary or casual employment, transfer to other agencies, retirement, resignation and voluntary redundancy.

These figures do not include staff employed in Ministers' offices.

*1515 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) How many staff are employed in your ministerial office?
- (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
- (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media-related responsibilities are employed in your ministerial office?

Answer—

Ministers' staff are employed by the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet pursuant to the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. This question should be directed to the Premier.

*1516 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many staff are employed in your ministerial office?
- (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
- (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media-related responsibilities are employed in your ministerial office?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) Ministers' staff are employed by the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet pursuant to the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002.

*1517 GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to Griffith Base Hospital:

- (1) How many claims of bullying and harassment in the administration section of the Griffith Base Hospital have been lodged with management from 1 January 2006 to date?
- (2) What action is being taken to deal with those allegations?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Eleven matters relating to possible bullying and harassment have been lodged with Griffith Base Hospital management in relation to the Administration Department.
- (2) All matters relating to bullying and harassment have been managed in accordance with NSW Health Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of Workplace Bullying.

*1518 GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL STAFFING—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to staffing at Griffith Base Hospital:

- (1) How many staff employed at the hospital are currently on workers' compensation?
- (2) Of those how many are on "stress" leave?
- (3) What is the total number of staff at Griffith Base Hospital that have taken leave for stress-related purposes during the last twelve months?
- (4) How many administration staff have left the employ of Griffith Base Hospital in the past twelve months?
- (5) How many administration staff have been "terminated" during the past twelve months.
- (6) When staff take leave what arrangements are made to ensure relief staff are adequately trained and qualified to perform the tasks that are required for the relief position?
- (7) Is every position vacant due to leave backfilled?
- (8) What action is required to "fill" both temporary and permanent administration positions?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) There are currently six staff employed by Griffith Base Hospital on workers compensation benefits.
- (2) and (3) The two main leave options for staff who are unfit for work are sick leave or workers compensation. For short periods of leave, staff are not required to provide specific details of the reason for taking sick leave. However, if an employee is on leave as a result of a work related illness, this absence would be recognised as leave for workers compensation purposes. In the case of a claim for weekly payments of compensation in respect of incapacity for work resulting from psychological injury, the medical certificate required to accompany the claim must use, for the purpose of describing the worker's condition, accepted medical terminology and not only terminology such as "stress" or "stress condition".
- (4) Eight.
- (5) One.
- (6) Relief staff must meet all qualification and training requirements. They are supervised and receive on the job training to ensure they are able to perform the tasks that are required for the relief position.
- (7) Not all positions vacant due to leave are backfilled. Consideration is given to the demand of the affected area and the length of time the incumbent will be absent.
- (8) Recruitment and selection of all vacant positions is in accordance with NSW Health Policy Directive D2006_059.

*1519 DESIGNATED OFFICERS—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Health—

Would the Minister advise the personnel deemed "designated officers" of the Greater Southern Area Health Service referred to in the Intranet Access Policy under subclause Scrutiny of Information and Personal Privacy?

Answer—

I am advised

"Designated officers" of the Greater Southern Area Health Service include members of the Greater Southern Area Health Services Corporate Risk and Audit Unit and the Area Chief Information Officer. As required the Chief Executive may approve other Area staff as "designated officers".

*1520 GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL INQUIRY—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Health—

As Jim Venn & Associates were engaged to interview staff at the Griffith Base Hospital, and in relation to that inquiry:

- (1) What was the total cost of that inquiry?
- (2) Why was the inquiry implemented?
- (3) What recommendations were made as a result of the inquiry?
- (4) When will the recommendations made be implemented?
- (5) What staff were interviewed?
- (6) How were those staff that were interviewed selected?
- (7) What steps were made to establish the veracity of allegations made and to ensure that allegations were not malicious or vexatious?
- (8) Why were not all administration staff interviewed?
- (9) Why were other department manager(s) refused interviews?
- (10) How many staff that requested interviews were refused?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Payment for the formal review was pursuant to an agreement between Jim Venn & Associates and Greater Southern Area Health Service. It would not be appropriate to provide this commercially sensitive information.
- (2) The formal review of allegations by Jim Venn & Associates at Griffith Base Hospital was instigated in response to allegations made by staff and the Manager within the Administrative Department relating to inappropriate workplace conduct.
- (3) Several recommendations were made surrounding the day-to-day services/processes within the Administration Department at Griffith Base Hospital redefining current roles and responsibilities that sit within this department.
- (4) These recommendations are currently being implemented.

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(5) and (6) All staff working within the Administration Department were offered the opportunity to be interviewed.

(7) The investigation undertaken was a fair and equitable process. I am advised that the independent investigator, Jim Venn & Associates, is experienced in these matters and takes into account the propensity for some to act in the manner described in the question.

(8) to (10) All administrative staff, nursing staff and managers within the Administration Department and the Cluster General Manager were given the opportunity to be interviewed. 27 staff and all managers participated. No other hospital department managers or staff members were refused interviews.

*1521 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that the Federal Transport Bureau's AusLink Paper forecasts an average annual daily traffic (AADT) count of 150,000 vehicles on the QLD/NSW border section of the Pacific Highway by 2025, which is near the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Is this forecast AADT count sufficiently catered for in the current and proposed designs of the Sexton Hill section upgrade?
- (2) If no, what changes to the current and proposed upgrades to the Sexton Hill section of the highway are planned to meet this forecast increased traffic flow.

Answer—

I am advised:

Details regarding traffic volume and growth are available in the preferred concept design report available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

Further traffic assessment will form part of the environmental assessment for the project.

*1522 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDING—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Community Services—

In relation to Department of Community Services (DoCS) funding and staffing in the Tweed:

- (1) What is the number of persons employed by DoCS in the Tweed electorate broken down into:
 - (a) the number of case workers;
 - (b) the number of administration and any other non-case worker staff?
- (2) What is the funding and expenditure figures for DoCS offices in the Tweed electorate for:
 - (a) the current year budget and the actual year-to-date expenditure;
 - (b) last year's budgeted funding amount and actual expenditure?

Answer—

- (1) Information relating to staffing is not available by electorate. Please refer to Question on Notice 1228 for information already provided for Tweed Heads Community Services Centre.
- (2) Information relating to budget is not available by electorate. Please refer to the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Report at www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1523 CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Community Services—

In relation to allegations of child sexual assault in the Tweed:

- (1) Why has the Department of Community Services (DoCS) not followed up an inquiry made by a Tweed Heads woman regarding the alleged sexual abuse of a child, despite the woman's numerous efforts in contacting her local DoCS office?
- (2) On what date was the Minister made aware of this woman's concerns?
- (3) What action has been taken to investigate and follow up the concerns of this woman?
- (4) How many inquiries have been made by members of the Tweed electorate concerning allegations of child sexual abuse over the current year-to-date?

Answer—

(1) and (3) The Department of Community Services (DoCS) has followed up the allegations and assisted the family on numerous occasions. This action has included direct support by staff, financial assistance, coordinating of sexual assault counselling and referral to a Joint Investigation Response Team. The Department's support is ongoing.

(2) Correspondence on this matter was received from the Member for Tweed on 31 October 2007.

(4) DoCS does not record the electorate of persons making inquiries concerning allegations of child sexual abuse.

*1524 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many RTA-funded school crossing supervisors were employed in the Ryde local government area for the years 2000-2006 inclusive and at what cost per year 2000-2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are more than 1000 school crossing supervisors, or "lollipop" personnel, across schools in NSW.

The NSW Government spends more than \$10 million a year on road safety awareness campaigns, and more than \$120 million a year is spent directly on road safety measures.

Around \$3.1 million is dedicated to school road safety education programs each year, providing an integrated approach to road safety for young people from the time they start school until the time they reach driving age.

*1525 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many RTA-funded school crossing supervisors were employed in the Hunters Hill local government area for the years 2000-2006 inclusive and at what cost per year 2000-2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are more than 1000 school crossing supervisors, or "lollipop" personnel, across schools in NSW.

The NSW Government spends more than \$10 million a year on road safety awareness campaigns, and more than \$120 million a year is spent directly on road safety measures.

Around \$3.1 million is dedicated to school road safety education programs each year, providing an integrated approach to road safety for young people from the time they start school until the time they reach driving age.

*1526 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many RTA-funded school crossing supervisors are presently employed in the Lane Cove local government area?
- (2) What is the total cost of employing such persons?
- (3) Have many school crossing supervisors were employed in the Lane Cove local government area in each year 2000 to 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are more than 1000 school crossing supervisors, or "lollipop" personnel, across schools in NSW.

The NSW Government spends more than \$10 million a year on road safety awareness campaigns, and more than \$120 million a year is spent directly on road safety measures.

Around \$3.1 million is dedicated to school road safety education programs each year, providing an integrated approach to road safety for young people from the time they start school until the time they reach driving age.

*1527 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—CLEANING—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

On a monthly basis, January to December, how much money has been spent on cleaning Royal North Shore Hospital in each year commencing in 2004 through to 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report expenditure on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would

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substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, all Area Health Services use a standard proforma when preparing their financial statements. In each case any cleaning costs would be reported under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses and, more specifically as a component of Domestic Supplies and Services. This also captures expenses such as Housekeeping Contracts, Kitchen and Tableware, Removal of Trade Refuse and Uniforms.

I refer the Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Annual Reports.

*1528 COLD CLIMATE PRISONS—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

With regards to the NSW Government policies on cold climate prisons:

- (1) How many prisons in NSW are considered cold climate prisons?
- (2) What are the names of these prisons?
- (3) How many of these cold climate prisons allow prisoners to purchase cold weather clothing and bedding?

Answer—

I am advised:

Inmates in Bathurst, Berrima, Broken Hill, Cooma, Glen Innes, Goulburn, Junee, Kirkconnell, Lithgow, Mannus, Oberon, St Heliers, Tamworth and Wellington correctional centres can purchase clothing and bedding appropriate to the local climate.

*1529 CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

With respect to the Department of Corrective Services:

- (1) (a) Have any correctional officers been recruited from overseas since January 2003?
(b) If yes, what are the details?
- (2) What is the attendance record of corrective services staff based at the Sydney Police Centre cells at Surry Hills?
- (3) Are any officers employed by the Department of Corrective Services serving good behaviour bonds over criminal charges brought against them for crimes such as shoplifting?

Answer—

I am advised:

There have not been any correctional officers recruited from overseas during the period referred to. The second part of the question is so broad as to have no specific meaning.

As at 30 June 2007 the Department is unaware of any staff members subject to good behaviour bonds for shoplifting.

*1530 VICTIMS COMPENSATION—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

With respect to cases that have been heard by the Victims Compensation Tribunal that was established in 1987:

- (1) How many victims compensation cases have been decided by way of desk determination this year (i.e. for year 2006-2007)?
- (2) What evidence does the tribunal take into account when a claim is put to it?
- (3) (a) How many uncorroborated sexual assault claims have succeeded in the NSW Victims Compensation Tribunal in the period of 1988 to 2007?
(b) What were the payments on these claims?

Answer—

- (1) I refer the member to the Victims Compensation Tribunal Chairperson's Report.
- (2) I refer the member to the relevant legislation and regulations.
- (3) and (4) The Tribunal determines sexual assault claims on the basis of evidence provided. All claims that have succeeded have been corroborated to the required legal test. Details of sexual assault determinations, awards and payments are outlined in Chairperson's Reports since 2003-2004.

*1531 CYCLEWAYS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What plans are there for new cycleways in the Pittwater electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

Pittwater Council has recently submitted proposals for two bike projects on the basis of 50/50 funding (50% Roads and Traffic Authority/50% Council) for consideration in the 2008/09 financial year. The proposed projects are:

- Garden Street, North Narrabeen – proposed shared bike path link.
- Wakehurst Parkway at Deep Creek, Elanora – proposed bridge across Deep Creek adjacent to existing bridge as a shared bike/pedestrian link.

*1532 AVALON POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What revenue does the Government expect to receive from the sale or lease of Avalon Police Station?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that this information is commercially sensitive as the property is to be auctioned.

*1533 COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

How many Community Service Orders compelling offenders to remove graffiti vandalism in Pittwater have been imposed:

- (a) in total;
- (b) in the most recent annual period for which figures are available?

Answer—

I am advised:

There have been no young people from the Pittwater municipality sentenced to a Community Service Order that has resulted in their participation in the graffiti removal program.

*1534 IMPEDIMENT TO POLICE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Is there any impediment to police charging a person found to have embezzled money from a volunteer organisation, where the organisation has instituted civil action against the person?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Criminal and civil proceedings are distinct and independent matters that each follow their own course, even though they may relate to the same set of factual matters. A conviction or acquittal for a criminal offence is no bar to the commencement of civil proceedings and a judgement in civil proceedings is no bar to the commencement of criminal proceedings.

*1535 CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Is the Catchment Management Authority organising projects in the Wootton area?
- (2) If so, who has been awarded the contract to undertake such work?
- (3) If so, how was the contractor selected to undertake such work?
- (4) Were local contractors considered for the Catchment Management Authority's work?
- (5) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (5) The Catchment Management Authority does not engage the works contractors because it is the landholders that decide who is awarded the work.

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*1536 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—PATIENT NUMBERS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) For the month of October 2007, how many persons were admitted to the wards of Mount Druitt hospital?
- (2) Of those patients in the hospital what was their classification as to the number who were:
 - (a) day only patients;
 - (b) patients who stayed in the hospital for one night;
 - (c) patients who stayed in the hospital for two nights;
 - (d) patients who stayed in the hospital for more than two nights?
- (3) How many patients referred to in Question (1) above were in hospital as a result of:
 - (a) elective surgery;
 - (b) admission after presenting to the Accident and Emergency section of the hospital;
 - (c) admission after being conveyed to the hospital by Ambulance;
 - (d) other means?
- (4) How do the figures referred to in the above three questions compare to:
 - (a) October 2006;
 - (b) January 2007?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (4) The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report data at the level requested on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions on this occasion.

However, the Department of Health does provide standardised hospital and Area Health Service performance data on a monthly basis on its Internet site at www.health.nsw.gov.au. The Hon Member is referred to the NSW Health Internet site.

*1537 OFFICE OF STATE RECORDS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What has been the income for the running of the office of State Records for the past two years?
- (2) How much of this income was obtained from the Treasury Consolidated Fund in the State Budget?
- (3) How much of this income was derived from the sale of records and products during this same period?
- (4) Does the office of State Records intend to put on computer/ CD-Rom/ Internet the Hansard of the New South Wales Parliament from the commencement of responsible Government in 1856 to the present?
- (5) What other plans does State Records have to digitise State Government and Parliamentary records?

Answer—

I am advised:

Income for the State Records Authority of NSW in the 2005–2006 financial year was \$15.149 million and for the 2006–2007 financial year it was \$16.615 million.

Total funding from the Treasury Consolidated Fund for the 2005–2006 financial year was \$5.406 million and for the 2006–2007 financial year it was \$5.385 million.

Total income from sale of goods and services was \$9.115 million in 2005–2006 and \$10.281 million in 2006–2007.

Hansard is a record of the NSW Parliament. Apart from its records protection provisions, the State Records Act 1998 does not apply to records of the Houses of Parliament except by agreement. Consequently the State Records Authority (State Records) does not have responsibility for the archival management of Hansard.

The Clerks and State Records are currently negotiating an agreement regarding the management of Parliamentary records and archives.

State Records plans to continue its current program of digitising archival photographs and making them available online. State Records also plans to complete the indexing and digitisation of the records of the former Aborigines Welfare Board to support the work of the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme.

State Records is currently trialling the digitisation of certain colonial-era records with the aim of making them available online.

*1538 JACKSON BRIDGE—TUMBARUMBA SHIRE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many fatalities and major truck accidents have been recorded at Jackson Bridge, approximately 7 km north of Tumbarumba, in the past 10 years?
- (2) When will the RTA fund a feasibility study on the realignment or relocation of the Jackson Bridge on State Road 85?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has commenced the development of concept alignments to improve the section of road at Jackson Bridge on State Road 85.

Once feasible options are identified there will be consultation with Tumbarumba Shire Council, the local community and affected stakeholders.

*1540 OPENING HOURS—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 Treasurer asked the Art Gallery of NSW, or other arts institutions, to reduce opening hours?

Answer—

I'm advised:

These matters fall within the Arts portfolio.

*1541 WEB FILTERING TECHNOLOGY—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) What measures are in place to ensure the Department of Education's web filtering technology does not prevent students from accessing relevant information?
- (2) Has the Department of Education received any feedback that its web filtering technology is preventing students from undertaking required research?
- (3) What is the average time taken by the Department of Education to unblock a website upon request?

Answer—

(1) A team of senior teachers with primary, secondary and TAFE teaching backgrounds closely monitor the internet filtering system on a full time basis to ensure that filtering does not diminish the value of the Internet as an educational tool.

(2) The Department of Education and Training has not received any substantiated feedback from school principals indicating that filtering is preventing students from undertaking research.

(3) Within 24 hours upon receipt of the request.

*1542 SCHOOLS CLEANING SERVICE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) Has the Government received any complaints from schools dissatisfied with the quality of its cleaning service?

(2) If so, which schools?

Answer—

I am advised:

Thousands of schools are cleaned under Commerce cleaning contracts each week. From time to time a complaint is raised by a Facility Manager that an aspect of the work is below the standard set in the contract specifications. The complaint is usually rectified the same day or next cleaning shift.

Benchmarks for cleaning within the contracts are established and are reviewed on a quarterly and annual basis with the involvement of school and agency representatives.

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*1543 FREE WIRELESS SERVICES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When was the deadline for companies to submit expressions of interest for the Government's plan to provide free wireless services in cities?
- (2) How much has the Government budgeted to provide this service?

Answer—

I am advised:

The evaluation of the proposals and solutions received in response to the Expression of Interest, which closed earlier this year, is in its final stages. The proposals were both innovative and diverse. Due to the diversity and complexity of the responses, the Expression of Interest evaluation is taking longer than originally anticipated.

*1544 132 BUS SERVICE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many times has the 132 bus (Manly Wharf to Warringah Mall) run behind schedule in the past year?
- (2) Has the State Transit Authority received any complaints about the 132 service in the past year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) State Transit reports on service performance as required in its annual report.
- (2) State Transit reports on customer feedback as required in its annual report.

*1545 JETCAT SERVICE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Will the Manly JetCat service be withdrawn before a replacement vessel is available?
- (2) Will fares increase to cover the cost of fleet replacement?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Government is currently giving due consideration to the recommendations made by Mr Bret Walker SC, following the Special Commission of Inquiry into Sydney Ferries, with a view to responding in early 2008.

*1546 MANLY HOSPITAL—MATERNITY SERVICES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health—

Has the Minister discussed any plans to terminate maternity services at Manly Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised by Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service that there are no plans for the Manly Hospital Maternity Unit services to be terminated.

Northern Sydney Central Coast Health will produce an area-wide Clinical Service Plan by mid 2008, which will inform any decisions concerning maternity services at Manly Hospital.

*1547 COMMUNITY HOUSING—MENTAL HEALTH ACCOMMODATION—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

Does the Government have plans to transfer its mental health accommodation to be managed under Community Housing?

Answer—

No.

*1548 LANE COVE TUNNEL FILTRATION—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Why will the Minister not accept the Federal government's contribution of \$20 million towards filtration of the Lane Cove Tunnel?

Answer—

This question has been overtaken by the change of Federal Government.

*1549 ACCESS TO DADHC SERVICES—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the plight of 17½-year-old Emily Brown and the difficulties she faces at The Centre in Condell Park?
- (2) What plans are in place to assist Emily and her mother to access services through DADHC?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of the need for a thorough investigation into the circumstances involving Emily and if so, instruct her department to undertake this investigation?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that Ms Brown is under the Parental Responsibility of the Minister for Community Services and her current placement is funded by the Department of Community Services (DoCS).
- (2) Ms Brown will be eligible for the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care's (DADHC) Leaving Care Program once she turns 18 years of age. I am advised that DADHC is working with DoCS to develop an appropriate leaving care plan for Ms Brown.
- (3) I am advised that no issues relating to the Leaving Care Program have been identified by DADHC.
Any further information regarding Ms Brown's current placement should be sought from the Minister for Community Services

*1550 BATEMANS MARINE PARK—PERMIT APPLICATION—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) When will the permit application process for businesses operating in the Batemans Marine Park open?
- (2) Given that permits are now required in the Port Stephens Park, what is the cost of the permits and what will they be in the Batemans Marine Park?

Answer—

- (1) Permits for commercial operators are not required in the Batemans Marine Park until 30 June 2008. An expression of interest will be put out approximately three months prior to this date.
- (2) Permits for commercial operators are currently free of charge.

*1551 REPORT BY 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 "Inquiry Report on Natural Gas Supply Load Shedding Event of 22 to 24 June 2007" produced by the Department of Water and Energy:

- (1) Has the Department received from "gas market participants" their proposed "robust and enforceable arrangements" (pg. 4)?
- (2) Which "gas market participants" participated in developing the arrangements?
- (3) When will the relevant bill be introduced in Parliament?

Answer—

- (1) The Gas Market Company has released a Discussion Paper on a proposed scheme.
- (2) The list of participants is indicated in the Gas Market Company Discussion Paper which is available on their website at www.gasmarketco.com.au.
- (3) Budget Session 2008.

*1552 ROADS FUNDING—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to RTA roads funding:

- (1) What funding has been allocated to road projects in the electorate of Vacluse, including maintenance funding, in each of the years 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07?
- (2) Which road projects received this funding?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on roads projects across NSW, including the electorate of Vacluse is publicly provided in Budget papers and regularly updated in community newsletters and on the Roads and Traffic Authority website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

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*1553 ROSE BAY, BONDI BEACH AND WAVERLEY POLICE STATIONS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

With regards to Rose Bay Police Station, Bondi Beach Police Station and Waverley Police Station as at 15 November 2007:

- (1) What was the authorised strength of the station?
- (2) What was the actual strength of the station?
- (3) How many police were on leave of any type?
- (4) How many police were on restricted duties of any type?
- (5) How many police were seconded?
- (6) How many police were suspended?

Answer—

Details of authorised and actual police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Force internet site, www.police.nsw.gov.au

Staffing allocations and leave management within a Command are matters for the Local Area Commander. Commanders monitor and manage their staffing situation and routinely explore a range of options to provide the most effective policing response.

*1554 BOWRAL 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—

- (1) Why was the preliminary submission prepared by the Department of Education and Training on the potential relocation of Bowral Public School returned to the Department by the Minister for further information?
- (2) When was the submission returned?
- (3) When is the Department expected to return the updated submission?
- (4) When will this matter be resolved?

Answer—

The submission was returned from the Minister's office in late October 2007 because further information was required. The submission is expected to be returned to my office later this month. Further advice will be provided to the school community once there has been an opportunity to review the submission.

*1555 SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGIONAL SHOOTING FACILITY—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

When will the development application for the Southern Highlands regional shooting facility be submitted to Wingecarribee Shire Council? Will Hill Top residents be informed when the development application is ready for viewing?

Answer—

Under Part 3A of the Act, the Minister for Planning is the consent authority for the Southern Highlands regional shooting facility. When received, the proposal will be notified to surrounding residents and in the local newspapers.

*1556 WINGECARRIBEE TO GOULBURN WATER PIPELINE—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Why have there not been any invitations for expressions of interest for the Wingecarribee to Goulburn water pipeline?
- (2) If the tender specifications are available, will they be provided for community interest?

Answer—

(1) and (2) These matters fall under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water Utilities.

*1557 CHILDREN AT RISK OF HARM—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many children "at risk of harm" reports were made regarding children in the electorate of Goulburn in each of the past four years?
- (2) How many of these were level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4?
- (3) How many children who were the subject of a level 1 report receive a visit from a Department of community Services officer or caseworker within the prescribed time?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by electorate.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1558 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many "child at risk of harm" reports were made regarding children in the electorate of Wakehurst in each of the last 3 years?
- (2) How many were level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4?
- (3) How many children subject of the level 1 reports received a visit from a Department of Community Services Officer (i.e. caseworker) within the prescribed time?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by electorate.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1559 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Community Services—

Since the Department of Community Services office closed on the Northern Beaches (at Manly), has there been any other office used by the Department of Community Services for outreach purposes?

Answer—

Chatswood Community Services Centre (CSC) provides a service to the Northern Beaches and Manly area and facilitates meetings at outreach sites within the broader Northern Beaches area.

The nature of casework is such that caseworkers spend a significant part of their day working in the field, visiting families in their homes or at hospitals; visiting children at school or at local child care centres.

*1560 MANLY AND MONA VALE HOSPITAL—OPERATING THEATRES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

(1) How many hours are allocated for operating theatre operation at:

- (a) Manly Hospital
- (b) Mona Vale Hospital

in November 2007, December 2007 and January 2008?

(2) What were the hours of operating theatre usage in June, July, August, September and October 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Manly and Mona Vale Hospitals provide 24 hour, 7 days a week, operating theatre access for emergency cases. The Operating Theatre nursing staff are on site from 07:30hrs to 21:30hrs weekdays, 08:30hrs to 21:30hrs on Saturdays and 09:30hours to 18:00hrs Sundays and Public Holidays. Outside of these hours, nursing staff are on-call.
- (2) The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report operating theatre usage on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

*1561 DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING STAFF—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) How many staff vacancies were there in the Department of Planning in July, August, September, October and November 2007?
- (2) What were those positions?
- (3) What were the reasons for those vacancies?

Answer—

I am advised:

In the first quarter of 2007-08, vacancies in the Department of Planning averaged less than 6% of the

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Department's total core workforce.

The reasons for these vacancies were due to:

- staff acting in other positions
- internal promotions and transfers
- impending recruitment
- external transfers and secondments
- resignations
- retirements.

Providing additional specific information in response to this question would be an unjustifiable diversion of public resources.

*1562 STALL HOLDERS—THE ROCKS MARKET—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

What reasons/justification is there for the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority to:

- (a) terminate long-term stall holders at The Rocks Market;
- (b) replace current stall holders with fashion and fresh produce stall holders;
- (c) require stall holders to apply weekly for the right to undertake a stall on the subsequent weekend?

Answer—

Research by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority has shown that annual visitation to The Rocks Market has declined from 1.9 million in 2003 to 1.25 million in 2006.

The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority is proposing to expand the market to include fashion, accessories and fresh produce as well as a mix of arts and crafts.

All stallholders have been invited to lodge expressions of interest for the new market.

I recently met with a range of The Rocks Market stallholders to discuss expansion of the market.

*1563 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION—OXFORD FALLS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Regarding the Government's metropolitan strategy and sub-regional strategies:

What is the current status of the development application taken under Part 3A for the Oxfords Falls non-urban area for the construction of a retirement village?

Answer—

I am advised that the Department of Planning is currently awaiting an Environmental Assessment by the proponent.

*1564 THE ROCKS MARKET—VISITORS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to consideration of the future of The Rocks Market:

- (1) What statistical assessments have been made to determine the total number of visitors to The Rocks area on weekends and what proportion are Sydney residents?
- (2) Has there been a separate statistical survey undertaken to differentiate between NSW residents and overseas visitors:
 - (a) during the week;
 - (b) on weekends?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question 1562.

*1565 HERITAGE REVIEW—SUBMISSIONS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Will all submissions made to the Heritage Review, chaired by Gabrielle Kibble, be:
 - (a) made public;
 - (b) listed on the Internet/webpage?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) No, however some submissions which have been agreed to via third party endorsement will be made available.

*1566 PLANNING REVIEW—SUBMISSIONS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Will all submissions made to the Planning Review be made public?
(2) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) No.
(2) To do so may contravene privacy laws. However, all issues raised in submissions will be considered as part of the reform package.

*1567 GRENFELL MEN'S SHED—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What was the reason for the 24 October 2007 visit of Ms Dianna Gill to the Grenfell Men's Shed?
(2) What is Ms Gill's position within the Greater Western Area Health Service?
(3) Will the Grenfell Men's Shed be officially informed of the reason for the visit?
(4) Why have the visits to the Grenfell Men's Shed by Greater Western Area Health Service health workers not been occurring in accordance with the agreed roster?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) Ms Gill is the Rural and Remote Mental Health Drought Assistance Officer for the Eastern and Southern Clusters in Greater Western Area Health Service.

The Men's Shed Executive have been advised that the reason for Ms Gill's visit was to explore future network opportunities and to introduce herself to the clients.

(4) Grenfell Community Health staff make every effort to attend the Men's Shed on the scheduled dates. On occasion, due to unforeseen competing priorities, staff have been unable to attend on the designated date. Where possible, Community Health staff have subsequently visited the Shed on non-scheduled days instead to ensure contact is maintained.

*1568 TYRA KUEHNE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) With reference to your letter MIU 0790926 dated 8 November 2007 regarding the internal DoCS investigation into the death of Tyra Kuehne, will the Minister or his department contact Mr Kuehne to inform him of the results of the investigation, in addition to providing the results to the NSW Ombudsman and the NSW Coroner?
(2) If the Minister will not brief Mr Kuehne on the involvement of DoCS in the death of his daughter, what other avenue does he have to obtain information about the involvement of DoCS?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Please see the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th paragraphs of my letter.

*1569 ROCKFALL AND CLOSURE OF MCELHONE ST WOOLLOOMOOLOO—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What action has the Minister taken to ensure that the road reopens as soon as is practicable given that the rock-fall incident, which led to the closure of the road, occurred over six months ago?
(2) Has the RTA liaised with the City of Sydney about the reopening of the road?
(3) Has the Minister's office made any representations to the City of Sydney for the road to be reopened?
(4) Given the flow-on effect felt by local commerce and residences, with a local hotelier reporting a decrease of 35% in trade, can the Minister's office indicate what additional assistance will be available should the timetable for the reopening of the road not be met?
(5) How much longer will the residents and commercial entities of the area have to wait?

Answer—

I am advised:

McElhone Street is a Local Road for which Sydney City Council is responsible.

*1570 BOAT PUMP-OUT FACILITY FAILURE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

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- (1) Is the Minister aware the boat pump-out facility at Kangaroo Point failed recently with raw sewage flowing into the Hawkesbury River?
- (2) What actions were undertaken to correct this and ensure it does not happen again?

Answer—

The Department of Environment and Climate Change's Environment Line, which records matters of an environmental concern, has no recorded details of a failure at the Kangaroo Point pump-out facility.

Hornsby Shire Council is the appropriate regulatory authority for matters pertaining to the operation of the pump-out facility in Kangaroo Point. The Council will be able to provide advice in relation to any incidents at the facility.

The Department understands that the facility will be connected to Sydney Water's newly constructed Brooklyn Sewage Treatment System in the near future.

*1571 HORNSBY HOSPITAL—UNIT FAULTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What faults have been identified in the new unit including the Mental Health Intensive Care Unit (MHICU) and the Drug Alcohol and Gambling Unit at Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) How much funding has been spent correcting these faults?
- (3) When will all the faults be corrected?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Builder's defects logged in the Mental Health Intensive Care Unit and the Drug and Alcohol and Gambling Unit at Hornsby Hospital are of a minor nature and common to major building work. These Units are subject to the usual defect period of 12 months and during this time, any defects are attended to by the builder. The Units were designed in accordance with NSW Health Facility planning and Mental Health guidelines. The buildings were designed and built to the defined scope of works and required standards at time of documentation sign-off.
- (2) No funding has been spent by Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service correcting builder's defects. Builder's defects are rectified by the builder, at no cost to the Area Health Service.
- (3) The builder has already attended to most of the defects identified and it is expected that the remaining defects will be attended to shortly.

*1572 SECURITY FENCE—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 is the latest update on the security fence planned for Galston High School?

Answer—

Since 1996, the NSW Labor Government has installed more than 570 security fences in schools across the state at a cost of more than \$55 million. During 2007/08 59 security fencing projects are planned to be completed at a cost of \$10.5 million. These projects form part of the Building Better Schools Program, under which 200 schools will receive security fencing over the term of the current government at an estimated cost of \$39 million.

It is worth noting that prior to 1996, none of the state's public schools had security fencing.

Galston High School will receive a new fence in the next four years as part of the NSW Government's \$2 billion Building Better Schools Program.

*1573 TRANSIT POLICE—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Will the Minister advise on the success of the Transit police working on our rail network?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are 600 transit officers employed by RailCorp who work across the rail network. Transit officers are deployed to areas where, and at the times when, they are most needed. They provide a highly visible deterrent to crime and anti-social behaviour and offer a reassuring presence to RailCorp customers and staff.

The primary focus of transit officers is the provision of security and other customer services to RailCorp customers and staff. Presenting a strong, visible deterrent to crime and anti-social behaviour on the rail

network, they can issue on the spot penalty notices to people who commit offences on the rail network and direct persons engaging in anti-social behaviour to leave trains and stations.

Transit officers provide security and work closely with the NSW Police Force to protect commuters on CityRail and CountryLink services.

The latest available full year figures from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research indicate that between January 2002, when Transit Officers first commenced, and December 2006 offences against the person on rail premises have reduced by 32.9%.

Transit police are the responsibility of the Minister for Police, the Hon David Campbell.

*1574 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many RTA-funded school crossing supervisors are presently employed in the Sutherland Shire?
- (2) How many school crossing supervisors were employed in the Sutherland Shire in the years 2000 to 2006 inclusive?
- (3) What was the total cost of employing such persons in the years 2000 to 2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are more than 1000 school crossing supervisors, or "lollipop" personnel, across schools in NSW.

The NSW Government spends more than \$10 million a year on road safety awareness campaigns, and more than \$120 million a year is spent directly on road safety measures.

Around \$3.1 million is dedicated to school road safety education programs each year, providing an integrated approach to road safety for young people from the time they start school until the time they reach driving age.

*1575 NEW CYCLEWAYS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What plans are there for new cycleways in Sutherland Shire?

Answer—

I am advised:

Under BikePlan 2010 the cycleway projects planned for Sutherland Shire are from Hurstville to Cronulla, and from Loftus to Como Bridge.

This year the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has funded on a 50/50 basis with Sutherland Council the completion of the \$300,000 Woolooware Bay Cycleway Stage 4 – Captain Cook Bridge to Woodlands Road Reserve, Taren Point.

*1576 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—CLEANING COSTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

On a monthly basis January to December, how much money has been spent on cleaning Sutherland Hospital in each year commencing in 2004 through to 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report expenditure on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, all Area Health Services use a standard proforma when preparing their financial statements. In each case any cleaning costs would be reported under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses and, more specifically as a component of Domestic Supplies and Services. This also captures expenses such as Housekeeping Contracts, Kitchen and Tableware, Removal of Trade Refuse and Uniforms.

I refer the Member to the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service Annual Reports.

*1577 ROADWORKS—ADDITIONAL BUS LANE—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the roadworks associated with the additional bus lane on Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills be completed?

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Answer—

I am advised:

The roadworks associated with the additional bus lane in Old Northern Road will be completed as soon as practicable.

*1578 40 KPH SPEED LIMIT—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the Government impose a 40 kph speed limit together with the appropriate speed signs and flashing warning light on the Windsor Road outside Our Lady of Lourdes School at Baulkham Hills?

Answer—

I am advised:

In general, 40 km/h School Zones have been provided on all roads with an active direct access point to a school. In accordance with this Program, School Zones have been provided on Oakland Avenue and Canyon Street for Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Baulkham Hills.

*1579 TOURISM REGULATION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) Is the NSW Government aware of reports that overseas tourists are being ripped off by "rogue" tour operators in Sydney, including being charged to visit free attractions such as Bondi Beach, being taken on shopping trips to bogus tax-free outlets with inflated costs and being swindled into backyard foreign exchange deals?
- (2) How does the NSW Government ensure that tour operators in NSW comply with Approved Destination Status (ADS) standards?
- (3) Is the NSW Government aware of Queensland legislation aimed at preventing "rogue" tour operators?
- (4) What assessment has the NSW Government made on introducing similar legislation in NSW?
- (5) What action will the NSW Government take to prevent "rogue" tour operators from operating in NSW?
- (6) Is the NSW Government aware of a Tourism Research Australia report that reveals that unpredictable and varying standards of accommodation with existing ratings and accreditation systems in Australia contribute to reducing domestic tourism?
- (7) What action has the NSW Government taken, or plan to take, to improve rating and accreditation systems of visitor accommodation in NSW?

Answer—

- (1) Yes. The NSW Government has been working with the Federal Government and other States for a number of years to address this problem. Tourism NSW is an active member of the Fair Go for Tourists initiative (formerly the National Inbound Tourism Compliance Taskforce) which is working to improve compliance of inbound tourism operators, related shopping outlets and associated businesses.
- (2) The Approved Destination Status (ADS) scheme is operated by the Federal Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR).
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Tourism NSW has been advised by Queensland government officials that the legislation has been difficult to enforce. National legislation had previously been proposed by the former Federal Tourism Minister but it had not progressed.
- (5) NSW, through agencies such as the Office of Fair Trading and NSW Police, has always been an active participant in initiatives to reduce the market power of unethical operators, reduce gaps in compliance information and take enforcement action where unethical practices have been identified and proven.
- (6) No.
- (7) These ratings and accreditation systems are industry based and voluntary. The NSW government is focusing on ensuring compliance with the existing laws and regulations under which tourism businesses operate.

*1580 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) How many staff are employed in your ministerial office?
- (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?

- (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media-related responsibilities are employed in your ministerial office?

Answer—

Ministers' staff are employed by the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet pursuant to the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. This question should be directed to the Premier.

- *1583 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given the demand of the Tweed community to discuss the contents and plans of the Government-preferred "modified concept" Option B with the Minister for Roads:

- (1) Will a high-level, on-site meeting be arranged between the Minister for Roads, the Minister for Commerce and the Tweed Heads Chamber of Commerce and local business owners to discuss the ongoing concerns of the business community?
- (2) Has the Minister considered the concepts detailed in the Community Option C which do not require the resumption of private property, nor do they have a major economic impact on the businesses in the Minjungbal Drive area?

Answer—

I met with a number of community members at Tweed Heads in June 2006. Following this meeting, I requested an independent review of costings for design options (including both the preferred option and the deep tunnel Option C).

I am advised:

The preferred route for Banora Point was selected in September last year after careful consultation with the community. The RTA is continuing to refine this route.

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

The environmental assessment will be placed on display for further public comment following an adequacy assessment by the Department of Planning.

The Community Option C has been previously considered by the Government. The RTA has conducted two reviews of an option proposed by the Tweed Chamber of Commerce, called Option C – the key feature of this option is a deep tunnel option.

In December 2005, the review by Parsons Brinckerhoff found that, due to the geological restrictions, tunnelling would be very difficult and the construction of a tunnel would require extensive and prolonged blasting – which would have a major impact on the lives of people above the tunnel area.

- *1584 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that the Minister for Roads has advised "the two new bridges [to be constructed] over the Terranora Inlet provide benefits to both highway traffic and local traffic":

- (1) Have these bridges been designed using data sourced from the AusLink's projected traffic flows for this section of Highway?
- (2) Why do AusLink's projected traffic flows for this section of Highway greatly exceed the RTA's projected traffic flow for this section of highway?
- (3) Will the design of these two bridges be modified so that they will be able to cater for AusLink's projected traffic flows for this section of highway?
 - (a) If yes, on what date will these modified designs be made available to the public?
 - (b) If no, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The environmental assessment for both proposed bridges will include a review of current traffic figures, prior to the design stage.

- *1585 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—BANORA POINT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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In relation to the independent assessment of a tunnel option for the Pacific Highway Banora Point Upgrade, and given that the Minister for Roads has advised that Flagstaff Consulting was "provided with a series of plans, longitudinal sections and typical cross sections":

Was Flagstaff Consulting provided with digital survey data and/or computer generated quantity information, required to give an accurate, independent assessment of the tunnel option?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding the report produced by Flagstaff Consulting is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1586 **BLUESCOPE STEEL—COMPENSATION FOR EMISSION COSTS**—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) Was the deal signed with Bluescope Steel on 16 November 2006, agreeing to compensate Bluescope if industrial process emissions were included in a national emissions trading scheme, costed by the NSW Government prior to signing the deal?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of that commitment to NSW taxpayers over 20 years?
- (3) What other industries and emitters has the NSW Government agreed to compensate for emission costs?
- (4) If industrial process emissions were included in a national emissions trading scheme developed by the Federal Government, would the NSW Government still pay Bluescope Steel's emission costs?

Answer—

The agreement between BlueScope Steel Limited and the State of New South Wales facilitates a proposal by BlueScope Steel to invest approximately \$900 million at the Port Kembla Steelworks. The agreement provides BlueScope Steel with greater certainty about future regulation by the NSW Government of greenhouse gas emissions. The proposal would result in a large reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales as it involves the use of waste gases from steelmaking in the Illawarra to generate electricity.

The compensation provisions in the agreement relate only to BlueScope Steel's Port Kembla Steelworks and the proposed co-generation electricity plant.

The compensation provisions relating to industrial emissions are only triggered in the specific circumstances set out in the publicly released agreement, which can be viewed on BlueScope Steel's website (www.bluescopesteel.com).

I am advised that the NSW Government has not entered into any formal agreements with other industries or emitters in relation to the treatment of industrial emissions under a greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme.

The BlueScope Steel agreement does not require the NSW Government to pay any compensation to BlueScope Steel arising from the implementation by the Federal Government of a national emissions trading scheme.

*1587 **JOINT COMMITTEE ON BIOBANKING**—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Why has the Government refused to re-form the joint committee on Biobanking when the legislation that established the scheme specifically calls for it?
- (2) Why has the Government abandoned the two-year trial it agreed to before the election in favour of a three-month trial?
- (3) Given that the Ministerial Reference Group set up to oversee the three-month trial consists of representatives of two environmental groups, four development groups and three government groups, is the Government expecting an impartial decision?
- (4) Why has the Government allowed less than one month for public comment on the proposed Biobanking methodology?
- (5) Why did the Government develop and release "A guide for managing community involvement in threatened species recovery" long before any other guides and methodologies have been released?

Answer—

The Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Banking) Bill was assented to in December 2006 and provided for a Joint Select Committee to report to both Houses of Parliament on the implementation of the scheme within six months. The legislation also provided that in the event that the

Committee did not report within this timeframe, implementation of the BioBanking Scheme could continue to be progressed.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change is working closely with stakeholders through the Ministerial Reference Group on BioBanking to finalise the operational aspects of the scheme.

The Ministerial Reference Group is an advisory rather than decision making body and has provided valuable and objective advice on technical issues, communication and consultation strategies.

The proposed BioBanking methodology was released on 20 November 2007, with submissions due by 1 February 2008.

Guides and policies have been developed to support threatened species recovery since the commencement of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. The document, "A guide for managing community involvement in threatened species recovery" was developed to assist groups such as Catchment Management Authorities to promote community interest in threatened species. The guide was released in 2004, prior to the development of BioBanking.

The Government remains committed to the two year trial of BioBanking which will examine the success of the scheme and identify any refinements required.

*1588 NORTH WEST T-WAY—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will the North West T-way be extended from Old Windsor Road to Castle Hill?
- (2) Will this T-way consist of dedicated bus lanes or will the buses be required to run along existing roads?
- (3) If the buses will be required to run along existing roads, how can the Minister describe their route as a T-way?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) That bus priority measures are a matter for the Minister for Roads.

*1589 WARATAH RIVULET—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—

- (1) Have the Department of Primary Industries and Sydney Catchment Authority had discussions in the last two years with Metropolitan and Peabody Energy over the state of the Waratah Rivulet?
- (2) What was the result of those discussions?
- (3) (a) Has the Department of Primary Industries and/or Sydney Catchment Authority ordered Peabody to begin remediation of Waratah Rivulet?
(b) If not, why not?
- (4) Is Peabody Energy planning further mining in the area that could result in further subsidence in Waratah Rivulet?
- (5) Has the Department of Primary Industries and/or Sydney Catchment Authority agreed to let Peabody delay remediation as it continues to mine under Waratah Rivulet?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Primary Industries, the Sydney Catchment Authority and Peabody Energy agreed that remediation must occur on the Waratah Rivulet and discussed the processes of remediation.
- (3) (a) Yes.
(b) Not applicable.
- (4) Future mining may occur near the Waratah Rivulet. This will be assessed under the Department of Planning's Part 3A process.
- (5) Rainfall resulting in high flows in the rivulet postponed the implementation of remediation trials earlier this year. Remediation is expected to begin in early 2008 once an Environmental Management Plan is approved by the Sydney Catchment Authority.

*1590 PART 3A GUIDELINES—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

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- (1) Why did the draft "Guidelines for threatened species assessment" released by the Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Primary Industries in July 2005 take until August 2007 to be finalised?
- (2) Given that the document "Guidelines for Biodiversity Certification of Environmental Planning Instruments working draft" was released in April 2007, does the Minister have a date for its finalisation?
- (3) What finalised guidelines and policies are currently in place to oversee developments made under Part 3A?
- (4) Given the large amount of Part 3A draft guidelines that have not been finalised by the Department of Planning, has your department been guiding and assessing Part 3A development applications using discussion papers rather than proper Government policy?

Answer—

- (1) Please refer to Question No 1405 for my response on this issue.
- (2) The working document provides information which enables councils and Department of Environment and Climate Change staff to develop and assess environmental planning instruments for certification. It will be improved and finalised as required. The Department is currently working with councils to guide them towards certification of plans and will update the document as there is further practical experience with its implementation.
- (3) Please refer to Question No 1405 for my response on this issue.
- (4) Please refer to Question No 1405 for my response on this issue.

*1591 BUS ACQUISITIONS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many buses did Hillsbus ask to be allowed to acquire for the City Express Service in April 2006?
- (2) How many buses did the Government allow Hillsbus to acquire for this service?
- (3) Why did the Government not allow Hillsbus to acquire all the buses it asked for?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 20.
- (2) 25.
- (3) N/A

*1592 BUS SERVICES—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many individual bus services serviced Hunters Hill Local Government Area per year for the years 1996 to 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

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

*1593 RYDE HOSPITAL—CLEANING COSTS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health—

On a monthly basis January to December, how much money has been spent on cleaning Ryde Hospital in each year commencing in 2000 through to 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report expenditure on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, all Area Health Services use a standard proforma when preparing their financial statements. In each case any cleaning costs would be reported under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses and, more specifically as a component of Domestic Supplies and Services. This also captures expenses such as Housekeeping Contracts, Kitchen and Tableware, Removal of Trade Refuse and Uniforms.

I refer the Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Annual Reports.

*1594 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—NON-MEDICAL STAFF—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health—

How many non-medical staff have been employed at Royal North Shore Hospital, by year, between 1996-97 and 2006-07 reporting years?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The Department of Health routinely provides statewide workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, Area Health Services publish workforce data in their Annual Report.

To provide a further breakdown of the data as requested would be resource intensive and the diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified on this occasion. I refer the Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service annual reports.

*1595 AMALGAMATION PROPOSALS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

Will the Minister guarantee that Hunters Hill Municipal Council will not be part of any amalgamation that is against their wishes, proposal by the NSW Government?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your question:

The NSW Government has a policy of no forced council amalgamations.

*1596 WORLD YOUTH DAY—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

How much money has been spent to date directly by the Department for Tourism promoting "World Youth Day":

- (a) throughout NSW;
- (b) throughout Australia;
- (c) throughout the World?

Answer—

- (a) to (c) In the three years leading up to World Youth Day 2008 Tourism NSW will have invested an estimated \$250,000 in the domestic and international promotion of the event.

The promotion for World Youth Day 2008 is the primary responsibility of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney which has established the entity "World Youth Day 2008" (WYD 08), a company limited by guarantee, as Trustee of the World Youth Day Trust as the event organiser. WYD 08 is independent of Government.

*1597 APPOINTMENT AS DISTRICT COURT JUDGE—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Does the recent newspaper advertisement calling for expressions of interest in appointment as a district court judge mark a change in selection policy, adopting the British method of selection with transparency?

Answer—

From time to time, advertisements are placed to attract expressions of interest from the legal community to be considered for appointment to various court and tribunal positions.

*1598 WATERFRONT PROPERTIES—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—

What is the Government doing to restore fairness and equity to the formula for calculating rentals for owners of waterfront properties in Pittwater?

Answer—

In 2003, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) was asked to review and report on the rent that the Government should charge for the use of public land below mean high water mark that is occupied by domestic waterfront structures. The review was extensive. It included the consideration of

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over 350 public submissions and consultation with various representatives of the financial and property industries. IPART recommended a universal formula for calculating rent. The formula has been adopted by Government and is considered to be a fair, uniform and reasonable methodology for assessing the rental of domestic waterfront tenancies in all areas of the state including Pittwater.

*1599 AMBULANCE NUMBERS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

How many ambulances were operating out of the Narrabeen Ambulance Station as at 30 June 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

The matter falls under the administration of the Minister for Health.

*1600 BUS NUMBERS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many buses were operating out of the Mona Vale depot as at 30 June 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

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

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*1601 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL BEDS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health—

(1) How many beds are open in all wards at the Mount Druitt Hospital as at the 31 October 2007?

(2) How many of these beds were designated for:

- (a) surgical;
- (b) children's services;
- (c) palliative care;
- (d) rehabilitation;
- (e) cardiac services;
- (f) medical admission;
- (g) other services?

(3) What impact will the recently announced closure of surgical beds have on the operation of the hospital?

(4) As elective surgery activity increases in the new year will beds in the surgical ward be increased?

(5) How many surgical beds for elective surgery will remain open over the Christmas holiday period?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Information about Sydney West Area Health Service facility beds and bed equivalents are published in the Area Health Service's annual report. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions. I refer the Hon Member to the 2006/07 Annual Report.

(3) to (5) All NSW public hospital Emergency Departments are open 24 hours, seven days a week – even during the holiday period. Bed closures and adjustments to operating theatre availability and day surgery units are made to accommodate seasonal demand.

Emergency patients suffering from acute illness or severe injuries will continue to receive first priority for emergency surgery.

Booked non-elective surgery is not affected by the holiday period. The amount of elective surgery planned for each year takes into account a reduction in elective surgery during the peak holiday periods. This occurs because most patients choose not to have elective surgery over the holiday period, and allows as many staff as possible to take a well earned break to spend some time with their children and families.

The holiday period is also a time when hospitals are able to schedule routine service and maintenance in Operating Theatres and of essential equipment.

*1602 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many public housing properties are located in the Albury electorate?
- (2) In each of the local government areas in the Albury electorate, what is the total number of:
 - (a) houses;
 - (b) units;
 - (c) other dwellings?
- (3) How many properties are managed on behalf of the Aboriginal Housing Office and in which local government areas?

Answer—

- (1) 1,216.
- (2) Housing NSW has a range of property types in the various LGA's across the Albury electorate including 890 houses, 258 units and a number of bedsitters and duplexes.
- (3) 72; predominately in the Albury LGA.

*1603 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES STAFFING—ALBURY ELECTORATE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many Department of Community Services staff are employed in the Albury electorate?
- (2) (a) How many caseworkers are employed in the Albury electorate?
(b) How many of this number have experience of one year or more?
- (3) What is the average case load for caseworkers in the Albury electorate?

Answer—

Information relating to staffing is not available by electorate.

*1604 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many "child at risk of harm" reports were made regarding children in the electorate of Manly in each of the last 3 years?
- (2) How many were level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4?
- (3) How many children subject of the level 1 reports received a visit from a Department of Community Services Officer (i.e. caseworker) within the prescribed time?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by electorate.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1605 MACQUARIE GENERATION—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 audit of Macquarie Generation in the "Auditor-General's Report to Parliament 2007 (Volume 4)":

- (1) What action does the Treasurer intend taking to respond to the Auditor-General's recommendation that "consideration be given to improved documentation of negotiations between the Corporation's Board and NSW Treasury when additional dividends are requested in excess of the amounts agreed in the Statement of Corporate Intent" (p. 62)?
- (2) How did NSW Treasury request "the Corporation [Macquarie Generation] to pay an additional dividend of \$50.0 million" (p. 62)?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Accounting standards AASB 110 Events after the Balance Sheet Date and AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets do not require formal requests for higher dividends when actual profits for the year are higher than forecast.

NSW State Owned Corporations' Statements of Corporate Intents express dividends as a percentage of profits after tax.

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*1606 INTEGRAL 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 audit of Integral Energy in the "Auditor-General's Report to Parliament 2007 (Volume 4)":

- (1) What were the two "serious environmental incidents" recorded as occurring in 2004 (p. 75)?
- (2) What were the three "serious environmental incidents" recorded as occurring in 2005 (p. 75)?
- (3) What were the two "serious environmental incidents" recorded as occurring in 2006 (p. 75)?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Due to an administrative error, the statistics reported on page 75 of the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament 2007 (Volume 4) for 2004 and 2005 reflect the number of "serious electrical incidents" not "serious environmental incidents". Accordingly, there were no serious environment incidents for Integral Energy in 2003/04 and only one in 2004/05.

On 24 August 2004, 9,000 litres of oil was lost from a power transformer at Minto Zone Substation. Integral Energy reported the incident to the then Department of Environment and Conservation and worked closely with HAZMAT to contain the spill and clean up any contaminants. Under a Tier 2 prosecution of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, Integral Energy was fined \$26,250. The details of this offence were fully reported in Integral Energy's 2004/05 and 2005/06 Annual Reports.

(3) One incident related to a Notice of Clean Up Action to remove a quantity of additional soil transported to Integral Energy's former Minto Depot during the remediation of the site. Integral Energy complied fully with the requirements of the Notice and disposed of the additional soil at a licensed facility. The second incident related to the inappropriate disposal of a truckload of waste spoil. Following a thorough investigation and the implementation of remedial measures, Integral Energy was fined \$1,500 by the then Department of Environment and Conservation for the offence.

*1607 STATEFLEET—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the "Cleaner NSW Government Fleet" announcement on 17 November 2004:

- (1) Based on the performance of the StateFleet in 2004-05 what has been the subsequent reduction in the StateFleet's:
 - (a) fuel costs;
 - (b) running costs;
 - (c) greenhouse gas emissions?
- (2) How much has been saved on "vehicle lease and fuel costs"?
- (3) Which government agencies failed to achieve a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, based on their fleet's performance in 2004-05?
- (4) What new targets have been set for greenhouse gas emissions and when must they be achieved?
- (5) Which Government agencies have not yet developed a Fleet Improvement Plan?

Answer—

I refer to my answer to the question asked of me on 14 November 2007 by the Hon Lynda Voltz MLC in the Legislative Council, regarding this matter.

Further information on emissions reductions is available in the Department of Commerce Annual Reports.

*1608 SCHOOL CLOSURES—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—

- (1) How many one-teacher schools in the electorate of Burrinjuck are being considered for closure at any time during 2008?
- (2) Is the Galong Public School one of these schools?
- (3) Will you provide the names of each of these schools?
- (4) How many two-teacher schools in the electorate of Burrinjuck are under threat of losing one of their teachers at any time during 2008 because of declining enrolments?
- (5) Will you provide the names of each of these schools?
- (6) Will you introduce a moratorium on school closures and downgrading of two-teacher schools in rural

NSW until the State has had a chance to recover from the effects of the continuing drought?

Answer—

(1) No Riverina, Western or Illawarra and South East Region schools located in the Burrinjuck electorate are being considered for closure in 2008. However, should a situation arise whereby a very low number of enrolments in a school puts a school's viability into question, consideration will be given to withdrawing the teaching principal, placing the school in recess and supporting the enrolment of the students in a school nearby.

(2) and (3) Galong Public School with an enrolment of only four students in 2008 would fall into the latter category.

(4) Based on the 2008 anticipated student enrolments submitted by principals, four two-teacher public schools in the Burrinjuck electorate may lose a teacher in 2008.

(5) Greenethorpe Public School, Dalton Public School, Murringo Public School and Illabo Public School.

(6) In many cases, school closures and schools re-classifying from two teacher to one teacher in rural NSW have been the result of the naturally falling demographic of villages in easy commuting distance of larger centres. As such it would not be appropriate to introduce a moratorium on such activity, but rather continue to consult closely with communities on a case-by-case basis.

*1609 HARDEN MURRUMBURRAH BRIGHTER FUTURES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

(1) Given the expected closure of the Murrumburrah Early Learning Centre on 23 November, through which specific organisation in Harden Murrumburrah will the DoCS Brighter Futures program be delivered?

(2) On what date will these services commence?

Answer—

(1) Brighter Futures is delivered by Mission Australia, the Lead Agency in Harden Murrumburrah, and the DoCS Early Intervention Team located at Yass Community Services Centre.

The Brighter Futures program will operate without interruption and families in the program will continue to receive access to a range of services and assistance.

Interim arrangements have been made for the licence of Bunyip Preschool in Harden to be extended to allow the preschool to accept children under two years old and to operate longer hours.

(2) 26 November 2007.

*1610 DEATH OF GEORGIA CHANT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

(1) In the case of Georgia Chant who died 9 October 2005 can you confirm that she was known to DoCS prior to her death?

(2) Did DoCS receive any notifications from NSW Police about Georgia Chant prior to her death?

(3) What was the outcome of the DoCS internal investigation into DoCS handling of the case?

(4) What recommendations did the NSW Ombudsman give your department on this matter following his investigation of the death?

(5) Given the DPP's decision not to prosecute will you now comment on DoCS position with the matter and what you have subsequently done to enhance DoCS's interagency cooperation with the NSW Police?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Feedback was provided to the relevant region.

(4) None.

(5) Since Georgia's death in 2005, revised NSW Interagency Guidelines for Child Protection Intervention (2006) were implemented.

*1611 HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

(1) How many engineers are FTE employees at Hornsby Hospital?

(2) How many should be employed at this hospital?

Answer—

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I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Area Health Service does not maintain a fixed staffing establishment nor does it routinely report on resources at facility level. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions. However, all Area Health Services report their staffing numbers in their respective annual reports. I refer the Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service 2006-07 Annual Report.

*1612 SHORELINK CONTRACT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Has the contract with Shorelink (Transdev) been finalised and signed?
(2) If yes, what changes have been caused to Shorelink and its business subsequent to this signing?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Metropolitan Bus System Contract for Region 12 was executed on 31 May 2005 and came into effect on 1 June 2005. Shorelink is now operating under a seven year performance based contract.

*1613 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for:

- (a) Kuring-gai Local Area Command;
(b) Eastwood Local Area Command?

Answer—

The release of such information would be contrary to both Government and NSW Police Force policy.

*1615 NATURE TOURISM CAMPAIGN—HUNTER REGION—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) Are there any campaigns to promote nature tourism in the Hunter region during the 2007/08 summer months?
(2) If yes, what aspects of the campaign will focus on the Wallsend Electorate?

Answer—

(1) The NSW Government has committed funds in excess of \$6 million to the Hunter region since 1995. The region is included in the Short Breaks from Sydney campaigns.

In July 2007, the NSW Government allocated \$300,000 in funding for Tourism NSW to develop, in partnership with Tourism Australia and the Hunter Regional Tourism Organisation, a marketing plan to drive tourism back to the Hunter area following the floods over the 2007 Queen's Birthday long weekend.

The resulting five week campaign, commencing 19 August, was to entice visitors back to the Hunter and to assist local businesses.

The Hunter region also benefited from the APEC "Bonus Long Weekend Getaway" campaign. Tourism NSW invested \$250,000 in this campaign, which commenced on August 5 for three weeks and appeared on Sydney radio, in metropolitan newspapers and on-line. This campaign was supported by radio and newspaper prize giveaways.

Nature tourism experiences including whale and dolphin watching, nature walks, bird and wildlife watching are key experiences promoted for visitors to the Hunter and destinations promoted include:

- Barrington Tops National Park;
- Hunter Wetlands Centre;
- Stockton Sand Dunes ;
- Blackbutt Reserve; and
- Fernleigh Track.

Activities planned for the 2007/8 include:

- In 2008 Tourism NSW will invest \$262,000 in the Short Breaks from Sydney campaign promoting the Hunter Valley, Newcastle, Barrington Tops and Lake Macquarie to commence around March.

- A marketing partnership with Jetstar will promote North Coast and Hunter destinations and the Hunter in March/April 2008.
 - (2) The Wallsend Electorate is promoted under the Short Breaks from Sydney campaign. This campaign promotes destinations within 2-3 hours drive of Sydney and its environs.
- *1616 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- (1) How many staff are employed in your ministerial office?
 - (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
 - (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media-related responsibilities are employed in your ministerial office?
- Answer—
The matter falls under the administration of the Premier.
- *1617 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) How many staff are employed in your ministerial office?
 - (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
 - (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media-related responsibilities are employed in your ministerial office?
- Answer—
Ministers' staff are employed by the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet pursuant to the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. This question should be directed to the Premier.
- *1618 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- (1) How many staff are employed in your ministerial office?
 - (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
 - (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media-related responsibilities are employed in your ministerial office?
- Answer—
Ministers' staff are employed by the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet pursuant to the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. This question should be directed to the Premier.
- *1619 DENTAL CARE—TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—
- In relation to dental care at the Tweed Hospital and given that the Tweed Dental Clinic previously employed three full-time dentists (from a budget of four) and now only has one full-time dentist, who has recently taken leave with no replacement organised:
- (1) What is the employment status of the two other full-time dentists, who, up until recently, were employed at the Tweed Dental Clinic as part of the hospital's budget for four full-time dentists?
 - (2) What measures are being taken by the Department of Health to fill the now three vacant full-time dentist positions at the Tweed Hospital?
 - (3) On what date can the Tweed Dental Clinic expect to have:
 - (a) at least three full-time dentists working at the Hospital?
 - (b) the full allocation of four full-time dentists working at the Hospital?
- Answer—
I am advised that:
- (1) and (2) The 2006/2007 budget allocation for the Tweed Dental Clinic was for three full-time Dentists. One Dental Officer resigned effective 12 August 2007 and recruitment to this vacant position has been completed and the successful Dental Officer will commence in January 2008. There are no other vacant full time Dental Officer positions in the Tweed Dental Clinic.
 - (3) (a) and (b) The North Coast Area Health Service is anticipating having three full-time Dental Officers working at the Tweed Dental Clinic in January 2008 as funded in the 2007/08 budget.
- *1620 DENTAL CARE—TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

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In relation to dental care at the Tweed Hospital and given that the Tweed Dental Clinic previously employed three full-time dentists (from a budget of four) and now only has one full-time dentist, who has recently taken leave with no replacement organised:

- (1) Why was no replacement dentist organised when the hospital's last remaining full-time dentist took leave, resulting in the Tweed Dental Clinic having no full-time dentist?
- (2) On what date will a replacement dentist(s) be organised so that Tweed Dental Clinic has at least one full-time dentist at the hospital?
- (3) What is the length of waiting lists for dental patients requiring emergency dental work?
- (4) What is the length of waiting lists for dental patients requiring general dental check-ups?
- (5) What is the number of patients treated at the Tweed Dental Clinic for the year 2007 year-to-date?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Due to the shortage of dental officers nationally, it is difficult to obtain locum dentists for short periods of time and therefore it is normal practice to redistribute dental officer resources within the North Coast Area Health Service to cover periods of leave.
- (2) The Dental Officer who was on leave returned to full-time work on 3 December 2007. Recruitment to the vacant Dental Officer position has been completed and the successful Dental Officer will commence at the Tweed Dental Clinic in January 2008.
- (3) and (4) All clients at The Tweed Dental Clinic are waiting for routine care only. Oral health wait list data will shortly be published on the NSW Health Internet site.
- (5) A total of 4,066 patients have been treated at the Tweed Dental Clinic for the year to date (as at November 2007).

*1621 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provost asked the Minister for Community Services—

In relation to DoCS child abuse reports in the Tweed electorate:

- (1) How many reports of suspected child abuse or neglect were made to the DoCS Helpline from Tweed electorate in the years:
 - (a) 2002-03;
 - (b) 2003-04;
 - (c) 2004-05;
 - (d) 2005-06;
 - (e) 2006-07?
- (2) How many reports made to the Tweed DoCS office in year 2006-07 were for:
 - (a) drug or alcohol abuse;
 - (b) physical abuse;
 - (c) sexual abuse;
 - (d) psychological abuse;
 - (e) neglect?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by electorate.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1622 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT—Mr Allan Shearan asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many people have presented to the Mount Druitt Emergency Department for the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006?
- (2) What is the current trend in emergency presentations at Mount Druitt Hospital for 2007?

Answer—

Information relating to emergency department attendances is published in the Sydney West Area Health Service's Annual Report.

*1623 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—ELECTIVE SURGERY—Mr Allan Shearan asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Given that it was recently reported in the Mount Druitt Standard there would be cuts in beds/chairs for surgical patients, what impact will this have on the number of general surgeons and orthopaedic surgeons at the hospital?
- (2) How many of the surgeons mentioned above will be on leave over the December/January holiday period?
- (3) What impact will this have on elective surgery?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) This should have no significant impact on the surgeons from Mount Druitt Hospital from any surgical specialty.
- (2) and (3) All NSW public hospital Emergency Departments are open 24 hours, seven days a week – even during the holiday period. Emergency patients suffering from acute illness or severe injuries will continue to receive first priority for emergency surgery.

During the holiday period elective surgery activity will be reduced at some hospitals, generally where waiting times and/or surgery activity targets have been met or exceeded.

Booked, non-urgent elective surgery is not affected by the holiday period. The amount of elective surgery planned for each year, takes into account a reduction in elective surgery during the peak holiday periods. This occurs because most patients choose not to have elective surgery over the holiday period, and allows as many staff as possible to take a well earned break to spend these few days and some of the school holidays with their children and families.

The holiday period is also a time when our hospitals are able to schedule routine service and maintenance in Operating Theatres and of essential equipment.

*1624 WATERFRONT TENANCIES—PITTWATER—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—

- (1) How many properties in the electorate of Pittwater are subject to waterfront tenancies with the Department of Lands?
- (2) What was the total income from waterfront rentals in Pittwater in 2006?
- (3) What were the administration costs of assessing and collecting rental from waterfront tenancies in Pittwater in 2006?

Answer—

There are approximately 745 properties in Pittwater with waterfront tenancies, which in 2006 generated \$876,363.18 in rental income. Given the structure of the Department and various responsibilities of individual officers, it is difficult to accurately identify the costs of administering waterfront tenancies in Pittwater.

*1625 STAFFING LEVELS—MONA VALE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

What were the staffing levels for the Emergency Department at Mona Vale Hospital as at 30 June in 2000, 2003 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Health routinely provides statewide workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Report.

To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

I refer the Member to the publicly available Annual Reports of the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service.

*1626 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many "child at risk of harm" reports were made regarding children in the electorate of Pittwater in each of the last 3 years?

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- (2) How many were level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4?
- (3) How many children subject of the level 1 reports received a visit from a Department of Community Services officer (i.e. caseworker) within the prescribed time?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by electorate.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1627 CLASSIC CARS—LPG CONVERSIONS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Has the Minister or his department received any request for the conditional registration of classic cars fitted with LPG conversion?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If so, what was the outcome of such request for approval?
- (4) If the approval was denied, why was it denied?
- (5) Do vehicles running on LPG emit less emissions and use less of a finite resource known as petrol?
- (6) If so, why is the Roads and Traffic Authority or the Minister not seeking to minimise emissions and resource usage?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA registers historic (veteran and vintage) vehicles under the Conditional Registration Scheme, which provides the vehicle with limited access to the road network and Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance cover. Historic vehicles registered under this scheme are exempt from the payment of stamp duty, motor vehicle tax and national charges.

Conditional registration is only available if the registered operator of the vehicle is a member of an RTA recognised historic vehicle club and the vehicle's use of the road network is restricted. Vehicles can only be used for authorised club events or for servicing or inspection.

Registered historic vehicle clubs are responsible for certifying the roadworthiness of their club vehicles through inspections carried out by appropriately skilled club inspectors. Vehicles must be as close to original condition as possible, with no alterations except for safety features such as seat belts and turn indicators or period accessories and options, if desired. Major mechanical modifications, wide wheels or changing the vehicle from its original shape will exclude the historic vehicle from conditional registration. Modified historic vehicles, if roadworthy, may apply for full registration.

The RTA is working to reduce the impact of motor vehicles on the environment. Further information on emission reduction initiatives is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

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*1628 JURY DUTY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What regulations or legislation are in place to protect an employee's job security when he or she is required to spend time away from the workplace to perform jury duty?
- (2) Can an employee sign away any of the abovementioned protections under any State or Federal award or workplace agreement?
- (3) If so, what are the details?
- (4) Has the State Government received any complaints from people who have performed jury duty that their job security or working conditions have been affected because they have undertaken this duty?

Answer—

- (1) Section 69 of the Jury Act 1977 (NSW) prohibits an employer from dismissing, injuring, prejudicing or altering the position of a person in his or her employment by reason of the fact that the person is summoned to serve as a juror.
- (2) I am advised that the prohibitions contained in section 69 of the Act apply to employees whose

employment is governed by an award or workplace agreement.

- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) I am advised that a relatively small number of complaints have been received by the NSW Sheriff's Office.

*1629 HYDROTHERAPY POOL—ALBURY BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How long will the hydrotherapy pool at Albury Base Hospital remain closed?
- (2) What is the reason for the current extended closure?
- (3) Given that the pool was out of action for over two months in 2003-04, what maintenance measures are undertaken to ensure this essential rehabilitation and therapy service remains operational?
- (4) What alternative rehabilitation and therapy services are being offered to patients, people with disabilities, people suffering chronic pain and elderly users of the hydrotherapy pool?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The hydrotherapy pool will remain closed subject to the completion of the essential repair of the pool's tiles. It is anticipated the pool will be available in early 2008.
- (3) The hydrotherapy pool is on a planned maintenance program. Filters, chemical levels and mechanical service equipment are checked on a scheduled basis. Loose tiles are repaired and re-grouted during such maintenance checks
- (4) Clinical staff are assessing individual patient's needs and developing programs outside of hydrotherapy that reflect their rehabilitation requirements. In addition, Albury Base Hospital Management is keeping community groups informed of developments and have offered to assist in sourcing alternative hydrotherapy. The Manager of Allied Health at Albury Base hospital is co-ordinating any requests for assistance.

*1630 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) What funding allocations have been made in the 2007-08 budget for floodplain management projects in NSW?
- (2) Have funds been quarantined specifically for:
 - (a) floodplain management generally;
 - (b) particular areas?
- (3) Which areas are subject to planning for flood mitigation works in 2007/08?

Answer—

This matter falls within the Climate Change, Environment and Water portfolio.

*1631 LOWER HUNTER POLICE WORK-BANS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to foreshadowed work bans by Lower Hunter Police:

- (1) Given that the commitment of 28 extra offices for the Lower Hunter Local Area Command has not satisfied the Lower Hunter Branch of the NSW Police Association in their ongoing industrial dispute, can the Minister advise of any change to front-line, first-response officer numbers in the region?
- (2) Are front-line staffing arrangements in the Port Stephens region appropriate and do they meet minimum requirements in relation to actual officer work-loads?
- (3) Will the Minister intervene in this dispute given the threat of strike action, which could see lives endangered?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

This matter has been resolved at the local level.

*1632 PORT STEPHENS CRIME—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to crime in Port Stephens:

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- (1) Can the Minister advise as to what action the Government and/or his department can take to curb the number of complaints regarding juvenile delinquents engaging in criminal behaviour with impunity in Port Stephens?
- (2) Does the Minister consider it a severe problem that many residents in the Port Stephens community feel the police are powerless to prevent young offenders from ruining their lives?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Police in the Port Stephens area, as elsewhere, deal with juvenile offenders under the guidelines of the law. During 2007, action taken includes Warnings, Formal Cautions, Youth Conferences, Infringement Notices and Court Attendance Notices. Additionally, School Liaison Officers and the Police Citizens Youth Club work with local youth to address a range of issues including delinquency.

*1633 PORT STEPHENS POLICE STATION—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to Port Stephens Police Station:

- (1) Can the Minister advise as to the current status of the proposed Port Stephens Police Station funded in the 2007/08 Budget Papers?
- (2) Will the foreshadowed work bans proposed by the Lower Hunter branch of the NSW Police Association expedite the process of resourcing and developing this piece of law enforcement infrastructure?
- (3) In light of the Minister's denial that a dedicated Port Stephens Local Area Command is on the Government's agenda, can the Minister advise of any other proposed option that might alleviate the strain on Lower Hunter Police resources?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Funding of \$700,000 was provided in the 2007-08 budget for pre-planning. A master planner has been engaged and construction is subject to the normal planning process.
- (2) The construction of the Raymond Terrace police station forms part of the overall capital works program. The construction is planned for completion in 2010.
- (3) The NSW Police Force established a Greater Hunter Workforce Planning Project to address current and future needs of the police and the community.

*1634 MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Are there plans to reinstate community mental health teams in Hercules Street, Chatswood?
- (2) When will a decision be made public given the Government indicated 3 years ago the move to the Royal North Shore Hospital site was temporary?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Community Mental Health Services will continue to be delivered from Chatswood, now and in the future.
- (2) New South Wales Health have approved the North Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service's Service Procurement Plan and Project Definition Plan for the building of a new purpose built community health facility on the Chatswood site. The facility will provide, amongst other community services, community mental health services.

This facility will ensure a choice for consumers, improved access to care, and will enable consumers to receive mental health care in the local community if they wish. Temporary accommodation on the Chatswood site will be provided for services to continue while construction of the new facility is underway.

*1635 REINSTATEMENT OF BUS SERVICES—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How will you respond to growing community concern and demand for the reinstatement of bus services that were cut from the Willoughby electorate in September 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

Service adjustments made to lower North Shore services in September 2006 were initiated by State

Transit in order to provide a level of service commensurate with current passenger demand.

In many cases, resources have been redeployed from some off-peak services where patronage was low, into the provision of additional morning and afternoon peak services that have been experiencing solid growth.

Examples of this include:

- Additional North Sydney services on Eastern Valley Way;
- Extra morning peak Route 272 services between Willoughby and Wynyard, timed to meet maximum demand periods on Willoughby Road;
- Additional morning peak services from Lane Cove, St Leonards and Crows Nest to cater for continuing and sustained growth on the Pacific Highway corridor; and
- Increased morning peak service frequencies on Route 273 to meet the increasing demand in the corridor between North Sydney, Naremburn and Willoughby.

A number of additional morning peak services have also 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 area.

State Transit continually seeks to improve the efficiency of its operations and implement carefully considered service adjustments in response to changing demands.

*1636 "QUICK WINS"—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the "Quick Wins" announcement in the September 2005 edition of "Better Buying":

- (1) What is the current status of the "guidance list of products called 'Quick Wins' to direct government buyers to greener products"?
- (2) How many products are on the Quick Wins "guidance list"?
- (3) Is the "guidance list" publicly available?

Answer—

I am advised:

The guidance list of products in "Quick Wins" (also called "Green Wins") has been incorporated into "Greenbuy", an online service within smartbuy®, the Government's electronic marketplace.

Through smartbuy®, environmental features of products are highlighted, and buyers are able to source environmentally sustainable products and access information on the environmental credentials of products on State Government contracts.

Agencies and organisations eligible to use State Contracts Control Board Contracts can access smartbuy®.

*1637 CENTRE FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS—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 Centre for Energy and Environmental Markets' [CEEM] "Response to recent comments on the CEEM Draft Report" published in response to the Minister's comments on the "CEEM Draft Report" into the GGAS Scheme from 2003 to 2005:

- (1) What is the Minister's response to the CEEM claim that the Minister's statement that, "since 2003 there has been a reduction of more than 41 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions" is, according to CEEM, "not supported by the evidence to date" (p. 39) and that "actual physical emissions in both NSW and Australia have risen rather than been reduced over the life of GGAS." (p. 39)?
- (2) What is the Minister's response to the CEEM claim that, "approximately 80% of the certificates for the 2003, 2004 and 2005 periods were created by plant that were performing their 'low emission activities' before the scheme began and so these activities can't be claimed to have reduced emissions again since the GGAS started" (p. 39)?
- (3) What is the Minister's response to the CEEM claim, "that a scheme whose first stated intent is to reduce emissions created through NSW electricity consumption but has, to date, seen approximately 70% of the claimed abatement occur in offset activities not related to electricity supply and use in NSW, lack coherence and credibility" (p. 40)?

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- (4) What is the Minister's response to the CEEM claim that, "inclusion of pre-existing projects in GGAS reduces the cashflow available to drive deployment of the new low emission technologies required to reduce NSW emissions between now and 2020, and would appear to provide NSW energy users poor value for money in driving emission reductions" (p. 41)?
- (5) What is the Minister's response to the CEEM claim that, "Hazelwood power station in Victoria is some forty years old, perhaps the most greenhouse polluting power station in the OECD, did not participate in the earlier voluntary scheme as far as we are aware, yet is an accredited NGAC creator. Over the last three years NSW energy consumers have paid the owners of Hazelwood some \$10 million for their claimed contribution to emissions reductions, a period over which the number of NGACs created by Hazelwood bears little relationship to the change in physical emissions for the plant" (p. 41)?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme is a baseline and credit scheme and effectively measures outcomes compared to what might otherwise have occurred.
- (2) The NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme provides an incentive for existing low emission plants to operate more than they would otherwise have done, thereby displacing output from coal-fired plants.
- (3) I disagree with this statement.
- (4) The inclusion of pre-existing projects represents credit for early action and is a policy position adopted by many schemes, including the Commonwealth Government in developing its Australian Emissions Trading Scheme.
- (5) The NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme recognises abatement from electricity generators connected to the National Electricity Market such as Hazelwood power station. The Scheme Administrator applies rigorous audit requirements to ensure that abatement is verified.

*1638 CLEAN COAL WORKING GROUP—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 Coal Working Group"

Delta Energy website, [<http://www.de.com.au/default.aspx?ArticleID=5436>]:

- (1) Is the "Clean Coal Working Group" different from the "Clean Energy Roundtable" [Legislative Council Hansard, 29 May 2007] or the "Clean Coal/Energy Roundtable" [Written Question 0895]?
- (2) If they are different, which individuals represent which organisations or businesses on the "Clean Coal Working Group"?
- (3) When was the inaugural meeting of the "Clean Coal Working Group"?
- (4) What funds and staff are allocated to supporting the "Clean Coal Working Group"?
- (5) How often will the "Clean Coal Working Group" meet and where will it meet?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Clean Coal Technology Working Group has senior representation from the following organisations:
 - Department of Primary Industries (chair),
 - Office of the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, Minister for State Development,
 - Department of Water and Energy,
 - Australian Coal Association
 - Macquarie Generation,
 - Delta Electricity,
 - Eraring Energy,
 - CSIRO,
 - The Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC).
- (3) 1 November 2006.
- (4) There are no funds or staff specifically allocated to the Clean Coal Technology Working Group. Funding and staff support are provided from within the existing resources of the Department of Primary Industries.
- (5) The Group generally meets in Sydney on a quarterly basis depending on agenda items for consideration.

*1639 TRADING HOURS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

On what basis has the department amended the regulations concerning trading hours for retail outlets in Goulburn to allow them to trade on public holidays, including Boxing Day?

Answer—

Matters regarding the regulation of retail trading hours should be addressed to my colleague, the Minister for Industrial Relations.

*1640 TERMEIL CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When will the Minister provide a response to my concerns regarding the Termeil Creek Bridge project as conveyed to the RTA in January 2007 and to the Minister from the RTA in January?
- (2) When will the Minister address my concerns regarding unanswered correspondence from January 2007 as conveyed to him in September 2007?
- (3) Considering that this project is listed for commencement in the 2007-2008 budget, when will the Minister respond to the concerns of the community and Mr Les Stewart in particular?

Answer—

I am advised:

A reply has been sent.

*1641 LINEAR ACCELERATOR—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health—

In light of the comments made by Minister for Women, Verity Firth, regarding the Government's intention to consider the provision of a linear accelerator at Shoalhaven Hospital, when will a decision be announced regarding this project?

Answer—

The NSW Government is looking forward to more constructive discussions with the Commonwealth regarding funding for new public radiotherapy services.

*1642 FLASHING LIGHTS FOR SCHOOL CROSSINGS—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Which school crossings in the South Coast electorate will be enhanced by the provision of flashing lights over the next three years?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 26 September 2007, the Premier announced a \$46.5 million four-year program to further enhance the safety of students in school zones.

Flashing light technology and electronic alert systems will be installed in a further 400 school zones, comprising the rollout of 100 systems a year over the next four years.

School zones are being selected for the new technology rollout based on risk criteria including traffic and pedestrian volumes, surrounding speed limits and crash history.

*1643 GOSFORD AND WYONG HOSPITALS—EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many people presented to the emergency department at (a) Gosford Hospital and (b) Wyong Hospital in 2005 and 2006?
- (2) How many were seen in the targeted time in 2005 and 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Publicly accessible data regarding public hospital performance is available through the NSW Department of Health internet site at www.health.nsw.gov.au

In addition information relating to emergency department attendances and performance is also published in Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service's annual reports. The member is referred to the NSW Health internet site and the publicly available annual reports of the Area Health Service.

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*1644 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many "child at risk of harm" reports for (a) Wyong Shire and (b) Gosford City were received by the Department of Community Services (DoCS) for 2005 and 2006?
- (2) How many were level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4?
- (3) How many children subject to level 1 reports received a visit from a DoCS caseworker within the prescribed time?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by local government area.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at

www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1645 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What is the staffing of Department of Community Services (DoCS) in (a) Wyong Shire and (b) Gosford City as at 31 October 2007?
- (2) What is the budget allocation for DoCS in (a) Wyong Shire and (b) Gosford City as at 31 October 2007?
- (3) How many mandatory notifications were received by DoCS for (a) Wyong Shire (b) Gosford City for the year ended 31 October 2007?
- (4) How many children are in DoCS care for (a) Wyong Shire and (b) Gosford City as at 31 October 2007?

Answer—

This information is not collected by local government area.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment and children in Out-of-Home care can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1646 WORKCOVER BENEFITS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Is the WorkCover Board undertaking a review of WorkCover benefits?
- (2) If so, when will this review be completed?
- (3) Will this report be made available to the general public?

Answer—

I am advised:

Questions regarding WorkCover should be referred to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance, my colleague The Hon. John Della Bosca MLC.

*1647 YASS COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many babies were born to parents living in the 2582 postcode area during:
 - (a) 2005;
 - (b) 2006;
 - (c) to date in 2007?
- (2) How many of these babies were born in:
 - (a) Goulburn Hospital;
 - (b) a Canberra Hospital;
 - (c) Boorowa Hospital;
 - (d) Harden Hospital;
 - (e) Gundagai Hospital?
- (3) How many of these mothers and babies were subsequently transferred to Yass Hospital for postnatal care?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) 57.
 (b) 83.
 (c) 35 (January to June).
- (2) (a) 1.
 (b) 166.
 (c) to (e) Boorowa, Harden and Gundagai Hospitals do not offer maternity services. However, appropriate networking arrangements exist between neighbouring maternity services, such as Young, Tumut, Wagga Wagga or Cootamundra, for consultation and referral in order to ensure the appropriate management of maternal, fetal and newborn clinical needs.
- (3) 36.

*1648 MINISTERIAL CHILD PROTECTION COMMISSION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) When will the Ministerial Child Protection Commission headed by the Hon James Wood QC begin to take submissions from the public?
 (2) Will the commission hold public hearings?
 (3) What is the address for submissions to the commission?
 (4) From what date will the commission be receiving submissions for the public?
 (5) On what date will submissions to the commission close?

Answer—

The Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection is an independent inquiry. Details were advertised in the media. The Commission can be contacted on 1800 442 819.

*1649 SEWERAGE CONNECTION—BROOKLYN AND DANGAR ISLAND—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

By what process does the sewerage connection at Brooklyn and Dangar Island enable more efficient water management at each site?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government has spent more than \$450 million since 1993 on upgrading and constructing sewerage infrastructure in the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment. Consequently, the last decade has seen a reduction in phosphorus load discharged from sewage treatment plants by over 75 per cent and the nitrogen load reduced by almost 45 per cent.

Over the years, leaking on-site septic systems in Brooklyn and Dangar Island have impacted on the water quality of the Hawkesbury River.

Construction of the Brooklyn and Dangar Island Sewerage Scheme is allowing ageing septic tanks to be disconnected for around 480 properties. The benefits of this action will flow on to further improve public health and the health of the Hawkesbury River and local waterways. As well, for those properties that connect, a flat sewer service charge will replace septic pump out and maintenance costs.

Once connected to the new reticulated scheme, the wastewater will flow into a holding tank on each property before being pumped along a small pressure pipeline to the new Brooklyn Sewage Treatment Plant. The wastewater will then be treated to a high tertiary level using membrane bioreactor technology and ultraviolet light disinfection.

Connections to the sewer have been available for Brooklyn residents since November 2007 and are due to be made available for Dangar Island residents from February 2008.

Since 1998, five different investigations into effluent reuse for the Brooklyn and Dangar Island Sewerage Scheme have been undertaken. Each of these concluded that reuse was not suited due to local geology, small lot sizes, cost and the lack of a viable market.

Treated effluent will, however, be used at the new treatment plant for process and cleaning purposes. It will also be available for use by Hornsby Council from the plant.

As part of its wider program to encourage water conservation, Sydney Water has issued two rounds of invitations to participate in the WaterFix program to households in Brooklyn and Dangar Island.

*1650 BROOKLYN ROAD BRIDGE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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Given that the Brooklyn Road Bridge is in need of a coat of paint, when will the bridge be repainted?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA is responsible for maintaining approximately 20,738 km of State Roads and 4,928 bridges.

In allocating maintenance funds, the RTA gives priority to programs which:

- achieve the best overall return on maintenance investment (given that smoother roads cost more to provide, but offer savings to vehicle operators);
- provide community-wide benefits from reduced accidents and travel time; and
- reduce environmental impacts of road infrastructure maintenance.

Information regarding the RTA maintenance program is contained in the Annual Report and in Budget Papers.

*1651 RAIL LINE MAINTENANCE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

(1) What Government plans (including dates and times) are there for maintenance of:

- (a) the Northern rail line
- (b) the North Shore rail line

for the next 12 months as it impacts on the Hornsby electorate?

(2) What will be the cost of this infrastructure maintenance?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding scheduled trackwork is available on CityRail's website, www.cityrail.info

*1652 GREEN ENERGY—Ms Sonia Hornery 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 are the benefits of using green energy in domestic households?
- (2) How many households in the Wallsend electorate currently subscribe to green energy?

Answer—

(1) The generation of electricity from fossil fuels increases the amount of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. Generation from renewable sources like wind and solar conversely do not involve a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

The NSW Government accredits new renewable energy generators, and the products offered by energy retailers under the GreenPower scheme. Launched by the NSW Government in 1997, GreenPower is now a national scheme managed by NSW. GreenPower allows electricity customers to voluntarily purchase some or all of their electricity from accredited renewable energy sources, reducing dependence on fossil fuel generation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and assisting the development of a robust renewable energy industry in Australia.

The average household emits around 14 tonnes of greenhouse gases each year in its use of energy and transport, and generation of waste. A household purchasing 100 per cent GreenPower can halve greenhouse gas emissions and make a substantial contribution to reducing emissions in NSW and Australia.

There are currently more than 645,000 GreenPower customers across Australia and GreenPower sales in the 2006-07 financial year exceeded 1 million mega watt hours.

(2) Specific data on GreenPower customers is not collated by the NSW Government at an electorate level. However, EnergyAustralia advises that around 8,500 customers are subscribing to its GreenPower products in the greater Hunter region. This represents around 5 per cent of customers in the region, compared to the State average of 6 per cent of customers subscribing to GreenPower.

*1653 HOSPITAL BEDS—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many beds are open in all wards at Sutherland Hospital as at 31 October 2007?
- (2) How many of these beds were designated for:
 - (a) surgical;
 - (b) children's services;

- (c) palliative care;
- (d) rehabilitation;
- (e) medical admission?

- (3) As elective surgery activity increases in the new year will beds in the surgical ward be increased?
- (4) How many surgical beds for elective surgery will remain open over the Christmas holiday period?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Information about South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service facility beds and bed equivalents are published in the Area Health Service's annual report. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions. I refer the Member to the 2006/07 Annual Report.

(3) and (4) All NSW public hospital Emergency Departments are open 24 hours, seven days a week – even during the holiday period. Bed closures and adjustments to operating theatre availability and day surgery units are made to accommodate seasonal demand.

Emergency patients suffering from acute illness or severe injuries will continue to receive first priority for emergency surgery.

Booked non-elective surgery is not affected by the holiday period. The amount of elective surgery planned for each year takes into account a reduction in elective surgery during the peak holiday periods. This occurs because most patients choose not to have elective surgery over the holiday period, and allows as many staff as possible to take a well earned break to spend some time with their children and families.

The holiday period is also a time when hospitals are able to schedule routine service and maintenance in Operating Theatres and of essential equipment.

*1654 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many "child at risk of harm" reports were made regarding children in the electorate of Cronulla?
- (2) How many were level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4?
- (3) How many children subject to the level 1 reports received a visit from a Department of Community Services officer within the prescribed time?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by electorate.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at

www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1655 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for Miranda Local Area Command?

Answer—

The release of such information would be contrary to both Government and NSW Police Force policy.

*1656 OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENTS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many agreements out of court have been made to avoid legal action at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital?
- (2) How many agreements out of court have been made to avoid legal action with the Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS)?
- (3) How many settlements have occurred with non-disclosure clauses in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and to 30 June 2007?
- (4) How much has been paid by GSAHS in settlements as a result of legal proceedings?
- (5) How much has been paid by GSAHS on behalf of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital in settlements?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) Out of court settlements are not made to avoid legal action. Generally, they are made to resolve

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legal proceedings.

No claimant is forced to sign a confidentiality clause. Most have the benefit of independent legal advice before negotiating a settlement of their claim. Claims have been settled without any party signing a confidentiality clause, however, generally litigated negligence claims against NSW public health organisations are settled by all parties to the dispute signing Terms of Settlement. The standard terms usually contain a clause, which states that the Terms of Settlement are to remain confidential. If the parties agree to these terms, they are binding on all parties to the Terms of Settlement (not just the patient). The clause aims to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the patient and their family, as much as that of the doctors and nurses and the public health organisation. The use of confidentiality clauses is standard practice for the settlement of most litigation in NSW.

The legal entity for Wagga Wagga Base Hospital is Greater Southern Area Health Service. Claims are litigated against the Area Health Service not the hospital.

*1657 STANDARDS COMMITTEE—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is it common practice for a professional standards committee of the HCCC to have their proceedings and deliberations suppressed from the media and the public?
- (2) If the HCCC standards committee concludes and reports an adverse finding against a practitioner, why is that information suppressed from the public?
- (3) If a committee's findings are adverse, what action can be taken by the HCCC and how is that action communicated in the public interest?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (3) Professional standards committees are established by health professional registration bodies such as the Medical Board to conduct inquiries into some formal complaints against health practitioners. The role of the Health Care Complaints Commission at an inquiry by a professional standards committee is to prosecute the complaint.

The Medical Practice Act requires an inquiry by a professional standards committee to be conducted in the absence of the public, unless the committee directs otherwise. The Act also provides that a committee cannot direct that the proceedings are to be open to the public, unless the committee is satisfied that it is desirable to do so in the public interest, for reasons connected with the subject-matter of the proceedings or the nature of the evidence to be given.

Section 60 of the Medical Practice Act provides that, if a Committee finds the subject-matter of a complaint against a person to have been proved, the Committee may exercise any power or combination of powers conferred on it by Division 4 of Part 2 of the Act. I refer the Member to the Act for further details.

Where a professional standards committee makes a direction that conditions are to be imposed on the practitioner's registration, the Medical Board makes those conditions public by listing them against the practitioner's name on the Board's website.

*1658 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for the Parramatta Local Area Command?

Answer—

The release of such information would be contrary to both Government and NSW Police Force policy.

*1659 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for Baulkham Hills Local Area Command?

Answer—

The release of such information would be contrary to both Government and NSW Police Force policy.

*1660 DIESEL POWERED CARS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many diesel powered motor cars were registered in NSW in the years 2001 to 2006, inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1661 BUILDING PROFESSIONALS BOARD—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

With regard to the Building Professionals Board, recently established to accredit and audit the over 400 private certifiers across NSW and investigate complaints:

- (1) How many staff members are there in the Building Professionals Board?
- (2) Since being established, how many complaints has the Building Professionals Board received from consumers with regard to certified construction that complainants say did not comply with Council construction approval or the Building Code of Australia?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Building Professionals Board (BPB) employs 25 people.
- (2) Since 1 March 2007, the Building Professionals Board has received 126 complaints in total. The BPB does not categorise complainants as consumers. The BPB receives complaints from a number of sources including councils, developers, neighbours and land owners. Receipt of a complaint is not evidence that an accredited certifier has acted inappropriately and these matters need to be investigated.

Complaints generally relate to inconsistencies with the development consent, inconsistencies with the BCA or inconsistencies with the procedural requirements under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

*1662 KINGS CROSS LATE NIGHT BUS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

With respect to the late night bus from Kings Cross to the city, which:

- has reduced crime and anti-social behaviour according to King Cross Police;
- provides a security officer to travel on the bus funded by the Kings Cross Licensing Accord;
- has strong support from local businesses and residents; and
- is used by an average of 200 passengers each Friday and Saturday night, peaking between 2.00 and 4.00pm:

- (1) What evaluation has the Government carried out of the impact of this service?
- (2) What are the results of the Government's assessment of the value of this service?
- (3) Will the Government commit to continuing this service?
- (4) What are the Government's plans for the frequency and times of service?
- (5) Will the Government provide similar late night transport for other areas it has determined to be 24 Hour Entertainment Zones?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) The late night bus service is provided, free of charge, under a charter arrangement with the State Transit Authority. Similar services operate in Coogee and Manly.

The Ministry of Transport completed a review of the service in November, 2007. On average, 229 passengers travel on the late night bus every weekend.

Since 1 December, 2007 State Transit has operated the bus as a regular route service, in accordance with its existing contract with the Ministry of Transport.

Its frequency, route and operating times will be reviewed annually.

*1663 WYNYARD RAILWAY STATION—EVACUATION DRILL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Does the Government have an action plan for a major incident at Wynyard Railway Station involving evacuation of commuters and securing of the site?
- (2) On what date was the last full scale emergency evacuation drill carried out at Wynyard Railway Station and what were the drill outcomes and findings?

Answer—

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I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Sydney Underground rail system, including the City Underground, Eastern Suburbs Railway and the Airport line, has an extensive range of equipment to facilitate an evacuation of trains and stations.

This compliments the skills and training that rail and emergency services personnel have, which they practice on a regular basis in joint emergency exercises.

RailCorp employees undergo frequent emergency response training throughout the year. This includes evacuation exercises on stations and weekly desktop exercises for underground stations, as well as the larger exercises involving rail and emergency services staff.

*1664 REAL ESTATE INVESTIGATION BRANCH—RESPONSE TIMES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) Is there a standard maximum response time for matters brought before the Department of Fair Trading Real Estate Investigation Branch?
 (2) What case reassignment process does the department have in place to assist consumers when staff either take leave or are transferred out of the Department?
 (3) Why has the case of Mr John Vandeeper, which has been with the Department for over two years, not been concluded within a reasonable time frame?

Answer—

- (1) The time taken to complete an investigation will vary according to the circumstances of each particular matter. Some of the matters affecting an investigation are:
- the complexity of the issues;
 - the strategies required and employed during the investigation;
 - the availability of evidence and witnesses;
 - the level of co-operation of the various parties;
 - the relative urgency of the matter;
 - whether there is consumer detriment; and
 - whether the outcome involves criminal prosecution or internal administrative or disciplinary action.
- (2) The Office of Fair Trading endeavours to ensure that all matters requiring investigation are progressed according to case management principles, including re-allocation and re-prioritisation action where considered necessary according to the circumstances of each case.
- (3) I am advised that the matter was very complex requiring considerable scrutiny and redrafting of legal documents and consultation between the operator and residents of the village. I understand that the matter has been resolved with an amended trust deed being recently distributed to the residents of Glanaeon Retirement Village.

*1665 SPORTING OVAL—UTS LINDFIELD—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In the light of the shortage of sporting grounds in the Ku-ring-gai Council Local Government Area, what efforts has the Department of Planning made to ensure the sporting oval at the UTS Lindfield site is retained for the use of local sporting teams?

Answer—

The Concept Plan proposes two 4-5 storey apartment buildings on the existing 1.4ha oval and the retention of 0.7ha for the creation of a communal 'Village Green' park.

In June this year I advised my Department to form a Community Reference Group. The Community Reference Group is chaired by an independent facilitator and is made up of key stakeholders including Ku-ring-gai Councillors, local community delegates as well as representatives of two local sports associations who currently use the UTS Lindfield oval.

The Group had its first meeting in July 2007 and a second meeting on 14 November 2007 to correspond with the public exhibition period. A third meeting is planned for mid January 2008.

The Community Reference Group will play an important role in ensuring consultation with key stakeholders is enhanced throughout the assessment process.

The impact of the proposed development on existing recreational land uses on-site was a key matter identified in the Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the Concept Plan under

Part 3A of the EPA Act 1979. My Department is assessing the proposal and will ensure issues associated with the site are appropriately considered.

I have not made any decision regarding the site or the proposal at this point.

*1666 DRINK DRIVING OFFENCES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What is the number of drink driving offences committed in the Tweed electorate by:

- (1) drivers residing in the Tweed electorate:
 - (a) during 2006;
 - (b) during 2007 year-to-date?
- (2) drivers from Queensland:
 - (a) during 2006;
 - (b) during 2007 year-to-date?
- (3) drivers residing in any other part of NSW other than the Tweed electorate:
 - (a) during 2006;
 - (b) during 2007 year-to-date?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Police.

*1667 PATIENT TREATMENT IN TWEED HOSPITALS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to patient treatment in Tweed hospitals:

- (1) How many Queensland residents have been treated in hospitals situated in the Tweed electorate for 2007 year-to-date?
- (2) What proportion does the answer to (1) represent against the total number of patients treated in hospitals in the Tweed electorate for 2007 year-to-date?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Area Health Services publish information regarding public hospital activity levels in their respective Annual Reports.

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report on activity levels on the basis of electorates.

*1668 DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest 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 development progress in the Tweed electorate:

- (1) What is the number of state development staff employed in the Tweed electorate?
- (2) What is the total annual budget of state development projects and offices in the Tweed electorate?
- (3) What is the number of state development projects currently being undertaken in the Tweed electorate and the investment value of these projects?
- (4) What is the number of state development projects planned to be undertaken in the Tweed electorate in the future and the investment value of these projects?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of State and Regional Development employs substantial resources for regional economic development in NSW. Two Tweed Heads based staff are supported by both the regional and head offices.
- (2) The Department delivers business investment programs across the State. These programs have global funding allocations rather than a specific area funding.
- (3) The Department undertakes activities ranging from small business development and tourism to attracting investment projects. Outcomes include the attraction of business projects worth \$325 million in capital investment and the creation/retention of 356 jobs over the past five years in the Tweed Electorate; support for food and wine businesses to prepare for the 2006 Regional Food Tour and the 2007 Food and Wine Showcase; support for home-based business to develop their business planning and marketing skills; and support for businesses to enter export markets.

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- (4) The Department is pursuing leads with businesses potentially interested in relocating to or expanding their existing operations in the Tweed area and creating new investment and jobs.

*1669 LORD HOWE ISLAND—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) What plans do the Lord Howe Island Board and the Marine Parks Authority have to deal with elevated nitrate, phosphorous and bacteria levels at the pontoon swimming site and old settlement beach at Lord Howe Island?
- (2) When will the Lord Howe Island Board's strategy for rat and mouse eradication be finalised and implemented?
- (3) Has a date been set for the Lord Howe Island phasmid's return to the wild on the island?
- (4) Given that the eradication of Mallard-Black duck hybrids is listed as a Priority 3 in the Draft Lord Howe Island Biodiversity Management Plan, when will the remaining ducks be killed?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The monitoring of water quality in the lagoon by the Lord Howe Island Board in collaboration with the Marine Parks Authority is part of an ongoing strategy for protecting public and environmental health.

Routine monitoring has found nutrient and bacterial levels at certain sites in the lagoon but the bacterial levels detected were low and posed no public health risk. More recent monitoring has detected no bacteria.

The Lord Howe Island Board is working to identify the source of the nutrients. The Board has made significant investment in recent years improving and monitoring water quality on the island, including the engagement of an environmental engineer to develop water and effluent management strategies. Most recently, the Board adopted a Septic Tank Management Plan for the island, which will see a significant improvement in the regulation and operation of residential and commercial septic systems.

- (2) The Lord Howe Island Board has a corporate goal to have the Rodent Eradication Strategy and associated environmental assessment developed and ready for implementation by June 2009. The Board is currently on track to meet this timeframe.
- (3) Melbourne Zoo, an institution renowned for its success with invertebrate breeding, now has over 800 phasmids. Before the animals can be introduced into the wild, rodents need to be eradicated from the island and a rodent eradication program starts in 2009.

The Board, in collaboration with Melbourne Zoo, is also planning to establish a captive population on the island. A feature of the recent 25th anniversary commemoration of the island's World Heritage listing was the return of live phasmids to the island after an 80-year absence.

- (4) The Board has an on-going program to control exotic and hybrid ducks. Over a two-week period in October 2007, 76 of the estimated 100 exotic and hybrid ducks on the Island were euthanased. The remaining ducks will be removed over the next few months, and the likely re-colonisation from off-island duck populations will be monitored.

*1670 ALGAE LEVELS – CENTRAL WESTERN WATER SUPPLIES—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Given that a red alert has been issued for high levels of the potentially toxic blue-green algae in the Burrendong Reservoir near Wellington, what measures are in place to protect the drinking water supplies of Wellington, Dubbo, Cobar, Nyngan and Warren?
- (2) Will algae levels in central western New South Wales water storages increase or decrease with moderate rainfall?

Answer—

- (1) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water Utilities.
- (2) I am advised that algal levels in reservoirs following moderate rainfall can decrease, increase or not change as the factors which influence algal growth under these circumstances are complex.

*1671 NEW SOUTH WALES DAMS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Given that the Risk Management Policy Framework for Dam Safety was finished in June 2006 and endorsed by Cabinet on 22 August 2006, where are the new set of Information Sheets promised on the "NSW Dam Safety Committee" website?
- (2) When does the DSC plan to convene the promised industry seminars for explanation, discussion and feedback before finalisation of these Information Sheets?
- (3) What policy document is currently being used to determine the flood capacity of NSW dams?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I am advised that the 23 draft Information Sheets are nearing completion. The Dams Safety Committee plans to convene industry seminars as soon as the draft Sheets are available, expected in mid 2008.
- (3) This information is available on the Dams Safety Committee website.

*1672 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for North Shore Local Area Command?

Answer—

The release of such information would be contrary to both Government and NSW Police Force policy.

*1673 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for Gladesville Local Area Command?

Answer—

The release of such information would be contrary to both Government and NSW Police Force policy.

*1674 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for Eastwood Local Area Command?

Answer—

The release of such information would be contrary to both Government and NSW Police Force policy.

*1675 BLUE MOUNTAINS HEALTH SERVICES—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What hospitals and health services are available in the Blue Mountains electorate?
- (2) Why are Blue Mountains residents routinely transferred to Nepean Hospital to receive basic, primary health services?
- (3) How many ambulances are available in the Blue Mountains for patient transfers and emergencies?
- (4) How sustainable is it to have a hospital service that relies on transferring patients off the Blue Mountains for care?
- (5) How many surgical sessions were there at Katoomba Hospital in 2006-07?
- (6) For how many days in 2006-07 were the operating theatres at Katoomba Hospital shut?
- (7) Are there plans to close the operating theatres at Katoomba Hospital during the 2007-08 Christmas-New Year period?
- (8) In the event that the Great Western Highway is closed because of a bush fire or another unplanned event, what local emergency health services are available to Blue Mountains residents?
- (9) What is the status of the review currently being undertaken by SWAHS on Katoomba and Springwood hospitals?
- (10) When will the community be informed of the review objectives?
- (11) What is the medium to long-term plan for hospital care for Blue Mountains residents?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital, Springwood Hospital and Community Health Centres.

(2) Blue Mountains residents are transferred to Nepean Hospital for emergency surgical procedures and for high-risk birthing. These are specialised services and not basic primary health care. Transfers are to ensure best patient outcomes. Patients are transferred back to Springwood or Blue Mountains Hospitals for care and recovery where appropriate.

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(3) Katoomba and Springwood Ambulance Stations provide 24-hour coverage to the Blue Mountains. Both Stations roster two Ambulances during the day shift and one during the night. One additional vehicle is available on call during the night. Additional resources can be deployed if required from nearby Ambulance Stations at Penrith, Richmond and Lithgow.

(4) See (2) above.

(5) The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the number of "surgical sessions" on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions. However, NSW Health publishes monthly performance and activity data on the NSW Health Internet site. I refer the Member to www.health.nsw.gov.au

(6) and (7) Operating Theatres at Blue Mountains Hospital do not close.

(8) Blue Mountains Hospital has a disaster plan in place with contingencies to ensure services continue to be provided to the community. The Hospital also has a helipad on site. In addition, in the event of a closure of the Great Western Highway there are alternate route options that the Ambulance Service would consider using the following alternative routes:

- Ambulance resources from the west could travel via the Bells Line of Road then across to the Great Western Highway via the Darling Causeway.
- Ambulance resources east of Springwood could travel via Castlereagh Road and Springwood Road.

Non-urgent cases could be transported to receiving hospitals via the routes stated above. Patients requiring urgent transport could be transported by Ambulance Service Helicopters.

(9) to (11) Sydney West Area Health Service is currently undertaking a strategic review of health services across the Area. Consultation has commenced with local community groups regarding the Integrated Clinical Services Plan for Penrith/Blue Mountains. Further community consultations are scheduled to commence shortly with staff consultation to follow.

*1676 HOSPITALS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How much is the 2006-07 and 2007-08 budget for the hospital's emergency department?
- (2) What is the number of FTE doctors employed in each of the following hospital's emergency department?
- (3) What is the number of FTE nurses employed in each of the following hospital's emergency department?
 1. Prince of Wales Hospital;
 2. St George Hospital;
 3. Sydney Children's Hospital;
 4. Sydney Hospital;
 5. Sydney Eye Hospital;
 6. St Vincent's Hospital;
 7. Sutherland Hospital;
 8. Milton Ulladulla Hospital;
 9. Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital;
 10. Bulli Hospital;
 11. Shellharbour Hospital;
 12. Wollongong Hospital;
 13. Bankstown Hospital;
 14. Bowral Hospital;
 15. Camden Hospital;
 16. Campbelltown Hospital;
 17. Canterbury Hospital;
 18. Concord Hospital;
 19. Fairfield Hospital;
 20. Liverpool Hospital;
 21. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital;
 22. Auburn Hospital;
 23. Blacktown Hospital;
 24. Blue Mountains Hospital;

25. Hawkesbury Hospital;
26. Lithgow Hospital;
27. Mt Druitt Hospital;
28. Nepean Hospital;
29. Westmead Hospital;
30. Royal North Shore Hospital;
31. Hornsby Hospital;
32. Gosford Hospital;
33. Wyong Hospital;
34. Armidale Hospital;
35. Belmont Hospital;
36. Cessnock Hospital;
37. Glen Innes Hospital;
38. Kurri Kurri Hospital;
39. Inverell Hospital;
40. John Hunter Hospital;
41. Maitland Hospital;
42. Manning Hospital;
43. Narrabri Hospital;
44. Newcastle Mater Hospital;
45. Singleton Hospital;
46. Tamworth Hospital;
47. Albury Base Hospital;
48. Griffith Base Hospital;
49. Wagga Base Hospital;
50. Coffs Harbour Hospital;
51. Grafton Base Hospital;
52. Kempsey Hospital;
53. Lismore Hospital;
54. Murwillumbah Hospital;
55. Port Macquarie Base Hospital;
56. Tweed Heads Hospital;
57. Bathurst Hospital;
58. Broken Hill Hospital;
59. Dubbo Hospital;
60. Orange Hospital.

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The wording of the Member's question is ambiguous and any interpretation of the question would be subjective.
- (2) and (3) The Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Report. To provide a breakdown of this data for each of the Emergency Departments listed would be resource intensive and the diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified.

*1677 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY UNIT—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What are the details of the Royal North Shore Hospital 12 midnight (bed) census and the count of the number of patients in those beds on the 30th of each month for 2007 in the emergency medical unit?
- (2) How many beds were available for:
 - (a) medical, surgical;
 - (b) acute spinal;
 - (c) acute geriatric;
 - (d) intensive care;
 - (e) paediatric;
 - (f) maternity;
 - (g) NICU that is, neonatal intensive care unit and special care beds;
 - (h) bassinets, and they range from level one cots to level three;
 - (i) burns and plastics;

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- (j) renal dialysis treatment chairs,
- (k) drug and alcohol and
- (l) mental health psychiatric acute care?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely collect and report on bed numbers in the level of detail sought. To provide a response to this question would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

Area Health Services do however publish bed data in their publicly available Annual Reports.

*1678 LISTENING DEVICES ACT—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) In the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, how many instances were there of the use by police of listening devices under section 5 of the Listening Devices Act for cases of emergency?
- (2) In each of the above years in relation to use of section 5 of the Listening Devices Act, on how many occasions was entry made to premises, vehicles or vessels to:
 - (a) install listening devices;
 - (b) retrieve listening devices?
- (3) In each of the above years, in how many cases did prosecution action take place using evidence gathered by use of listening devices in cases of emergency, pursuant to section 5 of the Listening Devices Act?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) and (2) The Listening Devices Act requires the Attorney General to annually table a report to Parliament on the use of listening devices. I refer the Honourable Member to that report.
- (3) The data requested is not readily available from police information systems and its extraction would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources from frontline policing.

*1679 TILLEGRA DAM—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

With respect to Tillegra Dam:

- (1) Why has Hunter Water not consulted the local community following the release of its "Why Tillegra Now" paper, which promotes "securing our water future"?
- (2) Is Hunter Water using its monopoly powers to railroad the process without consultation?
- (3) Why has Hunter Water committed the region to dam building while other Australian cities and their water authorities are diversifying their sources of water through recycling and rainwater harvesting?
- (4) Why is Hunter Water planning a dam, which is three times more than is needed by 2031 and which will discourage recycling?
- (5) What is the cost to the community of not investigating the more sustainable, flexible, and less damaging alternatives?
- (6) Why does Hunter Water not have a water plan, unlike Sydney, Gosford and Wyong Councils, and yet be pursuing the construction of Tillegra Dam without consultation and community debate?

Answer—

Hunter Water has advised:

- (1) The 'Why Tillegra Now?' paper was released by Hunter Water at an open meeting of the Tillegra Dam Community Reference Group held on 1 August 2007. The Reference Group is one of the main vehicles for communication and consultation with the local community on this project, and attendees are able to discuss concerns at this meeting. Information on the availability of this paper was published in the Dungog Chronicle and in an e-newsletter distributed by Hunter Water, and is available in hard copy and on Hunter Water's website.

No. A significant focus on consultation has been demonstrated through:

- (2) monthly meetings of the Community Reference Group;
 - publication of Reference Group meeting notes;
 - establishment of a sub-committee to investigate potential economic and tourism

- opportunities that the dam may provide for the region;
 - public information sessions on the proposal and on dam safety;
 - extensive consultation on road relocation options; and
 - provision of information through a variety of channels.
- (3) The key vulnerability of the Lower Hunter region from a water resource management perspective is its capacity to withstand an extended drought, where storages can fall from 100% to 40% in only 18 months. Tillegra Dam will provide drought security for the region as population growth occurs. Hunter Water's supply/demand equation also incorporates recycling schemes and water efficiency initiatives (including rainwater tanks).
- (4) Tillegra Dam is required to provide drought security for people and businesses in the Lower Hunter region. Consumers in the Lower Hunter have a strong record of water conservation, having embraced the user pays pricing system and other water efficiency initiatives for many years. This focus on water efficiency will not diminish into the future, with work on 'third pipe' recycling systems in residential subdivisions, a major recycled water plant to supply industries in the Kooragang Island area and support for other demand management initiatives continuing.
- (5) This question has previously been responded to on Question on Notice LA0854.
- (6) Hunter Water does have a water plan, the Integrated Water Resources Plan. This plan is currently being reviewed. In the meantime, Hunter Water continues to consult and communicate with the local community on the Tillegra Dam project in the lead-up to the proposal being submitted to the Department of Planning for consideration under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

*1680 BROKEN BAY WATER POLICE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What arrangements exist for Broken Bay Water Police to transport ambulance officers to offshore areas such as Currawong in an emergency?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

For the past twenty years, Broken Bay Water Police have provided a service to ambulance officers whereby they are transported via police launch to offshore areas as required. This is coordinated either through police radio, by mobile phone directly to the boat crew, or through the police station. Ambulance crews are directed to attend the wharf closest to the required location.

*1681 "000" EMERGENCY SERVICE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

Regarding the operation of the "000" emergency service:

- (1) Do the operators rely on a street address to dispatch the required service to the correct location?
- (2) If so, what is the procedure when there is no street address, for example, at a location such as Currawong?

Answer—

The Triple 0 emergency call taking facility is operated by Telstra. When a Triple 0 call is received the Telstra operator directs the call to the relevant service (police, ambulance or fire).

The NSW Fire Brigades call centres are staffed by specialist firefighters who are trained to extract as much information as possible from callers and thus enable a location to be identified by the computerised maps within the Computer-Aided Dispatch system.

This is complemented by a system that identifies the address of the telephone if the call is being made from a fixed line.

A street address and nearest cross street is the most desirable information, however, operators are trained to use a variety of methods to establish the location of the incident. This is particularly important in the case of calls from mobile phones where the caller may be unfamiliar with the location from where they are calling.

*1682 EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

What are the arrangements for the provision of an emergency ambulance service for Currawong?

Answer—

I am advised that:

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In the event of a request for ambulance assistance in the Pittwater region, including Currawong Beach, a standard procedure exists which the Ambulance Service of NSW has developed in consultation with NSW Police. These procedures provide the guidelines to be followed to facilitate a timely Ambulance response and retrieval of patients from the area.

Ambulance crews from Avalon or Narrabeen Ambulance Stations are generally dispatched to incidents in the area. Subsequent to liaison with the Water Police, the Ambulance Service will meet the Water Police at the most appropriate rendezvous point and both will then proceed to the patient's location. As with any other location, if necessary, the attending Ambulance Officers have the option of requesting additional resources, such as an Ambulance Helicopter.

*1683 CROSS-BORDER COURT PROCEEDINGS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Why has a 17-year-old youth, who is known to NSW Police and was due to face court in Queensland on a charge of theft, been able to avoid appearing in court because he has relocated to NSW?
- (2) If a crime is committed in another State, do NSW Police have the power to ensure the perpetrator faces court in the State in which the crime was committed?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) There is insufficient information provided by which to identify the specific incident that is alleged to have occurred.
- (2) Yes. However, before a person arrested for an interstate offence can be extradited to the State or Territory in which the crime was committed, that jurisdiction must obtain a warrant for the person's arrest.
- (3) N/A.

*1684 POLICE DECORATIONS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Are police officers or former police officers entitled to a decoration after 10 years service as a police officer?
- (2) If so, what is the type of decoration available?
- (3) If so, to whom does a former police officer apply for such decoration?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The NSW Police Medal.
- (3) Inquiries may be addressed to the Protocol and Awards Unit on telephone number (02) 9285 3986.

*1685 TAREE HIGH SCHOOL—LIFT—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 a lift been, or is one going to be, installed at Taree High School?
- (2) If so, will the lift service each floor of the high school?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If not, how will disabled students, staff or citizens be able to access those areas that the lift will not service?
- (5) If not, will the Minister or his department consider extending the lift to service each floor of the school?
- (6) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) A two-storey lift is currently under construction and due to be completed by Day 1, Term 1, 2008. This will enable access to the Block C first floor library and the ground floor East Wing of Block A. Accessible routes are already available for the second floor of Block A. Currently an integration project for Block A on the ground floor West Wing and a science laboratory in Block CR004 is under construction, also due for completion Day 1, Term 1, 2008.

A separate project to provide access to the wood workshop facilities in Block E is being considered in future Minor Capital Works Programs.

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*1686 JURY DUTY—ALLOWANCES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What is the daily allowance paid to persons required to serve on a jury?
- (2) What is the maximum travel allowance paid to a person performing jury duty?
- (3) How often are the above allowances/fees increased?
- (4) What benchmark is used to set these fees?
- (5) Are travel allowances increased after increases in:
 - (a) public transport fares;
 - (b) petrol prices?
- (6) Are persons performing jury duty entitled to a meal allowance when required to work/sit past lunch breaks and/or evening meals?
- (7) What are these meal allowances?
- (8) Do these allowances recognise current meal prices in the Sydney CBD?

Answer—

Juror entitlements are set out in the Jury Regulation 2004.

*1687 CRIME STATISTICS DISCREPANCIES—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to escalating crime levels:

- (1) What action will the Government be taking to investigate the major discrepancies between Crime Victim surveys and Police Crime Statistics identified by the NSW Crime and Safety Survey?
- (2) Have there been any changes to NSW Police or Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research reporting practices in the last sixty months that could explain these discrepancies?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The two reports do different things. Crime Victim surveys are based on a sample of 4,700 households and canvass participants' experiences, including whether or not an incident was reported to police. The numbers obtained by the survey are derived from this sample size and extrapolated to the NSW population as a whole. Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) reports are based on incidents reported to police.
- (2) There have been no changes to either NSW Police Force or BOCSAR reporting practices over the past five years.

*1688 POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE—RAYMOND TERRACE—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Regarding the Police Assistance Line at Raymond Terrace Police Station:

- (1) What procedures and policies are in place at the Raymond Terrace Police Station with regard to the operation of the Police Assistance Line?
- (2) Do many residents complain that their inquiries are met with a lack of commitment to send police, even in the case of serious theft?
- (3) Is it NSW Police policy to inform a complainant that due to a lack of police resources, no support will be forthcoming?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

The introduction of the Police Assistance Line (PAL) released frontline police from report taking and data entry functions, enabling increased targeting of hotspots through local operations and providing more opportunity for general proactive patrolling. Residents of Raymond Terrace and elsewhere are referred to PAL where appropriate and only with their concurrence. Where customers request the attendance of police, this will occur and will be prioritised according to the urgency and nature of the matter, in line with normal policing practices.

*1689 TOURLE STREET BRIDGE—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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Regarding the Tourle Street Bridge at Mayfield, Newcastle:

- (1) What is the total projected cost for the Tourle Street Bridge according to latest estimates?
- (2) Of the \$3.4 million dollars expended in the last 12 months on the Tourle Street Bridge's construction, how much was for planning and production of construction plans?
- (3) Has the Government considered alternative options for the new bridge, including the possibility of a four-lane construction that would potentially increase functionality beyond the estimated ten years?
- (4) As \$5 million was earmarked to begin construction of the Tourle Street Bridge in the 2006 Budget, yet in the 2007 Budget Papers, only \$3.4 million had been estimated to have been spent on this project, can the Minister advise if the Government over estimated the 12 month planning and construction phase at \$5 million or was the \$1.6 million budget saving included in the 2007 estimate of \$16 million?

Answer—

I am advised:

\$16 million has been allocated in 2007/2008 to commence construction of the Tourle Street Bridge.

A contract was awarded to Daracon Contractors Pty Limited in August with work commencing onsite in October 2007.

The Tourle Street Bridge was built in 1965 and is being replaced because the concrete deck and supporting steel stringers are showing evidence of fatigue and it is no longer effective to carry out ongoing repairs.

The total estimated cost of constructing the new bridge is \$47 million.

The two lane bridge has sufficient capacity for 10 to 15 years based on current growth rates.

Following construction of the new bridge, the old bridge will be demolished. The site of the old bridge can be used in the future to construct a second bridge when a four lane carriageway is required.

Information on the project and its progress can be found on the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- *1690 COMMENTS BY MR RIC BRAZZALE—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 comments made by Mr Ric Brazzale, the Executive Director of the Australian Business Council for Sustainable Energy:

- (1) Has the Government responded to Mr Ric Brazzale's published comments concerning the NSW Government: "The black spot on the radar however is the lack of support for renewable energy." ("NSW policy under the microscope", EcoGeneration May/June 2006, p. 6)?
- (2) If so, what was the Government's response?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) No.

- *1691 GGAS SCHEME—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 is the Treasurer's response to NEMMCO's contrary assessment of the financial impact of the GGAS scheme:

"Modelling of the impact of the measure was undertaken by the NSW Treasury Department. The most likely impact on electricity costs (assumed to be passed on in prices) was estimated to average \$1-2/MWh (similar to the MRET impact by 2010) by 2006-07. We estimate the impact will be higher, at up to \$4MWh in 2012, because the initial estimates were based on a significant contribution from relatively low cost demand side activities (DSA) opportunities that have proved difficult to tap" (NEMMCO Impact of greenhouse policies on the electricity sector supplies and demands, June 2007, p. 37)?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The comparison drawn between the Treasury estimate of 2001 and the NEMMCO estimate of 2007 is misleading.

The Treasury analysis was estimating the cost impact in 2006-07, the NEMMCO analysis is estimating

the cost impact in 2012.

*1692 SHOALHAVEN HOSPITAL—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why were no allocations for additional emergency beds made to Shoalhaven Hospital in the Minister's most recent announcement?
- (2) What plans are in place to increase dedicated mental health beds at Shoalhaven Hospital?

Answer—

- (1) In November 2007, I announced the allocation of additional 150 acute care beds for NSW public hospitals. The allocation was based on those hospitals where the emergency departments had experienced the greatest growth in demand.
- (2) I am advised that the establishment of designated mental health beds at Shoalhaven Hospital is identified as a priority in the Area Health Service's "Area Clinical Services Strategic Plan".

*1693 PRINCES HIGHWAY FUNDING—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What representations have been made to the Federal Labor Government regarding the need for federal funding for the Princes Highway?
- (2) What representations have been made to the Federal Labor Government regarding the eligibility of the Princes Highway for AusLink funding?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has made it clear where our priorities lie under AusLink 2.

The Premier wrote to the former Prime Minister earlier this year outlining key roads, freight and urban transport projects. In addition, I met with the former Deputy Prime Minister to discuss NSW's priorities for AusLink 2.

The Iemma Government is working cooperatively with the new Federal Government to improve roads throughout NSW.

*1694 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many "child at risk of harm" reports were made regarding children in the electorate of South Coast in each of the last 3 years?
- (2) How many were level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4?
- (3) How many children subject of the level 1 reports received a visit from a Department of Community Services officer (i.e. caseworker) within the prescribed time?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by electorate.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at

www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1695 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for:

- (a) Brisbane Water Local Area command (LAC);
- (b) Tuggarah Lakes LAC?

Answer—

The release of such information would be contrary to both Government and NSW Police Force policy.

*1696 PUBLIC HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many public housing properties are located in the Terrigal electorate?
- (2) How many people are housed in public housing properties in the Terrigal electorate?
- (3) How many public housing properties in Terrigal electorate are:
 - (a) 1-bedroom units;
 - (b) 2-bedroom units;

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(c) 3 or more bedroom units?

Answer—

- (1) and (3) 378 (as at June 2007) comprising a range of 1, 2 and 3-bedroom properties.
- (2) 758 (as at June 2007).

*1697 HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER NUMBERS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many highway patrol officers are allocated to
 - (a) Brisbane Water Command
 - (b) Tuggerah Lakes Command

as at 31 October 2007?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

As at 31 October 2007, Brisbane Water Local Area Command had 24 authorised Highway Patrol positions and Tuggerah Lakes Local Area Command had 25 authorised Highway Patrol positions.

*1698 WATER ACCESS LICENCES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What is the average time taken by the Department of Water and Energy to process the issuing of Water Access Licences?

Answer—

I am advised:

Since the start of the current water year on 1 July 2007, the Department of Water and Energy has received 100 applications for Water Access Licences. Of those, 50 have been processed with an average processing time of 47 days from receipt of the application to the issue of a Notice of Determination to the applicant. In addition, a further 69 applications received prior to 1 July 2007 have also been processed.

*1699 YASS COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) On what date was the last free screening of four-year-old children attending early learning centres or preschools by the Yass Community Health Service conducted?
- (2) Why has the Greater Southern Area Health Service decided to cease visiting early learning centres or preschools in the Yass District to conduct health-screening checks on four-year-old children?
- (3) What alternative arrangements has the Greater Southern Area Health Service put in place to ensure that developing health problems in young children living in the Yass district are properly identified?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I am advised that the Greater Southern Area Health Service has not ceased visiting early learning centres or preschools in the Yass District to distribute consent forms and questionnaires to parents and teachers who may wish to have a four-year-old child's health screened. The health screenings are subsequently attended at the Yass Community Health Centre.

All screening of four-year-old children is free. At the time of responding to this question in mid-December 2007, the most recent screening was held on 13 December 2007.

*1700 PAYROLL MANAGEMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Given your Department's commitment to the Auditor-General to develop an action plan to address the issue of leave taken but not recorded, how many Department of Community Services employees have unrecorded leave for fiscal year 2006-07?
- (2) What did the audit, that your Department informed the Auditor-General was conducted on this issue, identify as the key causes of leave being taken but not recorded?
- (3) In fiscal year 06/07 how many work hours of overpayment caused by this issue were there and what was their dollar amount?
- (4) How much has your Department recouped as at November 2007 given its undertaking to the Auditor-General to establish a project to recoup such overpayments?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The department has changed reconciliation processes and improved systems and reporting and monitoring processes.

*1701 MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

In the Hornsby and Kuring-gai local government areas there are a number of Mental Health facilities:

- (1) What are they?
- (2) Where are they located?
- (3) What is their function?
- (4) How many clients/patients are either in-patients or treated at these facilities?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) to (3) Area Health Services do not allocate resources on the basis of local government areas however, the Hornsby and Kuring-gai communities are principally served by the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service. Information regarding the facilities and services provided at various locations across the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service is available via the Area's Internet site at www.nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au/services/ More specifically, comprehensive information regarding the provision of mental health services across the Area Health Service can be found at www.nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au/services/amh/

(4) The Member has not specified a time period. To answer this question at a broad level would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions. However, I can advise that all Area Health Services report activity data in their Annual Reports. I refer the Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Annual Reports.

*1702 FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) When is NSW going to establish appropriate diagnostic and support services for people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)?
- (2) Why are there no Government services in NSW when, considering data from USA and Canada, there could be more than 200,000 people in Australia with FASD?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Every Area Health Service has services to care for pregnant women with drug and alcohol issues, their babies and families. In many Area Health Services specialist teams or centres have been established to provide support to pregnant women and their families throughout the pregnancy, during the birth and in the weeks and months following delivery.

National Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Drug Use During Pregnancy, Birth and the Early Development Years of the Newborn, which include recommendations for the prevention, treatment and care of women and babies with a range of problems including alcohol use and FASD, have been distributed to NSW hospitals, maternity services, early childhood services and drug and alcohol services.

As part of the NSW Health response to the NSW Ombudsman Report of Reviewable Deaths in 2005 Volume 2: Child Deaths, an audit is underway of drugs-in-pregnancy services, including alcohol, that will consider access to services, model of service, and service standards in NSW. The findings of the audit will form the basis for the development of minimum standards for drugs in pregnancy service provision.

At the national level, NSW is represented on the expert Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Working Party that is expected to report to Health Ministers in 2008 on developments in Australia and internationally to address the problem and to identify best practice approaches to reduce the incidence of FASD.

*1704 FLASHING LIGHTS FOR SCHOOL CROSSINGS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Which school crossings in the Cronulla electorate will be enhanced by the provision of flashing lights over the next three years?

Answer—

I am advised:

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On 26 September 2007, the Premier announced a \$46.5 million four-year program to further enhance the safety of students in school zones.

Flashing light technology and electronic alert systems will be installed in a further 400 school zones, comprising the rollout of 100 systems a year over the next four years.

School zones are being selected for the new technology rollout based on risk criteria including traffic and pedestrian volumes, surrounding speed limits and crash history.

*1705 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What is the staffing of Department of Community Services in the Sutherland Shire?
- (2) What is the budget allocation for the Department of Community Services in the Sutherland Shire?
- (3) How many mandatory notifications were received by the Department of Community Services in the Sutherland Shire?
- (4) How many children are in Department of Community Services care in Sutherland Shire?

Answer—

This information is not collected by local government area.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment and children in Out-of-Home care can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1706 AMBULANCE DISPATCHES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

How many times were ambulances dispatched to attend emergencies in the areas defined by postcodes 2229 and 2230 in 2006-07?

Answer—

I am advised that Ambulance Service records indicate that the total number of ambulance emergency responses to areas defined by postcode 2229 and 2230 during 2006-07 was 5,594.

The Ambulance Service defines 'emergency' as cases requiring immediate response under lights and sirens where the incident has been determined to be potentially life threatening or cases requiring an urgent response without lights and sirens.

*1707 OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENTS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many agreements out of court have been made to avoid legal action at Dubbo Hospital?
- (2) How many agreements out of court have been made to avoid legal action with the Western Area Health Service (WAHS)?
- (3) How many settlements have occurred with non-disclosure clauses in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and to June 2007?
- (4) How much has been paid by WAHS in settlements as a result of legal proceedings?
- (5) How much has been paid by WAHS on behalf of Dubbo Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) Out of court settlements are not made to avoid legal action. Generally, they are made to resolve legal proceedings.

No claimant is forced to sign a confidentiality clause. Most have the benefit of independent legal advice before negotiating a settlement of their claim. Claims have been settled without any party signing a confidentiality clause, however, generally litigated negligence claims against NSW public health organisations are settled by all parties to the dispute signing Terms of Settlement. The standard terms usually contain a clause, which states that the Terms of Settlement are to remain confidential. If the parties agree to these terms, they are binding on all parties to the Terms of Settlement (not just the patient). The clause aims to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the patient and their family, as much as that of the doctors and nurses and the public health organisation. The use of confidentiality clauses is standard practice for the settlement of most litigation in NSW.

The legal entity for Dubbo Base Hospital is Greater Western Area Health Service. Claims are litigated against the Area Health Service not the hospital.

To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

*1708 KAPOOKA BRIDGE STATISTICS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many accidents have occurred on the Olympic Way at, Kapooka Bridge south of Wagga Wagga in:
 - (a) 2000;
 - (b) 2001;
 - (c) 2002;
 - (d) 2003;
 - (e) 2004;
 - (f) 2005;
 - (g) 2006;
 - (h) and up to 28 November 2007?
- (2) How many of these accidents involved semi-trailers?
- (3) How many of these accidents involved motor vehicles, motorcycles and pedestrians?
- (4) How long has it been since the \$600,000 plans were completed for Kapooka Bridge?
- (5) Is there a priority list for rail bridges such as the Kapooka Bridge?
- (6) Where on the priority list is the Kapooka Bridge?
- (7) How much is the estimated cost to build the Kapooka Bridge?
- (8) Have the ARTC indicated the urgent need for the bridge replacement to allow Double Decker Containers to be shipped from Sydney to Melbourne?
- (9) Once the construction begins, what is the estimated time for the construction?
- (10) How many new rail over passes, like Kapooka Bridge, have been built in the last 10 years?
- (11) Where have they been built?
- (12) What was the cost for each project to be completed?
- (13) Given \$600,000 has already been spent for the planning of Kapooka Bridge, what is the start date for construction?

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

Concept designs for alignments to replace Kapooka Bridge have been prepared by the RTA. These are at a preliminary stage.

A new rail overpass was built south of Gerogery on the Olympic Highway at a cost of \$23 million. Four new rail overpasses were built as part of the Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway project in Albury at North Street, Fallon Street, Corrys (Dallinger) Road and Thurgoona Drive.

Maintenance of rail bridges is a matter for the Minister for Transport.

*1709 HAY CENTRAL SCHOOL DEMOUNTABLES—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—

As a result of a fire in Hay Central School demountables were shifted from Goulburn:

- (1) What was the cost for this to be done?
- (2) Were the demountables received fully re-furbished?
- (3) Why was Young School the recipient of 35-year-old un-refurbished demountables from The Rock Central, Deniliquin and Willans Hill schools when demountables were available from Goulburn as demonstrated in the Hay instance?

Answer—

Demountable buildings are an integral part of the Department of Education and Training's accommodation strategy. Demountable buildings are used to help manage the changing patterns of enrolment, meet accommodation needs arising from capital works and maintenance projects and for emergency accommodation. The movement of demountables is undertaken on the basis of need and is done in a fair and considerate way.

The cost of transporting the demountables to Hay War Memorial High School was \$112,310.75. The demountable buildings were not received fully re-furbished. Young Public School was the recipient of demountables from The Rock Central, Deniliquin and Willans Hill School as it required primary 4-

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module classrooms and there were none available at either Goulburn or Cessnock that were in a suitable condition for use in a primary school at that time.

*1710 THE ROCK CENTRAL 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 can The Rock Central School expect to see the implementation of the recent \$250,000 announcement of the following
 - (a) Moving various walls
 - (b) Demolishing a staff kitchen and building a new one
 - (c) Building/creating a new double garage to use as a store room
 - (d) Moving teacher libraries into the staffroom
 - (e) Changing a staffroom into a classroom
 - (f) Building/creating a new sick bay?
- (2) Have plans for the works been approved for
 - (a) Moving various walls
 - (b) Demolishing a staff kitchen and building a new one
 - (c) Building/creating a new double garage to use as a store room
 - (d) Moving teacher libraries into the staffroom
 - (e) Changing a staffroom into a classroom
 - (f) Building/creating a new sick bay, as the one that is in place is a stretcher in a store room?
- (3) Who is in charge of the delivery of all the projects?
- (4) How much will each of the projects cost
 - (a) Moving various walls
 - (b) Demolishing a staff kitchen and building a new one
 - (c) Building/creating a new double garage to use as a store room
 - (d) Moving teacher libraries into the staffroom
 - (e) Changing a staffroom into a classroom
 - (f) Building/creating a new sick bay, as the one that is in place is a stretcher in a store room?

Answer—

The listed works form part of a recently approved project to upgrade classrooms and learning spaces, to be managed by the Department of Commerce.

A tender for the project was recently awarded and work is scheduled to proceed during the Christmas holiday period, with works anticipated to be completed by Day 1, Term 1, 2008.

As the Department of Education and Training awarded a tender to the contractor for the entire project, it does not have a cost breakdown for each individual item in the scope of works.

*1711 HYBRID CARS—NSW—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many hybrid (petrol and electric) powered motor cars were registered in NSW in the years 2001 to 2006, inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1712 DIESEL POWERED MOTOR CARS—BAULKHAM HILLS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many diesel powered motor cars were registered in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area for each of years 2001 to 2006 including?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1713 HYBRID MOTOR CARS—BAULKHAM HILLS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many hybrid motor cars (petrol and electric) were registered in Baulkham Hills Local Government Area in each of the years 2001 to 2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1714 SIGHTLINES FROM OBSERVATORY HILL—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

With regard to concerns that the development of the Barrangaroo site will obstruct the views that are enjoyed between Observatory Hill and the harbour:

- (1) Is the Government committed to maintaining sightlines between Observatory Hill and the harbour along the northern half of the Barrangaroo site?
- (2) If the Government is committed to maintaining sightlines, what measures (such as height restrictions) will it put in place to ensure that sightlines are maintained?
- (3) If the Government is committed to maintaining sightlines, to what extent will the sightlines match:
 - (a) current sightlines; or
 - (b) the sightlines that will be achieved after the demolition of the sheds on Darling Harbour wharves?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The approved concept plan for the site has ensured that key vistas to and from Observatory Hill are retained through maintaining lower height development along the northern end of the mixed use zone and a public park extending from the northern most extent of the mixed use zone to the Millers Point headland.
- (3) The Government has committed to retaining views to Observatory Hill Park from public spaces on opposite foreshores and retain a panorama from Pymont Park around to the Harbour Bridge as seen from Observatory Hill Park.

The newly created 11 hectare park on the site will also create new vistas from the site and valuable public foreshore access.

*1715 BICYCLE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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 into 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:

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- (1) to (6) CityRail caters for a wide range of special needs groups, including the elderly, vision impaired, wheelchair users and cyclists. To encourage the use of bicycles a number of stations on the CityRail network provide bike racks or lockers for the convenience of passengers.

The end saloons of all new CityRail trains are fitted with a number of 'flip up' seats to create a multipurpose area for special user groups.

*1716 FREE RANGE PIGS—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 reports that there is no specific standard definition for "free range pork":

- (1) Does the NSW Government support the establishment of a standard definition for "free range pork"?
- (2) What consideration has the NSW Government given to introducing a NSW standard definition for free range pork?
- (3) What investigations has the NSW Government taken into the pork industry's use of the term "free range" on labels to sell pork in NSW?
- (4) What are the results of investigations?
- (5) Is the NSW Government aware of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's statement that consumers are not aware of the difference between "free range" and "bred free range"?
- (6) Is the NSW Government aware of the Free Range Pork Farmers Association's concerns that a standard definition for "free range" should not include pigs that are raised indoors, including in sow stalls and farrowing crates?
- (7) What consideration has the NSW Government given to banning use of the term "bred free range", which includes pork from pigs raised indoors including in sow stalls and farrowing crates?

Answer—

- (1) NSW Government acknowledges industry's definition of free range pork.
- (2) Any nationally adopted industry standard definition for free range pork as a method of production will be accepted as the standard terminology in NSW.
- (3) If evidence was provided to the NSW Food Authority then appropriate action could be considered under the NSW Food Act 2003.
- (4) See (3) above.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) I am advised that NSW DPI has no knowledge of any NSW business that uses farrowing crates in its production system marketing "free range pork".

*1717 GREEN POWER FOR CITYRAIL—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What proportion of energy purchased by CityRail to operate its electric trains is accredited greenpower?
- (2) What plans does the NSW Government have to increase this proportion?
- (3) What assessment has the NSW Government made on the reduction to NSW's overall greenhouse gas emissions if Cityrail's electric train operations were converted to 100 per cent accredited greenpower?
- (4) Has the Government conducted any market research on the importance of a transport option that is almost totally free of greenhouse gas emissions for Sydney residents who rely on or could use CityRail services?
- (5) What assessment has the NSW Government made of how converting Cityrail's electric train operations to 100 per cent accredited greenpower would bolster NSW's renewable energy industry?
- (6) What consideration has the NSW Government given to CityRail purchasing 100 per cent accredited greenpower for electric train operations?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (6) Approximately 10% of RailCorp's non bulk electricity contract (ie electricity used to power stations and railway infrastructure) is derived from greenpower.

RailCorp is currently participating in the Australian Government's Greenhouse Challenge Plus and Energy Efficiency Opportunities Programs as a commitment to improving its energy and greenhouse performance.

Preliminary calculations, in accordance with Australian Greenhouse Office guidelines, have indicated substantial savings may be made in 'green electricity' conversions.

RailCorp continues to assess its operations for energy efficiency opportunities. This includes regular reviews of its energy supply arrangements, to determine where greenpower benefits can be realised.

*1718 CHILD ABUSE REPORTS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Community Services—

In relation to Department of Community Services (DoCS) child abuse reports in the Davidson electorate (or local council areas within Davidson):

- (1) How many reports of suspected child abuse or neglect were made to the DoCS Helpline in the years:
 - (a) 2002-03;
 - (b) 2003-04;
 - (c) 2004-05;
 - (d) 2005-06;
 - (e) 2006-07?
- (2) How many of those reports made in the year 2006-07 were for:
 - (a) drug or alcohol abuse;
 - (b) physical abuse;
 - (c) sexual abuse;
 - (d) psychological abuse;
 - (e) neglect?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by electorate.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at

www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1719 DEVELOPMENTS UNDER PART 3A—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What is the average time the Minister has taken for deciding on developments called in under Part 3A?
- (2) How many such matters called in under Part 3A are still awaiting determination?
- (3) How many of those matters have been awaiting determination by the Minister for more than:
 - (a) 40 days;
 - (b) two months;
 - (c) three months;
 - (d) six months;
 - (e) one year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 66 days. Average time is measured from the Proponents response to submissions through to determination (Statutory timeframe).
- (2) 3 applications where the Department has undertaken the assessment and referred it to the Minister for determination.
- (3) (a) to (e) Nil.

*1720 WORKCHOICES—COURT COSTS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) What was the total cost to the NSW Government of challenging the WorkChoices legislation in the High Court?
- (2) What was the total cost to the NSW Government of the case in the lower courts before it reached the High Court appeal stage?

Answer—

Proceedings to challenge the validity of the WorkChoices legislation were commenced by the States of New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia, and Unions NSW and the Australian Workers' Union. These proceedings involved the determination of constitutional matters and were commenced in the original jurisdiction of the High Court.

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There were no proceedings in lower courts.

The total costs to the NSW Government in relation to the WorkChoices challenge are not available as work undertaken by the New South Wales Solicitor General and Departmental staff across a range of New South Wales agencies are not apportioned to particular matters.

- *1721 CROWN LAND—TWEED ELECTORATE—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 council requests for Crown land in the Tweed electorate:

- (1) What are the lot numbers and the sizes of any Crown land to be released from NSW Government control in the Tweed electorate?
- (2) What are the proposed release dates for any lot numbers provided in response to (1)?

Answer—

In response to the questions I advise as follows:

- (1) Lot 7035 DP 1053313, 689.2 square metres.
- (2) A completion date for the sale is yet to be determined

- *1722 PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to public library funding in the Tweed electorate and given that it has been reported the NSW Government has decided to make significant cuts to the levels of funding received by NSW public libraries:

- (1) What are the figures for the budgets and actual expenditure of public libraries in the Tweed electorate during:
 - (a) 2005;
 - (b) 2006;
 - (c) 2007 year-to-date?
- (2) Has the budget for public libraries in the Tweed electorate been earmarked for funding reduction?
- (3) In dollar and percentage terms, what is the extent to which the budget of NSW public libraries in the Tweed electorate will be reduced?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The boundaries of the Tweed electorate cover, in part, the local government areas of Ballina, Byron Bay, Lismore and Tweed councils.

Details of total expenditure are available by financial year in the relevant Annual Reports of the Library Council of New South Wales.

Local Government budget information and expenditure for the 2007 year to date is a matter for the relevant council. State Government public library funding for 2007/08 to councils covered in part by the Tweed electorate is as follows:

Ballina	\$107,983
Byron Bay	\$87,046
Lismore	\$114,451
Tweed	\$222,223

- (2) No.

(3) See answer to question (2). Total State Government subsidy and disability/geographic adjustments to those councils which are covered in part by the Tweed electorate increased in 2007/08. The total budgets for public libraries in the Tweed electorate are subject to decisions of the relevant councils.

- *1723 SPEED CAMERA—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to speed cameras on the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) What is the breakdown of the number of automobiles caught speeding by the speed camera located at Sexton Hill by:
 - (a) light vehicles (i.e. cars, minivans etc.);

- (b) heavy vehicles (i.e. trucks, heavy transports etc.);
- (c) motorcycles?
- (2) What is the breakdown of revenues generated for NSW through speeding tickets issued to automobiles caught speeding by the speed camera located at Sexton Hill, by:
 - (a) light vehicles (i.e. cars, minivans etc.);
 - (b) heavy vehicles (i.e. trucks, heavy transports etc.);
 - (c) motorcycles?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Treasurer.

*1724 BIDJIGAL RESERVE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) Will the Minister agree to provide funding for the new Bidjigal Reserve in Baulkham Hill Shire, created under Government legislation by the merger of Excelsior Reserve and part of Darling Mills State Forest?
- (2) If not, how does the Minister propose the environment and cultural values of the reserve should be protected, and the appropriate fire mitigation measures be carried out?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) NA

*1725 POLICE TO POPULATION RATIO—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What is the ratio of police officers to population in the following Local Area Commands:

- (a) Blacktown;
- (b) Eastwood;
- (c) The Hills;
- (d) Hornsby; and
- (e) Penrith?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Operational policing resources are allocated to Local Area Commands in accordance with a range of criteria. While geographical size and population are taken into account, these factors in isolation do not indicate the level or nature of policing requirements in a given area.

*1726 GARDEN ISLAND CRANE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Does the NSW Heritage office have a plan for ensuring that the hammerhead crane at Garden Island, Sydney, is conserved into the future?
- (2) If so, will the plan be funded by the NSW Government or is the Government relying on Commonwealth funding to carry it out?
- (3) How much does the Minister estimate it will cost per year to maintain the crane in such a way that it remains safe into the future?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Hammerhead Crane is located on Commonwealth-owned land.
The Commonwealth Government, therefore, has responsibility for the day-to-day management and conservation of the crane.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.

*1727 DIESEL MOTOR VEHICLES—RYDE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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How many diesel motor vehicles were registered in the Ryde Local Government Area for each of the years 2003-2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- *1728 DIESEL MOTOR VEHICLES—LANE COVE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many diesel motor vehicles were registered in the Lane Cove Local Government Area for each of the years 2003 to 2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- *1729 DIESEL MOTOR VEHICLES—HUNTER HILL—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many diesel motor vehicles were registered in the Hunters Hill Local Government Area for each of the years 2003 to 2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- *1730 LISTENING DEVICES ACT—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, how many reports were submitted to the Attorney General by police in respect of the use of listening devices in emergency circumstances under section 5 of the Listening Devices Act?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the annual reports.

- *1731 MONA VALE POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What is the cost of the planned building and refurbishment works at Mona Vale Police Station?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

The total cost estimate for planned building and refurbishment works for Mona Vale police station is \$946,000.

- *1732 BROKEN BAY WATER POLICE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What are the days and hours of operation of the Broken Bay Water Police?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Broken Bay Water Police is staffed 365 days per year. Daily shifts are generally 12 hours from 7am to 7pm, although these times can vary and 24 hour coverage can be provided when requirements dictate. Rostering is intelligence driven and takes into account high marine activity periods such as holidays, summer, weekends and special events.

- *1733 AMBULANCE STATION SITE—AVALON—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

Is the ambulance station site at Avalon still being used by the New South Wales Ambulance Service, and if so, how often is it used and for what purpose?

Answer—

I am advised:

Avalon Ambulance Station is a 24 hour ambulance station that has rostered staff at all times.

*1734 DRIVER ABILITY ROAD TEST LICENCE—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Has the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) discontinued the provision of copies of the Driver Ability Road Test Licence Testing Manual to licensed driving instructors or registered training organisations?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) If not, will the manual be available for driving instructors or registered training organisation?
- (4) If so, what is the procedure for obtaining a current copy of the manual?
- (5) Will the manual be upgraded periodically to include any new and changed road rules?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) If so, will driving instructors or registered training organizations receive periodic upgrades?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) If so, in what form will those upgrades be?
- (10) If so, will there be a cost for such upgrades?
- (11) If so, what will be the costs?

Answer—

I am advised:

The current Testing Officer's Manual is intended for Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) testing officers' use. The manual is part of a package to support specially trained testing officers in conducting driving tests and is not designed to be used as a stand-alone document.

Information to assist driving instructors to prepare students for the test is readily available.

Information on the road rules as well as road safety, low risk driving and penalties for traffic offences is contained in the Road Users' Handbook. This handbook is updated when rules change and is available, free of charge, from the RTA website or it can be purchased at any motor registry.

To support learner drivers and supervising drivers/driving instructors in preparing for the driving test, a publication entitled A Guide to the Driving Test is available from all motor registries, at no cost.

Further educational material including a manual titled Beyond Test Routes is available to the driving instruction industry to assist them in teaching safe driving behaviours. This manual is available through RTA-delivered workshops which are conducted to support the driving instruction industry.

*1735 WATER MANAGEMENT ACT 2000—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Does the Minister or the Government have any intention of changing the Water Management Act 2000?
- (2) If so, in what manner?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the NSW Department of Primary Industries have a publication called "Put yourself in the picture caring for your small rural property"?
- (4) If so, is the Minister aware that on page 19 of that publication it states that farmers can prepare for drought by "conserving enough water for the enterprises we run. For example, intensive production of pigs, flowers or vegetables will need a lot more water storage than a grazing enterprise"?
- (5) Will the Minister now acknowledge that the Water Management Act 2000 introduced by the then Carr Labor Government severely restricts the amount of rainfall that farmers are allowed to "harvest" into their dams?
- (6) If so, isn't the Water Management Act 2000 at odds with the publication mentioned in (2) above?
- (7) What provision is there for enterprises such as intensive production of pigs, flowers or vegetables to be able to store more water than a grazing enterprise?
- (8) Was agriculture and horticulture taken into account when the harvestable rights were determined?
- (9) If so, in what manner?
- (10) If so, how did it vary from domestic uses stock-water considerations?
- (11) If agriculture and horticulture were not taken into account when harvestable rights were determined, why weren't they taken into account?

Answer—

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I am advised:

(1) and (2) The Government will continue to review the operation and effectiveness of the Water Management Act 2000 to determine whether amendments to legislation are required.

(3) and (4) Yes.

(5) and (6) No.

(7) If landholders wish to capture and use more than their harvestable right they are required to obtain a water access licence.

(8) Yes.

(9) Establishing the current harvestable rights order strikes a balance between community needs, rural production, the environment and the reliability of supply to downstream users.

(10) and (11) The harvestable rights order does not discriminate between domestic and non-domestic uses of water.

*1736 INTERSTATE WATER EXCHANGE—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

With respect to water trades:

(1) When will State Water be able to approve the interstate water exchange between Colly and South Australia?

(2) Why, after over 90 days, is State Water yet to approve this transaction, when it took the South Australian Water Authority just 33 days?

(3) What is the standard approval time from State Water for an interstate water exchange?

(4) What mechanisms are in place that could delay this process to such an extent whereby the farmers' crops that need the water from the exchange may die waiting for State Water approval?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Delays in processing outstanding trades from Colleambally to South Australia relate to delays in interstate third party approvals. Once outstanding authorisations are received from these third parties, State Water will promptly finalise the transfers and notify the customer.

(2) It is not clear to which particular trade this question refers.

(3) and (4) More than 98% of transfers that are handled by State Water without the involvement of interstate water authorities are finalised in less than 14 days. So far this financial year, the median time for processing trades involving South Australia has been 24 days and 15 days for Victoria.

*1737 NSW CORONER AND DR BALAJI RAO—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

With respect to NSW Coroner and Dr Balaji Rao:

(1) When will NSW Police provide the NSW Coroner with its completed submission regarding the cases involving the actions of Dr Balaji Rao, given that the investigation has been finalised, so the NSW Coroner can decide whether it is necessary to hold a Coronial Inquest?

(2) Why is the NSW Police investigation yet to hand over information to the NSW Coroner, now that the investigation has been finalised?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

The brief of evidence in this matter will be supplied to the NSW Coroner upon its completion.

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*1738 FERRY 10 TICKETS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

(1) How many "Ferry 10" tickets are sold to commuters each year?

(2) Is there a time limit as to when these tickets have to be used by the purchaser?

(3) What are the benefits to ferry commuters of the Ferry 10 ticket?

(4) Is the Department considering similar tickets for bus and rail commuters?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Sydney Ferries Corporation reports on its passenger numbers and revenue as required in its annual report. FerryTen tickets have no expiry date and give commuters a discount on the standard single fare and are convenient to use. TravelTens are already available on Sydney Buses services and the Government has committed to making an equivalent product available on private bus services as part of its bus reform program. Passengers using the Tway services have access to similar products. Rail users have access to a weekly ticket, rather than a TravelTen.

*1739 RURAL SCHOOLS—ALBURY ELECTORATE—Mr Greg Aplin 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 is the minimum student enrolment to maintain the operation of rural public schools? Are any one-teacher schools in the Albury electorate being considered for closure?

Answer—

No minimum student enrolment requirement has been set to maintain the operation of rural public schools.

As one teacher schools are exempt from the provisions of Section 28 of the Education Act 1990, in situations whereby a very low number of enrolments puts a school's viability into question, consideration will be given to withdrawing the teaching principal, placing the school in recess and supporting the enrolment of the students in a nearby school.

No schools located in the Albury electorate are being considered for closure in 2008.

*1740 RESPITE CENTRE – ALBURY—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) What is the location of the house purchased as a centre-based respite facility for adults in Albury?
- (2) What was the cost of purchase and when did it take place?
- (3) When will the facility open?
- (4) How much is being spent on refurbishment of the House?
- (5) What modifications are being undertaken?

Answer—

- (1) The house in question that was purchased as a centre-based respite facility for adults in Albury is at 11 Layton Lane, East Albury.

- (2) The cost of the purchase was \$470,000 and the property settled on 2 July 2007.

- (3) Construction work to ensure the house is accessible for people with a disability is scheduled for completion on 30 June 2008. The handover to the service provider and occupation will occur as soon as possible after the completion date.

- (4) The cost to refurbish the house includes design, project management, construction and fit-out is approximately \$300,000.

- (5) The modification works include:

- One fully accessible bathroom;
- Refurbishment of other bathrooms, include mixing valves;
- New fire detection system;
- New carport and ramps to enable disability access; and
- Enhanced lighting for security.

*1741 YARRAWONGA-MULWALA BRIDGE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What planning is being undertaken to identify the preferred option for a new Yarrawonga-Mulwala bridge to replace the weir bridge which is scheduled for closure in 2020?

- (2) What is the funding time-line for construction of the new bridge?

Answer—

I am advised:

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VicRoads has managed a Yarrowonga-Mulwala Crossing Options Study to review previous studies undertaken in the area and identify options for an alternative crossing. The next stage of the process is to commission a Route Selection Study to identify a preferred option. A funding timeline will then be determined.

*1742 PUBLIC SECTOR REDEPLOYMENT PROGRAM—Mr Mike Baird asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) What is the average length of time spent on the public sector redeployment program?
- (2) How many people who were part of the redeployment program were then paid a redundancy in the 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years?
- (3) What was the amount paid to employees on the redeployment program in the 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years?

Answer—

On 12 December 2007, the average length of time for a displaced employee to be active on the Recruitment and Redeployment Unit's database was 38 weeks.

In the 2005-06 financial year, 83 displaced employees registered with the Recruitment and Redeployment Unit accepted a voluntary redundancy. In 2006-07, 91 displaced employees accepted a voluntary redundancy.

Due to the movement of displaced employees across the public sector, the number of employees registered with the Recruitment and Redeployment Unit fluctuates. Displaced employees move on and off the central register as they act in temporary placements, are redeployed permanently or accept voluntary redundancy. Further, individual salary payments to displaced employees are made by their employing agency. For these reasons, there is no meaningful way of quoting an amount paid to employees on the redeployment program.

*1743 SHARED CORPORATE SERVICES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What specific changes have been made, and what direct financial savings make up the \$269 million in shared corporate services savings?

Answer—

I am advised further information regarding shared corporate services savings can be found in the transcript of the 2007 Commerce Budget Estimates Hearing.

*1744 GOVERNOR MACQUARIE TOWER RENT REVIEW—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What legal costs have been incurred in the 2005 and 2007 Governor Macquarie Tower rent review?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The 2005 rent review has not been completed and therefore a final costs figure is not currently available.
- (2) The State Property Authority advises that there have been no legal costs incurred to date in respect to the 2007 rent review.

*1745 DENTAL THERAPISTS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Government considering introducing legislation to allow dental therapists to work in private practices?
- (2) If so, when is the Bill likely to be introduced in Parliament?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Health Legislation Amendment Act 2007 was passed by Parliament on 5 December 2007 and received the Governor's assent on 13 December 2007. Schedule 2.1[1] of the Act repeals section 33(2) of the Dental Practice Act 2001 which currently provides that dental therapists may practise only in the public sector.

The repeal of section 33(2) of the Dental Practice Act 2001 will take effect from 1 July 2008.

*1746 TREE PRUNING—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) What policy is followed by contractors employed to prune trees that are in close proximity to powerlines?
- (2) Will the Minister provide a copy of this policy?
- (3) What measures are in place to ensure a minimum environmental impact is caused by those who undertake this work?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) These matters fall under the administration of the Minister for Energy.

*1747 "DROP-OFF-AND-GO, PICK-UP-AND-GO" PROGRAM—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many schools have taken up the "Drop-off-and-go, Pick-up-and-go" program?

Answer—

I am advised:

The approval for the scheme rests with Local Council Traffic Committees. The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) provides resources to assist schools in implementing the scheme, but has no role, other than as a member of the Local Council Traffic Committee, in the approval or operation of the initiative.

*1748 SYDNEY AIRPORT—TAXATION ASSESSMENT—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—

- (1) What legal and accounting advice underpins the \$424 million taxation assessment for Sydney Airport?
- (2) Will the Treasurer provide a copy of the advice?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The secrecy provisions of the Taxation Administration Act 1996 prevent me from commenting on an individual taxpayer.

*1749 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE STAFF—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many staff in the Department of Commerce were employed through a recruitment agency in the last financial year?
- (2) What was the total amount in commission paid to recruitment agencies by the Department of Commerce in the 2006-07 and 2005-06 financial years?

Answer—

I am advised:

Decisions on engaging and managing recruitment service providers are the responsibility of department heads, having regard to Government policies on efficient corporate services and avoiding unnecessary spending on consultancies.

*1750 BUS ROUTES—LATE RUNNING—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Will the Minister provide details on how often the following bus routes ran behind schedule in the last financial year?

E65, E70, L88, E68, E71?

Answer—

I am advised:

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

*1751 BULL STREET APARTMENTS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

Regarding the future of Housing Department owned bed sit style apartments at Bull Street, Mayfield:

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- (1) How many residents currently reside at the Bull Street Apartments?
- (2) How many apartments have to date been boarded up as part of the Department's initiative to no longer relocate tenants to this site?
- (3) What is the current time frame for the closure of this site?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my response of 25 October 2007 in reply to his correspondence on this issue.

*1752 PUBLIC HOUSING—RAYMOND TERRACE—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (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 the Raymond Terrace Department of Housing Office as at 28 November 2007?
- (4) How many clients were accorded priority housing in the 12 months ending 28 November 2007?
- (5) What is the average waiting period for priority housing applicants in the Port Stephens region?

Answer—

- (1) The number of Housing NSW properties that are vacant in any area changes on a daily basis as properties are vacated by tenants, are cleaned and repaired ready for the next tenant, as is required under the Residential Tenancies Act and are then re-occupied. Generally, the vacancy rate of public housing is lower than that of the private rental sector at any given time.
- (2) Nil.
- (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 June 2007 was 44,864.
- (4) 19.
- (5) The time an applicant spends on the housing register varies and changes constantly. Many factors influence how long each applicant waits, including the type of accommodation sought (e.g. number of bedrooms, style of dwelling); the type of household (e.g. aged couple, single person) and special needs (e.g. ground floor requirements, modifications).

Housing NSW cannot accurately estimate how long a person will wait for housing as it depends on what area they have requested, what size accommodation they need and if any special requirements are needed.

*1753 CHATSWOOD PRIMARY 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—

When will the Minister provide much needed capital works funding to Chatswood Primary School, given the number of students at the school and the Government's plans for an additional 500 residential apartments above the railway line in Chatswood, in close proximity to the school?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training has noted the need to undertake an upgrade of facilities at Chatswood Public School. The Department is currently developing a brief on the scope of the project.

The project will be considered against competing regional and state-wide priorities when the annual capital works program is developed.

*1754 ARTARMON STATION—"EASY ACCESS"—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When will Artarmon Railway Station be given "Easy Access"?

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.

RailCorp is upgrading rail stations across the CityRail network to ensure easier access. 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.

A total of \$43 million in funding has been allocated to the design, planning and construction of accessibility upgrades at up to 20 stations across the CityRail network for the 2007/08 financial year.

In addition, the Government has announced a further nine stations will undergo Easy Access upgrades over the next few years as part of a \$200 million plan to build and upgrade stations across the CityRail network.

When funding priorities are next being considered, your request for an upgrade of Artarmon Station will be taken into consideration, along with the requests of other rail commuters.

*1755 REGIONAL HOSPITAL—BEGA VALLEY SHIRE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Has Treasury approved the new regional hospital in the Bega Valley Shire?
- (2) Will the Minister respond to concerns of residents in the southern part of the Bega Valley Shire about the location of the facility?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of comments made on ABC South East by the Member for Monaro about the hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) As with any other major hospital development project, the Bega Valley Hospital project is to go through due process including finalisation of the Project Definition Plan, which includes the financial impact and economic appraisal of the project, and then it will proceed to Treasury for review.
- (2) The community has been actively involved in the preparation of the Bega valley Clinical Services Plan and consultation has included discussion over the location of the new hospital, which will be on a greenfields site in the south Bega area. I am advised the location of the integrated facility was endorsed by a majority of stakeholders at the community workshop convened in August 2007.
- (3) I am aware that the Member for Monaro regularly provides comment to ABC South East regarding Bega Hospital.

*1756 VICTORIA CREEK—NEW ROUTE AND BRIDGE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) In light of geotechnical and environmental studies being conducted by the RTA at Victoria Creek south of Narooma, will the Minister commit the funds to construct the new route and bridge at Victoria Creek?
- (2) How long until the project is completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The State Government has allocated \$500,000 in the 07/08 budget for preliminary investigations to be carried out at Victoria Creek.

*1757 ENERGY DIRECTIONS GREEN PAPER—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 NSW "Energy Directions Green Paper":

- (1) What is the Minister's response to the statement about the role of "renewable and low emission technologies" in New South Wales:

"Although widespread in many other countries, these technologies currently do not make a significant contribution to energy production in New South Wales" (NSW Energy Directions Green Paper, p. 21)?

- (2) What is the Minister's response to the statement:

"However, in the case of solar, there are also other benefits because the higher solar incidence correlates well with daily peaks. The highest levels of production occur when demand is highest" (p. 21)?

- (3) What is the Minister's response to the statement:

"Renewable and low emission technologies have an important contribution to make to meeting New South Wales electricity demand. In the long term, their potential could be enormous" (p. 21)?

Answer—

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- (1) Renewables currently represent around 6 per cent of electricity consumed in New South Wales. Under the State Plan, the NSW Government has set a target for 15 per cent of electricity consumed in New South Wales to be provided from renewable energy by 2020.
- (2) I am advised that photovoltaic solar cells can be oriented such that they produce their maximum output close to the time when electricity demand is highest.
- (3) I agree with this statement.

*1758 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 and the Minister's responses to QON 0116 and QON 0989:

- (1) Given that a "statistical analysis" was conducted on a number of "major construction projects" and that each have "a total cost over one million dollars", what was the name of each project analysed?
- (2) What was the "original approved budget" for each project analysed?
- (3) What is the "current predicted or actual final cost" for each project analysed?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The analysis was based on Cabinet-in-Confidence project reports.

*1759 NORTH-RHEIN WESTPHALIA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING—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 Inter-Departmental Committee on the North-Rhein Westphalia Memorandum of Understanding and the Minister's responses to Questions 0260 and 1119:

- (1) Given that the inter-Departmental Committee on the North-Rhein Memorandum of Understanding "have met representatives from the NRW Government five times in Sydney", which committee members, public servants, parliamentary members, or other representatives of the NSW Government have undertaken international travel related to the work of the Inter-Departmental Committee?
- (2) When was the travel undertaken in each case and what was the cost of the travel in each case?
- (3) What were the "Valuable contacts between researchers and companies in NSW and NRW, in the areas of clean coal research and renewable energy"?
- (4) What "joint research and demonstration projects" are "ongoing"?

Answer—

(1) and (2) There has been no international travel to date related to the work of the Inter-Departmental Committee by NSW Government officials or NSW Government Members of Parliament.

(3) The NRW MoU has facilitated contacts between universities and research institutions in NRW working on clean coal and renewables, and universities and research institutions in NSW.

(4) A joint research project focusing on post-combustion capture is being developed between CSIRO Energy Technology Division and research institutions in NRW.

*1760 OIL AND PETROL PRICES—NSW BUDGET—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 Budget:

- (1) Are oil or petrol prices included in assumptions in formulating the NSW Budget?
- (2) If so, what are the assumptions?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Please refer to Budget Papers 2007-2008, BP2, Chapter 6.3.

*1761 CANCELLATION OF ELECTIVE SURGERY—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the Health Department's policy on the cancellation of an elective surgery procedure?
- (2) What time frame does the Minister consider appropriate when a procedure is to be cancelled?

- (3) Are there provisions to refund expenses to patients who travel some distance to have an operation and stay the night in a motel to present to the hospital at the required time only to have the operation cancelled at the last minute?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) NSW Health's "Waiting Time and Elective Patient Management Policy, 2006" is publicly available at www.health.nsw.gov.au
- (2) Hospitals make every effort to ensure that delays are kept to a minimum and alternate options of care are actively investigated. However, some delays are unavoidable. Hospitals must provide patients with the maximum possible notice.
- (3) Yes. Patients meeting the Transport for Health – Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) distance criteria (that is, the patient lives 100km or more one way from the treating facility), are eligible for assistance with the costs of accommodation and transport. A letter from the treating specialist, stating that the operation was postponed through no fault of the patient, will be required to verify the claim.

*1762 FLASHING LIGHTS FOR SCHOOL CROSSINGS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Which schools in Gosford City are listed to receive flashing lights at school road crossings over the next three years?
- (2) How many traffic accidents are recorded as having taken place outside schools in Gosford City in 2005 and 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 26 September 2007, the Premier announced a \$46.5 million four-year program to further enhance the safety of students in school zones.

Flashing light technology and electronic alert systems will be installed in a further 400 school zones, comprising the rollout of 100 systems a year over the next four years.

School zones are being selected for the new technology rollout based on risk criteria including traffic and pedestrian volumes, surrounding speed limits and crash history.

*1763 GRAFFITI REPAIRS TO BUSES—MONA VALE DEPOT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What has been the cost of graffiti repairs to buses at Mona Vale Depot in each of the last 5 years?

Answer—

I am advised:

Daily and periodical spring cleaning, replacement of seat coverings, replacement of windows and repainting of surfaces are all carried out as part of State Transit's fleet maintenance program.

State Transit has put in place a number of anti-graffiti programs to minimise incidences of graffiti vandalism and the cost of graffiti removal, including:

- New buses that include features such as anti-graffiti cloth covered seats and large glass windows;
- The removal of graffiti from seats of older buses at the first available opportunity;
- Installation of closed circuit television cameras that continuously monitor the bus cabin and interior of the bus;
- Operation Bus Stop – a joint initiative between the NSW Police Service and State Transit, whereby uniformed police randomly board buses and check for antisocial behaviour; and
- As an innovative measure, the use of protective film on the back windows of the bus fleet to minimise etching and enable easy removal of etching, which is a more prevalent issue than spray-painting graffiti.

Expenditure on anti-graffiti programs is included in State Transit's overall expenditure for various operational matters, including vandalism repairs, cleaning staff wages and repairs and maintenance building.

*1764 GRAFFITI REPAIRS TO BUSES—BROOKVALE DEPOT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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What has been the cost of graffiti repairs to buses at Brookvale depot in each of the last 5 years?

Answer—

I am advised:

Daily and periodical spring cleaning, replacement of seat coverings, replacement of windows and repainting of surfaces are all carried out as part of State Transit's fleet maintenance program.

State Transit has put in place a number of anti-graffiti programs to minimise incidences of graffiti vandalism and the cost of graffiti removal, including:

- New buses that include features such as anti-graffiti cloth covered seats and large glass windows;
- The removal of graffiti from seats of older buses at the first available opportunity;
- Installation of closed circuit television cameras that continuously monitor the bus cabin and interior of the bus;
- Operation Bus Stop – a joint initiative between the NSW Police Service and State Transit, whereby uniformed police randomly board buses and check for antisocial behaviour; and
- As an innovative measure, the use of protective film on the back windows of the bus fleet to minimise etching and enable easy removal of etching, which is a more prevalent issue than spray-painting graffiti.

Expenditure on anti-graffiti programs is included in State Transit's overall expenditure for various operational matters, including vandalism repairs, cleaning staff wages and repairs and maintenance building.

*1765 **CONDITION OF ROADS IN WAKEHURST ELECTORATE**—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What surveys have been undertaken of roads in the Wakehurst electorate in the last 5 years?
- (2) Have any roads been identified as in urgent need of repair due to dangerous conditions?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority carries out road condition surveys on State Roads at the end of each contract year. Repairs or resurfacing works are planned and carried out based on the survey results.

The RTA budget includes a \$933 million allocation for road network maintenance in 2007-08.

*1766 **WHEELER HEIGHTS SCHOOL—HALL**—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—

Given the promise to build a hall at Wheeler Heights School during the current term of Government:

- (1) What will the building cost?
- (2) When will preliminary plans be presented to the school community?
- (3) When will construction commence?

Answer—

Under the Building Better Schools program, the NSW Labor Government will invest more than \$2 billion over the term of the current government to improve the learning environment for students and teachers across NSW.

This program will focus on a number of specific initiatives including the construction of 27 new primary school halls and 17 secondary school gymnasiums across the state.

A project to construct a hall at Wheeler Heights Public School has been included in the Government's Building Better Schools Program. The hall will be built within the current term of Government.

The school community will be consulted when concept and design plans for the new hall at Wheeler Heights Public School are being prepared.

The total cost of the project will not be announced prior to the tender process due to its commercially sensitive nature.

*1767 **OVERTIME FOR DETECTIVES—NORTHERN BEACHES LOCAL AREA COMMAND**—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What was the total cost of overtime for detectives at the Northern Beaches Local Area Command in each of the last 5 years?

Answer—

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

*1768 NORTHERN BEACHES LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) When will the Minister visit the Northern Beaches Local Area Command?
- (2) Will the Minister commence planning for an upgrade to the Northern Beaches Local Area Command Station at Dee Why?

Answer—

- (1) In my role as Minister for Police it is my intention to visit as many Local Area Commands across the State as I can.
- (2) NSW Police have no proposals to upgrade the Northern Beaches LAC Station at Dee Why.

*1769 NURSING VACANCIES – MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What number of nursing vacancies were there at Mona Vale Hospital in each month of the last 12 months?

Answer—

I am advised:

At any one time most hospitals operate with a degree of nursing staff vacancies. However, where vacancies exist, temporary qualified staff are employed pending recruitment to these positions. Area Health Services will continue to actively recruit to vacant nursing positions.

The Department of Health routinely provides state-wide workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Reports.

To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions. The Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service 2006/07 Annual Report will be available shortly. I refer the Hon Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Annual Report.

*1770 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What has been the cost per patient of providing mental health services at Manly Hospital in each of the last 5 years?

Answer—

The wording of the Member's question is ambiguous and any interpretation of the question would be subjective. I suggest the Member clarifies his question.

*1771 DEEP CREEK BRIDGE—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will Deep Creek Bridge be widened to allow safe pedestrian and bicycle usage?

Answer—

I am advised:

Pedestrian/cycle facilities are funded 50/50 between the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and the relevant Council. Pittwater Council has submitted a proposal to the RTA for a separate pedestrian/cycle bridge.

*1772 UNANSWERED CORRESPONDENCE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

Why has the Minister not answered my correspondence 07A080 dated 18 January 2007, addressed to the Minister for Health on behalf of Mrs C Croker of Yass regarding complaints about the actions of certain Greater Southern Area Health staff?

Answer—

The delay in responding to the Member's correspondence is regretted.

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I am advised that the Greater Southern Area Health Service has responded directly to Mrs Croker on a number of occasions addressing the issues raised in relation to this matter. However, notwithstanding the advice provided through the Area Health Service, a response to the Member's correspondence will be forthcoming shortly.

*1773 HOME CARE SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Why has Mrs ADU Noyes of Cootamundra been refused home garden maintenance assistance even though she is entitled to assistance under the Home Care Service?
- (2) Will the Minister confirm advice that Mrs Noyes has received from staff at the Cootamundra Community Health Service that the NSW Government has not made any funding available for home garden maintenance in Cootamundra?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that Mrs Noyes has been assessed and approved for domestic assistance from the Home Care Service. An assessment was conducted on 28th November 2007. Home Care does not provide home garden maintenance services.
- (2) The NSW Government recognises the importance of providing services, such as home maintenance in rural communities to increase the independence of individuals and reduce health and safety risks for clients, carers and care workers.

Temora Council is funded through the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) to provide a range of Home and Community Care (HACC) programs including home maintenance to the community of Cootamundra.

Home maintenance services may include the provision of garden maintenance, such as lawn mowing and the removal of rubbish.

Through this funding, home maintenance services are made available to clients in Cootamundra who meet the eligibility criteria for access to HACC services. Temora Council is responsible for prioritising requests for service from clients.

*1774 SUPERNANNY HOTLINE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) On what date did the Supernanny Parent Help Hotline extend its service to 24 hours a day?
- (2) How many total calls has the Supernanny Parent Help Hotline received outside of the hours of 9.00 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Saturday?

Answer—

- (1) 29 October 2007.
- (2) Between 29 October 2007 and 5 December 2007 the Centacare Parentline project received a total of 219 calls outside of the hours of 9.00 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Saturday.

*1775 HORNSBY HOSPITAL FOOD—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the type of food service provision for patients at Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) Where is the food prepared?
- (3) Are there any extra food/drinks for unexpected needs e.g. late admission patients?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The food service is a trayed service to the patient's bedside, consisting of food and beverage items selected by the patient, on a daily basis, from the menu.
- (2) Food is prepared on site from food components purchased from various suppliers.
- (3) In addition to normal deliveries, additional food and drinks are available for unexpected needs from the Food Services Department or after hours supplies are held on wards.

*1776 CHANGES TO SOUND BARRIERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What are the specific changes to the sound barriers along rail routes in association with the Hornsby Clearway Project?
- (2) Will the extensions be built along the rail line reaching the Clarke Road Bridge, Hornsby?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The sound barriers are being built at the locations recommended in the project's Environmental Assessment, which was on public display between 12 September and 14 October, 2006.

The location of the sound barriers remains unchanged.

- *1777 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES ACCOMMODATION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Community Services—

How many Department of Community Services accommodation units/houses/duplexes etc. are present in the Hornsby electorate (by type and suburb)? How many are occupied? If unoccupied, what is the reason?

Answer—

There are a number of properties in the Hornsby area that are now managed, occupied and used by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

The Department of Community Services has been liaising with the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) to transfer these properties to DADHC.

- *1778 INFRASTRUCTURE—WALLSEND ELECTORATE—Ms Sonia Hornery 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 much money was spent on infrastructure in the Wallsend electorate in 2006/07?

(2) What projects was this money spent on?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Please refer to the Budget Papers 2006-2007, BP4 Infrastructure Statement, also the Member should seek information from the relevant portfolio Ministers.

- *1779 MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

In the Sutherland Shire Local government Area there are a number of mental health facilities:

(1) What are they?

(2) Where are they located?

(3) What is their function?

(4) How many clients/patients are either in-patients or treated at these facilities?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) Area Health Services do not allocate resources on the basis of local government areas however, communities of the Sutherland Shire are principally served by the South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service. Information regarding the facilities and services provided at various locations across the South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service is available via the Area's Internet site at www.sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au/. More specifically, comprehensive information regarding the provision of mental health services across the Area Health Service can be found at the following Internet address: www.sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au/hospitals_and_services/index.asp#MentalHealthServices

(4) The Member has not specified a time period. However, I can advise that all Area Health Services report activity data in their Annual Reports. I refer the Member to the South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service Annual Reports.

- *1780 REFERRAL OF DEATH TO HCCC—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

(1) On what date did Ms Heather Gray, CEO of Greater Southern Area Health Service, or her agent, refer the death of Mr Geoff Turton of Wagga Wagga for independent investigation by the Health Care Complaints Commission?

(2) Will you provide a copy of the referral for the family's benefit?

(3) When was the family informed of Ms Grey's actions regarding the referral to the Health Care Complaints Commission?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) 30 November 2007.

(2) and (3) Greater Southern Area Health Service provided the family with a copy of the referral

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correspondence on 14 December 2007.

- *1781 HYBRID MOTOR VEHICLES—NSW—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many hybrid (petrol and electric) powered motor vehicles were registered in NSW in each of the years 2001 to 2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- *1782 POLICE EXEMPTIONS FOR JURY SERVICE—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many applications were made to the Minister for exemptions for police officers from jury service in each of the following years:

- (1) 2001 2006 (inclusive)?
- (2) How many of these applications were granted?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that under the Jury Act 1977, police officers - as persons employed in law enforcement, criminal investigation or the provision of legal services in criminal cases - are ineligible to serve as jurors.

- *1783 CRITERIA FOR SPEED CAMERAS—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) What are the criteria for the placement of fixed speed cameras in NSW in relation to:

- (a) speed; and
- (b) accidents?

(2) As site conditions such as sight distance, proximity to adequate power supply, accessibility for construction and positioning in relation to the direction of the majority of crashes are also considered, what other site conditions are relevant?

- (3) (a) Will the Minister supply me with a copy of all the above criteria?
- (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is available via the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- *1784 QLD/NSW CROSS-BORDER AMBULANCE SERVICES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that a media release dated 2 November 2006 from the former NSW Health Minister stated that the NSW Government would "pay for NSW pensioners billed by the Queensland Ambulance Service for emergency ambulance transport" and would "seek to recover the full costs of transporting Queensland residents using NSW ambulance services from the Queensland government":

(1) Since the inception of this policy, what is the number of times:

- (a) the Queensland Ambulance Service transported a NSW patient to the Accident & Emergency section of the Tweed Heads Hospital;
- (b) the NSW Ambulance Services transported Queensland residents to NSW and Queensland hospitals?

(2) What is the number of NSW pensioners that have submitted claims for ambulance transport rebates as a result of using the Queensland Ambulance Service, since the inception of this policy?

(3) What is the dollar value of the rebates supplied in response to (2)?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) (a) and (b) Neither the Queensland Ambulance Service nor the Tweed Heads Hospital report this information to the Ambulance Service of NSW. To answer this question in the level of detail sought

would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Ambulance Service and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

- (2) and (3) The Ambulance Service of NSW pays for emergency "ambulance services" provided by the Queensland Ambulance Service for NSW resident pensioners. "Ambulance services" include ambulance transports and 'treat and not transport'. The diversion of public resources necessary to isolate "ambulance transports" to answer question 2 and 3 is not justifiable on this occasion.

Generally, the Ambulance Service of NSW processes claims on an incident by incident basis and does not collate information by individual NSW resident unless specific individual cases require further attention. There is not a one for one relationship between claims and pensioners. One pensioner may have many incidents for which they claim.

- *1785 RADIATION THERAPY—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 public radiation therapy in the Tweed:

- (1) Is there currently a review being undertaken in terms of radiation therapy in NSW?
 (2) If yes:
 (a) When will this review be completed?
 (b) When will the findings of this review be made available to the public?
 (c) Will the Minister ensure that the review takes into account the significant population growth within the Tweed and the pressures that this place on public radiation therapy in Tweed Hospitals?
 (3) What is the number of registered cancer patients that have received or are currently undergoing treatment at the Tweed Heads Hospital during:
 (a) 2005;
 (b) 2006;
 (c) 2007 year-to-day?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) There is no review of radiation therapy currently in progress in NSW. Planning for radiotherapy services occurs on a rolling five-year cycle.
 (2) (a) to (c) There is no current plan to develop radiotherapy services at The Tweed Hospital.
 (3) Inpatients
 (a) 282
 (b) 365
 (c) 330 to end October 2007.
 Outpatients
 (a) 414
 (b) 365
 (c) 233 to end October 2007.

- *1786 HOSPITAL BEDS IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the Minister has advised that the term 'Access Levelling' "is not used by NSW Health or the North Coast Area Health Service" and that the correct terminology is "Access Block":

- (1) What is the current "Access Block" waiting time within the Emergency Department of the Tweed Heads Hospital?
 (2) In comparison to other NSW public hospitals, how does the Tweed Hospital compare in terms of "Access Block" waiting times?
 (3) What is the frequency of occurrence and the average period of time for when the Queensland Ambulance service has been placed on redirection NSW hospitals, for the 12-month period ending November 2007?

Answer—

I am advised that:

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(1) and (2) NSW Health routinely reports performance data on the NSW Health web site at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/hospitalinfo/data/perfedhosp.pdf. The Member is referred to the NSW Health web site.

(3) The Member is referred to the response provided to similar question – LA 1109.

The Area Health Service does not routinely report on the average length of time that Queensland Ambulances are placed on diversion and to do so on this occasion would divert the Area Health Service from its core functions.

*1787 AIR SERVICES AUSTRALIA SITE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

(1) Given the number of threatened species and Aboriginal sites existing in the former Air Services Australia site in Cranebrook, how much of the site does the Minister intend to allow to be developed?

(2) Would the Minister allow the biobanking system to be used to permit the development of red flag areas on this site?

Answer—

The question of development at the former Air Services Australia site in Cranebrook is more appropriately a matter for the Minister for Planning.

However, in relation to any proposed development, the Department of Environment and Climate Change will advise the Department of Planning on environmental issues such as threatened species, Aboriginal cultural heritage, and water and air quality.

The primary purpose of the BioBanking Scheme is to ensure that there is an overall maintenance and improvement of biodiversity values. It was not set up to "permit" the development of red flag areas.

Components of the BioBanking Scheme are currently on public exhibition, including the Draft BioBanking Assessment Methodology, which deals with the red flag system.

The Draft BioBanking Assessment Methodology stipulates that to meet the "improve or maintain" requirements, a proposed development must avoid land that is, or forms part of, a viable red flag area. If, based on scientific criteria, red flag areas which are small and isolated are found not to be viable or having low viability, the Director General of the Department of Environment and Climate Change may make an assessment that the proposed development will improve or maintain biodiversity values.

The Draft BioBanking Assessment Methodology further states that if the Director General makes an assessment that the proposed development will improve or maintain biodiversity values on the red flag area, these reasons must be published on the Department's website. In making this assessment it must also be shown that the required amount of offsets to compensate for any loss have been secured from the proponent.

The Department is seeking feedback on these provisions in the draft methodology during the public exhibition to ensure these provisions are practical and provide certainty. The closing date for submissions is 1 February 2008. Briefing sessions have been held in 11 locations across NSW for local government, industry groups and members of the public on the scheme.

*1788 AIRSERVICES AUSTRALIA SITE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Why was Penrith Council not informed that the former AirServices Australia site at Cranebrook was under consideration for addition to the Metropolitan Development Program?

Answer—

During 2007, there were a number of meetings between Penrith Council officers, the owners of the Cranebrook site and relevant Government agencies to discuss options for the redevelopment of the site, given its significant environmental values.

Penrith Council has made a formal submission on the proposal which is being considered in the deliberations on this issue.

*1789 DAM SECURITY COMMITTEE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Given that the Dam Safety Committee requires dam managers to consider five security factors in their Surveillance Report reviews and Emergency Plans, why does the DSC only require a one sentence statement that security has, or has not, been adequately reviewed?
- (2) How does the DSC know that every category of potential adversaries, vulnerabilities, attack consequences, security adequacy and the value of extra security has been considered?
- (3) What happens when a surveillance report says the dam manager has not adequately reviewed security?
- (4) Where and when has this type of non-conformance occurred since September 2001?
- (5) What penalties exist for non-conformance?
- (6) Why have these security requirements not been updated or strengthened since September 2006?
- (7) How has security been improved at Warragamba Dam since September 11, 2001?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Security information is sensitive and could be used for malicious purposes. In line with international practice, the Dams Safety Committee has decided that security information needs to be protected within the dam owner organisation. As with all other dam safety matters, the Dams Safety Committee undertakes regular site inspections and audits to confirm in detail matters raised by owners in their correspondence to the Dams Safety Committee.

(3) The Dams Safety Committee would require the owner to provide a program to adequately review security. The Dams Safety Committee would then monitor the achievements of the program.

(4) and (5) This information is publicly available.

(6) The Security Review of Dams was updated in April 2007.

(7) The Sydney Catchment Authority has appropriate security arrangements in place.

- *1790 HYBRID MOTOR VEHICLES—HUNTERS HILL—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many hybrid motor vehicles are/have been registered in the Hunters Hill Local Government Area for each of the years 2003-2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- *1791 HYBRID MOTOR VEHICLES—LANE COVE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many hybrid motor vehicles are/have been registered in the Lane Cove Local Government Area for each of the years 2003-2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- *1792 HYBRID MOTOR VEHICLES—RYDE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many hybrid motor vehicles are/have been registered in the Ryde Local Government Area for each of the years 2003-2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- *1793 RADIOTHERAPY TREATMENT WAITING LISTS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many people were waiting for radiotherapy treatment as of 30 September 2007 in:

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- (1) Sydney South West Area Health Service;
- (2) Sydney West Area Health Service;
- (3) Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service;
- (4) South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service;
- (5) Greater Western Area Health Service;
- (6) Greater Southern Area Health Service;
- (7) Hunter New England Area Health Service;
- (8) North Coast Area Health Service?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the response to a question taken on notice by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) during her appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4 on 26 October 2007 in relation to the inquiry into the Budget Estimates 2007-2008 for the portfolio areas of Women, Science and Medical Research and Health (Cancer).

*1794 RADIO THERAPY TRAINING POSITIONS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many radiotherapy training positions have been funded for each calendar year from 2003 to present?
- (2) How many radiotherapy training positions will be funded in 2008?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) From 2000 to 2004, Area Health Services generally funded Professional Development Year (PDY) positions from local resources. PDY numbers are not available for this period.

During 2002 to 2004, the Australian Government significantly increased the number of university student places for Radiation Therapy. There were insufficient vacant positions for all students graduating from radiation therapy in 2004 to find a position in NSW. As a result, in 2005, the NSW Government provided funds for 53 PDY places in the public sector. NSW Private centres advised they provided 11 PDY places.

In 2006, 55 PDY places were provided in the public sector and NSW private centres advised they provided 1 PDY places.

In 2007, 51 PDY places were provided in the public sector. NSW private centres advised they provided 4 PDY places.

- (2) In 2008, it is intended to provide 58 PDY places in the public sector. NSW private centres have advised that they intend to recruit 6 PDY positions.

*1795 PATHOLOGY TRAINING POSITIONS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many pathology training positions have been funded for each calendar year from 2003 to present?
- (2) How many pathology training positions will be funded in 2008?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Pathologists undertake training in both public and private health facilities. Information on the number of funded training positions for pathology is not routinely collected by the NSW Department of Health and to answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Services away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, publicly available reports produced by the Commonwealth Medical Training Review Panel contain information on the number of trainees undertaking pathology training in NSW. The Member is referred to these publicly available reports available through the Medical Training Review Panel at: www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/workforce-educat-mtrp

*1796 FTE NURSE NUMBERS IN THE HUNTER NEW ENGLAND AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

As at 30 June in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 how many FTE nurses in the Hunter New England Area Health Service payroll (excluding agency nurses) were working at the following hospitals:

- (1) Armidale;

- (2) Belmont;
- (3) Bingara District;
- (4) Calvary Mater Newcastle;
- (5) Cessnock;
- (6) Glen Innes;
- (7) Kurri Kurri;
- (8) Inverell;
- (9) John Hunter;
- (10) Maitland;
- (11) Manning;
- (12) Moree;
- (13) Muswellbrook District;
- (14) Narrabri;
- (15) Scott Memorial, Scone;
- (16) Singleton;
- (17) Tamworth;
- (18) Wee Waa District?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Report.

To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

The Member is referred to the Annual Reports of the Hunter and New England Area Health Service.

*1797 FTE NURSE NUMBERS IN THE GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

As at 30 June in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 how many FTE nurses in the Greater Southern Area Health Service payroll (excluding agency nurses) were working at:

- (1) Albury Base Hospital;
- (2) Barham Koondrook Soldiers Memorial Hospital;
- (3) Bateman's Bay District Hospital;
- (4) Batlow District Hospital;
- (5) Bega District Hospital;
- (6) Berrigan War Memorial Hospital;
- (7) Bombala Hospital;
- (8) Braidwood Multi-purpose Service;
- (9) Coolamon-Ganmain Health Service;
- (10) Cooma Hospital & Health Service;
- (11) Cootamundra Hospital;
- (12) Corowa Hospital;
- (13) Crookwell District Hospital;
- (14) Culcairn Health Service;
- (15) Deniliquin Hospital;
- (16) Finley Hospital;
- (17) Goulburn Health Service;
- (18) Griffith Base Hospital;
- (19) Gundagai District Hospital;
- (20) Hay Hospital;
- (21) Henty Hospital;
- (22) Hillston District Hospital;
- (23) Holbrook District Hospital;
- (24) Jerilderie Health Service;
- (25) Junee District Hospital;
- (26) Leeton District Hospital;
- (27) Lockhart and District Hospital;
- (28) Mercy Hospital;
- (29) Moruya District Hospital;

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- (30) Murrumburrah-Harden District Hospital;
- (31) Narrandera District Hospital;
- (32) Pambula District Hospital;
- (33) Queanbeyan Hospital;
- (34) St John of God Hospital;
- (35) Temora & District Hospital;
- (36) Tocumwal Hospital;
- (37) Tumut Hospital;
- (38) Wagga Wagga Base Hospital;
- (39) West Wyalong Hospital;
- (40) Yass District Hospital;
- (41) Young District Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Report.

To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

The Member is referred to the Annual Reports of the Greater Southern Area Health Service.

*1798 AGED CARE ASSESSMENT TEAM—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many people are in the Aged Care Assessment Team at Royal North Shore Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Commonwealth Government has responsibility for developing policy and providing funding for Aged Care Assessment Teams, as part of the national Aged Care Assessment Program. The funds can be spent on clinical and/or administrative hours (i.e. staff) and/or infrastructure or support services. Aged Care Assessment Teams also receive financial support (staffing and/or infrastructure) from their host Area Health Service.

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely collect or report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question would, on this occasion, unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, the Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available Annual Reports of the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service. The 2006/07 Annual Report will be available shortly.

*1799 AUDIO AND AUDIO VISUAL TRAINING—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What proportion of staff in the:

- (a) Local Court;
- (b) District Court; and
- (c) Supreme Court;

have been trained to operate audio and audio visual links for use in those courts in the years 2003/4; 2004/5; 2005/6; 2006/7?

Answer—

I am advised that to date the Government has installed almost 200 audiovisual link systems in courtrooms, correctional facilities and other justice agency sites throughout NSW.

Initial training is provided to staff on site at the time of installation. Subsequent training is available and provided to accommodate staffing changes as the need arises. This is supplemented by online details of how to operate audiovisual link equipment. The equipment in courtrooms is maintained by technology specialists.

A cross justice program to upgrade and install video conferencing facilities at courts and related justice

agencies in NSW will continue during the period 2008 to 2010.

*1800 DNA EXAMINATIONS—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many items were lodged by police for DNA examination by forensic biologists in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07?
- (2) What was the average turn around time for DNA examination of items in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07?
- (3) How many forensic biologists and support staff were employed for DNA examination of items in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Answer—

The service provider, the Division of Analytical Laboratories, falls within the portfolio for the Minister for Health. Accordingly the Member's questions would be more appropriately addressed to the Hon. Reba Meagher, Minister for Health.

*1801 PROPOSED SAND MINING—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Is the Government investigating or considering any proposals for sand mining in Pittwater or Warringah Local Government Areas that have been proposed or submitted by any person or entity, including non-government entities?

Answer—

No.

*1802 AVALON SAILING CLUB FEES—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—

On what basis has the Department of Lands calculated rental or licence fees payable by Avalon Sailing Club at Clareville?

Answer—

The Crown Lands Act requires the Minister for Lands to charge market rent and not less than the statutory minimum rent for any tenure of Crown land. The Minister is also empowered under the legislation to grant rebates to sporting organisations, such as the Avalon Sailing Club Limited, and to give relief in cases of genuine hardship. GST is also payable on the rent charged.

*1803 ADMINISTRATION OF WETLAND LEASES—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—

How much revenue did the Department of Lands gain from administering its wetland leases in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Answer—

2004-05—\$1,346,392.19

2005-06—\$1,522,391.89

2006-07—\$1,559,317.34

*1804 BORE LICENCES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Are there any bore licences available in the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority and in particular are there any bore licences available in the Tinonee area?
- (2) If so, what type of bore licences?
- (3) If so, what restrictions might be on the bore licences?
- (4) If so, what is the cost of such a licence?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) Licences for bores to be used for domestic and stock purposes are available throughout the catchment. Subject to assessment by the Department of Water and Energy, new licences for irrigation and commercial purposes are available in areas not subject to embargoes, including the Tinonee area. Where new licences are not available, existing licences can be traded subject to the approval of the Department of Water and Energy.

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- (3) Restrictions on licences may include limits on the annual volume of water allowed to be extracted and limits on water extraction rates to protect water quality.
- (4) This information is publicly available and can be downloaded from the websites of the NSW Department of Water and Energy (via its natural resources pages) and the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

*1805 "PLAN - IT" YOUTH PROGRAM—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) Is the "Plan - it" Youth Program co-ordinated by the Department of Education?
- (2) If so, were volunteers involved in the program?
- (3) Has the program been terminated?
- (4) If so, why?
- (5) If so, were volunteers notified in writing of the termination of the program?
- (6) If so, were the volunteers thanked in writing for:
 - (a) undertaking the TAFE course necessary to be a volunteer in the program;
 - (b) agreeing to a police check to be eligible to be a volunteer in the program;
 - (c) the hours of voluntary service to the program over the past 3 years?
- (7) If not, why not?

Answer—

In New South Wales, the Plan-it Youth brand name is associated with community mentoring activities managed by the Department of Education and Training, or in agreement with the Department, and involving volunteers. In other parts of Australia, the same program is coordinated by the Dusseldorp Skills Forum.

The Program has recently been evaluated by an independent consultant. The recommendations contained in the consultant's report and feedback from the key stakeholders are currently being considered.

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*1806 STATE RAIL EASY ACCESS PROGRAM—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Does the Government propose to provide easy access facilities to all railway stations on the metropolitan network?
- (2) When did the 'Easy Access' program commence?
- (3) How many stations have benefited from this programme since it was introduced?
- (4) How many rail stations had the easy access facilities installed during:
 - (5) 2006-07
 - (6) 2005-06
 - (7) 2004-05?
- (8) How many rail stations will benefit from this scheme during the current financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (8) 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, the elderly and parents with prams. Since it first began in 1994 approximately \$427 million has been invested in the upgrade of 89 stations under the Easy Access Program. That's over a quarter of the CityRail network.

Over the last three financial years 15 Easy Access upgrades have been completed across the CityRail network. In 2007/08 \$43 million in funding has been allocated to the design, planning and construction of accessibility upgrades at up to 20 stations. The program includes completion of works already underway at sites such as Auburn, Bowral, Peshurst, Turramurra and Werrington.

Several stations are in the concept phase of an Easy Access upgrade and scoping and planning for future upgrades are also scheduled for this financial year.

*1807 CROSS BORDER HEALTH—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What resources are being made available through the Greater Southern Area Health Service to implement the Cross-Border Health Agreement between Albury Base and Wodonga district hospitals?
- (2) During your proposed visit to Albury will you meet with stakeholders including staff, clinicians and community representatives to discuss progress of service integration?
- (3) When will you be able to detail a response to the delayed mid-term review conducted at the end of 2005?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that a senior project management position has been created in the Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) to coordinate the Area's participation in planning for the integration of Albury and Wodonga hospital services. Other senior GSAHS staff are involved in the planning as required.

I recently met with the Victorian Health Minister Daniel Andrews to discuss health services for the border region. It was at this meeting that the report prepared by leading health administrator and economist Professor Stephen Duckett was released. This report has provided an independent assessment of how to create an integrated health service for the Border region and has played an integral role in informing the planning process.

The Duckett report is available at www.gsahs.nsw.gov.au or www.dhs.vic.gov.au

- (2) I have recently met with the Alliance of the Councils and Shires of the Upper Murray and confirmed my commitment to strengthening communications with all local stakeholders regarding progress on integration planning. A newsletter is now being produced for Albury and Wodonga hospital staff, information is being provided for publication in the Border Mail, and regular updates are being provided to the Border Medical Association.
- (3) The mid-term review will be taken into account in the integration proposal expected to be considered by the New South Wales and Victorian Cabinets during 2008.

*1808 SNAG REMOVAL FROM MURRAY RIVER—Mr Greg Aplin 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 action has been taken in response to the removal of some 200 snags from the Murray River near Corowa by an ecotourism developer?
- (2) Given that the development was approved subject to many conditions why was there no monitoring or enforcement of these conditions?
- (3) What rehabilitation works will be undertaken?

Answer—

- (1) NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) is currently conducting an investigation into the works that have taken place and a Stop Work Order has been issued to halt any further de-snagging works and to ensure those snags that had been removed from the river were not removed from the site, burnt or destroyed so they can potentially be used in any remediation works.
- (2) I am advised that Corowa Shire Council was the consent authority under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for the development. Therefore your question is best directed to the Minister for Local Government.
- (3) I am advised that NSW DPI is currently negotiating the remediation of the site with other relevant State and Commonwealth authorities and the developer.

*1809 NSW "ENERGY DIRECTIONS GREEN PAPER"—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 NSW "Energy Directions Green Paper":

- (1) Has the Government released the "Energy Sector Planning Strategy" to implement its energy "policy positions" (p. 3)?
- (2) Has the Government released the "State Environmental Planning Policy on Stationary Energy" "which articulates Government policy requirements in areas such as greenhouse gas emission limits and air and water quality" (p. 3)?
- (3) If not, when will they be released according to the "Energy Directions Green Paper"?

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Answer—

(1) to (3) The Energy Directions Green Paper was overtaken by events.

*1810 SECURITY MEASURES AT POWER STATIONS—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 and the Minister's response to Question 0412 and the Minister for Police's response to Question 0954:

- (1) Given that the Minister for Police advised in response to Question 0954 that "owner/operators are responsible for providing adequate security of their assets, actively apply risk management techniques to their planning processes and conducting regular reviews", what reviews have Macquarie Generation, Delta Energy and Eraring Energy undertaken to assess security measures at power stations since September 2001?
- (2) Do all employees at power stations undergo 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—

I am advised:

(1) to (6) NSW has over 40 individual power stations ranging in size up to 2640 megawatts (MW).

In consultation with NSW and Commonwealth security agencies, each power station owner and operator assesses its own security risks, including whether employees are required to undergo background checks and processes for visitor screening, induction and identification.

Each owner and operator implements security measures appropriate to the risks and threats assessed for the individual operations, and these are reviewed and audited as appropriate.

*1811 KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In relation to a renewable energy supply for the Kurnell Desalination Plant and the Minister's response to Question 0990:

- (1) Given that the Minister responded that "after the first two years' operation, energy demand depends on dam storage levels" [Question 0990], will the Minister guarantee tendering companies a minimum "energy demand" after the first two years of operation?
- (2) If so, what minimum "energy demand" will be guaranteed?
- (3) Is it possible, in the event of high dam storage levels, that no electricity will be required after the first two years?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The desalination plant will have a minimal energy demand for the duration of the contract. The minimum energy demand has not yet been determined.

(3) No. There will always be a minimal energy demand at the plant.

*1812 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) When was the Suicide Prevention Strategy that the Minister referred to in his letter M07/9340 dated 18 October 2007, and that was adopted in July 2007, first approved?
- (2) As this area has been substantially in drought since February 2002, what is the reason that this strategy will not be available for another 18 months?
- (3) What specific parts of this strategy (if any) are in place as of 30 November 2007?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I refer the Member to my response to Question No 1121.

*1813 BINALONG PUBLIC SCHOOL STAFFING—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—

As Binalong Public School has projected enrolments for 2008 of 31 students will the Minister now make the second teaching position at Binalong Public School permanent as requested by the Parents and Citizens Association?

Answer—

The second teaching position at Binalong Public School will be filled in a permanent capacity from the commencement of the 2008 school year.

A teacher has been appointed to the position and will enter on duty at the school in a permanent capacity on 29 January 2008.

*1814 CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE REPORT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

(1) What was the priority accorded to each of the child sexual abuse reports made by Mr Campbell and other concerned members of his family to the Department of Community Services Helpline reference numbers 1-ASLDD, 1-ASQTMS, 1-AFUVEH and 1-C57O3P?

(2) Has the Department of Community Services conducted an investigation of these reports?

(3) Has the Department of Community Services taken action as a result of these investigations?

(4) If so, what action has the Department of Community Services taken?

Answer—

(1) to (4) It is not possible to answer these questions without commenting on whether the particular reports identified were made by the people nominated in the Question on Notice. To do this would breach section 29 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998.

*1815 SCHOOLS WITH SPECIAL CLASSES—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) Which schools in the Hornsby electorate have special classes and/or programs for children with disabilities?

(2) Which schools in the Hornsby electorate have special classes and/or programs for children with autism?

Answer—

(1) and (2) There are a range of programs and special classes provided for students with disabilities and learning difficulties in the Hornsby electorate:

- Middle Dural and Hornsby North Public Schools - each have a reading support class.
- Normanhurst West Public School has an early intervention class for children aged three to five years.
- Normanhurst Public School provides a support class for students with emotional disturbance.
- Clarke Road Special School, Clarke Road, Hornsby South is a special school for children with diagnosed moderate intellectual disability.
- Asquith Public School has a support class for students with mild intellectual disability.

In the Hornsby electorate support teachers behaviour, learning assistance, vision and hearing all provide expert support to schools on request, and in addition, two autism outreach teachers provide support to students and work with teachers to build schools' capacity to meet the needs of students with autism. Students with autism in primary and high schools are supported through the Funding Support Program. In 2007, 34 students are supported through his program.

*1816 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Community Services—

(1) How many Department of Community Services staff are employed in the Hornsby electorate?

(2) (a) How many caseworkers are employed in the Hornsby electorate?

(b) How many of this number have experience of one year or more?

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- (3) What is the average caseload for caseworkers in the Hornsby electorate?
 (4) If the answer is nil to (1), what DOCS office is referred to for Hornsby electorate and what are the answers to (1)-(3) inclusive?

Answer—

This information is not available by electorate.

*1817 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many "child at risk of harm" reports were made regarding children in the electorate of Hornsby in each year for the last 3 years?
 (2) How many were level 1, 2, 3, and 4?
 (3) How many children subject to level 1 reports received a visit from a Department of Community Services Officer (i.e. caseworker) within the prescribed time?
 (4) How many were not seen in the prescribed time?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by electorate.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at

www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1818 INFRASTRUCTURE—WALLSEND ELECTORATE—Ms Sonia Hornery 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 much money has been allocated to infrastructure in the Wallsend electorate in 2007/2008?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Please refer to the Budget Papers 2007-08 BP4 Infrastructure Statement.

*1819 CUSTODIAL SERVICES RESPONSIBILITIES—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Have discussions been held with the Minister for Corrective Services to negotiate transferring custodial services responsibilities from Tumut and Cootamundra police to Corrective Services?
 (2) If not, why?
 (3) If yes, where have the negotiations progressed to?
 (4) How many police hours will be saved and be redirected into policing duties by the transfer of custodial responsibilities to Corrective Services in Tumut and Cootamundra?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

The NSW Police Corporate Spokesperson on Custody and Corrective Services, Assistant Commissioner Mennilli, is currently working with Corrective Services on issues relating to the transfer of prisoners.

*1820 WAGGA WAGGA POLICE STATION—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the start date for construction of the new Wagga Wagga police station?
 (2) What is the completion date for the project?
 (3) Is the project on time and on budget?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Work is already in progress on the site, with bulk excavation due to commence on schedule in January 2008.
 (2) 2009.
 (3) Yes.

*1821 BRUNGLE WATER SUPPLY—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Has correspondence been received from the community of Brungle advising of a blockage at the

mouth of the Nimbo Creek subsequently cutting off the source of water for Brungle?

- (2) Will it be authorised for the blockage to be cleared?
- (3) Will the water level be lifted in the Tumut River to flow over the blockage?
- (4) Will a long-term solution be provided including funding for a permanent water permit for the transfer of water from the river to Brungle?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. The rock offtake structure was purposely built in 2002 to ensure the Nimbo Creek does not become the Tumut River. If the structure is removed there will be significant erosion problems and will give landowners along Nimbo Creek a case for compensation for loss of land and production.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Department of Water and Energy will work closely with Tumut Council to ensure continuity of water supply to Brungle.

*1822 STATE FORESTS MANAGEMENT—Mr Daryl Maguire 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 acres/hectares have been treated for noxious weeds in State Forests 2005-06 and 2006-07 in the electorate of Wagga Wagga?
- (2) How many hectares does State Forests manage in the Wagga Wagga electorate?
- (3) What are the noxious weeds and what is their rate of infection in State Forests?
- (4) How many staff are employed in State Forests in the Wagga Wagga electorate?
- (5) How many kilometres of fire breaks have been graded or slashed?

Answer—

- (1) 2005-06—2,012 hectares.
2006-07—1,480 hectares.
- (2) Approximately 105,000 hectares.
- (3) I refer the Honourable Member to the Department of Primary Industries website.
- (4) Employment records are not kept by electorate.
- (5) The drought has significantly reduced weed and grass growth in the westernmost areas of the electorate during the years in question. As a result, in 2005-06 approximately 308 km and in 2006-07 approximately 250 km of fire breaks were slashed or graded. In addition, approximately 600 km of trails which also serve as fire breaks were cleared of branches and debris.

*1823 BUS LANE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Why is there no northbound bus lane over the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Warringah Freeway?
- (2) Are there any plans to introduce such a bus lane?

Answer—

I am advised:

Potential delays to northbound buses out of the CBD occur on the approaches to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. To avoid delays to buses, bus lanes have been introduced in Clarence Street and on the southern approach to the Bridge. In addition, the Government has recently moved to extend the hours of bus lane operation in the CBD to increase the priority for buses.

*1824 FLASHING LIGHTS AT SCHOOL CROSSINGS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to flashing lights at school crossings in the Davidson Electorate:

- (1) What relevant school locations do not yet have these?
- (2) Where will they be installed in the next 12 months?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 26 September 2007, the Premier announced a \$46.5 million four-year program to further enhance the safety of students in school zones.

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Flashing light technology and electronic alert systems will be installed in a further 400 school zones, comprising the rollout of 100 systems a year over the next four years.

School zones are being selected for the new technology rollout based on risk criteria including traffic and pedestrian volumes, surrounding speed limits and crash history.

*1825 FOREST WAY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) Does the Government have any plans to introduce extra lights or pedestrian crossings on Forest Way?

(2) If so, what are they?

(3) If not, has this been considered by the RTA?

Answer—

I am advised:

Traffic signals with signalised pedestrian facilities are provided at all major intersections on Forest Way.

However, if the Member has concerns about a specific intersection he may raise them with my office.

*1826 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE NSW CLINICAL EXCELLENCE COMMISSION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

(1) How was the selection process and structure conducted to form the two person membership of the Special Committee of the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission reviewing the prescribing of medication for the treatment of ADHD?

(2) Who determined the terms of reference for this committee?

(3) Who is funding the review?

(4) What will be done with the results of the review?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) The Special Committee membership of six was chosen for their expertise in the field of treating ADHD and to ensure a relevant coverage from child and adolescent psychiatry, paediatrics, and rural medicine. The structure of the Committee was determined jointly by the NSW Department of Health and the Clinical Excellence Commission.

(2) and (3) The NSW Department of Health

(4) The results of the review will be submitted to the Director-General of the NSW Department of Health and NSW Minister for Health to consider the appropriate action.

*1827 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE NSW CLINICAL EXCELLENCE COMMISSION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Are the two members of the Special Committee of the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission reviewing the prescribing of medication for the treatment of ADHD being paid and by whom?

(2) Are the two members totally independent of drug companies?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) The Special Committee has six recognised experts in the field of treating ADHD. The Members are not paid for their services but may be reimbursed by the Clinical Excellence Commission for out of pocket expenses such as accommodation and parking costs.

(2) All Members of the Special Committee were asked to declare any conflict of interest prior to membership approval and at the commencement of each Committee meeting. No Members have indicated current conflicts of interest.

*1828 TREE LOPPING ON PUBLIC LAND—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Has the Government considered issuing guidelines so councils can approve selected tree lopping on public land to allow improved resident views?

Answer—

No.

*1829 DRINK-DRIVING OFFENCES IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Given that the Tweed has the highest per person rate of drink-driving offences in NSW:

- (1) What is the total number of drink driving offences committed in the Tweed-Byron Local Area Command for 2006 and 2007 year-to-date?
- (2) What is the breakdown into:
 - (a) the 17-25 year-old age group;
 - (b) the 26-45 year-old age group;
 - (c) the 46+ year-old age group?
- (3) What is the average number of drink driving offences committed in other NSW Local Area Commands for the 2007 year-to-date?

Answer—

Details of the number of legal actions commenced by NSW Police for drink driving offences in the Tweed and Byron Local Government Area (for 2002-2006) are available on the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research's website. Statistics for 2007 have not been finalised.

*1830 INQUIRIES INTO SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many inquiries concerning suspected child abuse were made to the Tweed DoCS office during:
 - (a) 2006;
 - (b) 2007 year-to-date?
- (2) How many of the inquiries listed in response to (1) were investigated by the Tweed DoCS office during:
 - (a) 2006;
 - (b) 2007 year-to-date?
- (3) How many of the investigations listed in response to (2) were then classified by the Tweed DoCS office as official DoCS cases to be managed and were assigned with DoCS caseworkers during:
 - (a) 2006;
 - (b) 2007 year-to-date?

Answer—

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1831 CRIMINAL CASES AND CONVICTIONS IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What is the total number of court cases heard in the Tweed Court House during:
 - (a) 2006;
 - (b) 2007 year-to-date?
- (2) What is the breakdown of these cases involving:
 - (a) domestic violence offences;
 - (b) assault offences;
 - (c) drink driving offences;
 - (d) traffic offences;
 - (e) child abuse (sexual and physical abuse, child neglect)?
- (3) From the response to (2), how many of these cases resulted in criminal convictions to the defendant?

Answer—

The number of matters finalised for each local court for 2006 is available in the Chief Magistrate's Office Annual Review 2006. Statistics for the 2007 Annual Review have yet to be compiled.

Details of the numbers of recorded criminal incidents by Local Government Area (for 2002-2006) and criminal convictions are available on the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research's website.

*1832 REGISTERED VEHICLES—NSW GOVERNMENT—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many 8 cylinder motor vehicles are currently registered to the NSW Government?

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- (2) How many 6 cylinder motor vehicles are currently registered to the NSW Government?
(3) How many hybrid (petrol/electric) vehicles are currently registered to the NSW Government?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to registration of vehicles in NSW can be found in the Road and Traffic Authority's Annual Report and on the website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1833 AGED CARE ASSESSMENT TEAM—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

What are the criteria used to determine how many people will be in an Aged Care Assessment Team?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Commonwealth Government has responsibility for developing policy and providing funding for Aged Care Assessment Teams, as part of the national Aged Care Assessment Program.

*1834 FTE NURSE NUMBERS IN THE NORTH COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

As at 30 June in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, how many FTE nurses in the North Coast Area Health Service payroll (excluding agency nurses) were working at:

- (1) Ballina District Hospital;
- (2) Bellinger River District Hospital;
- (3) Bonalbo Hospital;
- (4) Byron Bay District Hospital;
- (5) Campbell Hospital (Coraki);
- (6) Casino and District Hospital;
- (7) Coffs Harbour Base Hospital;
- (8) Dorrigo MPS;
- (9) Grafton Base Hospital;
- (10) Kempsey District Hospital;
- (11) Kyogle Memorial Hospital;
- (12) Lismore Base Hospital;
- (13) Macksville District Hospital;
- (14) Maclean District Hospital;
- (15) Mullumbimby Hospital;
- (16) Murwillumbah Hospital;
- (17) Nimbim District Hospital;
- (18) Port Macquarie Base Hospital;
- (19) The Tweed Hospital;
- (20) Wauchope District Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Report.

To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

The Member is referred to the Annual Reports of the North Coast Area Health Service.

*1835 FTE NURSE NUMBERS IN THE SYDNEY WEST AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

As at 30 June in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, how many FTE nurses in the Sydney West Area Health Service payroll (excluding agency nurses) were working at:

- (1) Auburn Hospital;
- (2) Blacktown Hospital;
- (3) Blue Mountains Hospital;
- (4) Cumberland Hospital;
- (5) Hawkesbury District Hospital;

- (6) Lithgow Hospital;
- (7) Lottie Stewart Hospital;
- (8) Mt Druitt Hospital;
- (9) Nepean Hospital;
- (10) Portland Tabulam Health Centre;
- (11) St Joseph's Hospital;
- (12) Springwood Hospital;
- (13) Westmead Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Report.

To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

The Member is referred to the Annual Reports of the Sydney West Area Health Service.

- *1836 PUBLIC TRANSPORT – CHURCH POINT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Will the Government increase the frequency of public transport servicing Church Point in Pittwater?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Transit constantly monitors the patronage of services for Church Point to ensure that demand is met.

As there is available capacity on all services from McCarrs Creek and Church Point to Manly and the Sydney CBD, there are no plans to increase services at this time.

- *1837 LIGHT RAIL—PITTWATER—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

(1) Has the Government ever investigated the feasibility of providing a light rail system to provide public transport for the Pittwater electorate?

(2) If so, what are the details of the route and nature of the light rail system investigated?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Ministry of Transport is not currently investigating the feasibility of providing a light rail system for the Pittwater electorate.

- *1838 BUS LANES – PITTWATER ROAD—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Have the new lane markings to signify the bus lane on Pittwater Road improved travel time for buses?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Transit will undertake formal monitoring of the effects of the new bus lane markings during the February and March period 2008.

- *1839 CONNECTING BUS SERVICES TO RAIL SERVICES—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

(1) What provisions presently exist for those persons from Forster-Tuncurry who wish to use bus transport to connect to rail services to and from Taree?

(2) If there are no connecting bus services, why not?

(3) If there are no connecting bus services will the Minister arrange for connecting bus services?

(4) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (4) Eggins Comfort Coaches provides services from Forster to Taree Railway Station and from

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Taree Railway Station to Forster from Monday to Friday, operating to the following timetable:

Forster to Taree – Monday to Friday;

Depart Forster at 11:15am to connect with northbound XPT service departing Taree at 12:36pm;

Depart Forster at 4:20pm to connect with northbound XPT service departing Taree at 5:11pm.

Taree to Forster – Monday to Friday;

Depart Taree at 1:00pm to connect with northbound XPT service arriving at Forster at 12:36pm.

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*1840 TRAVELLING TIMES TO SYDNEY CBD—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Does the Roads and Traffic Authority monitor travelling times into the Sydney Central Business District from various locations in the Sydney Metropolitan area?
- (2) If so, what has been the average travelling time from the junction of the M4 Motorway and the M7 Motorway to the Sydney CBD over the last 12 months?
- (3) For the points mentioned in (2) above, what is the difference in the travelling times for the following routes into the Sydney CBD, namely:
 - (a) from M4M7 junction via the M4 and Anzac Bridge;
 - (b) from the M4M7 junction via the M7, M2, Lane Cove Tunnel and Sydney Harbour Bridge?
- (4) How has the travelling times for these routes changed from previous surveys?

Answer—

I am advised:

Travel time information for key road corridors is published in the RTA annual report.

*1841 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Will the Minister provide Maree Buckwalter information she has been seeking through the department including:
 - (a) details about the decision making process for clients in the community participation (CP) program, specifically who makes the decisions about which funding bands clients will be placed in and what qualifications they hold;
 - (b) definitions of the funding bands within the CP and the criteria used in relation to these categories;
 - (c) all documents relating to her son and the analysis undertaken to determine his funding band;
 - (d) details of the assessment tool, which has been amended;
 - (e) a copy of the department's CP "Cost and Classification" study?
- (2) Why has Maree Buckwalter been denied this information to date given its impact on her family?

Answer—

- (1) (a) to (d) Mrs Buckwalter has been provided with this information.

(e) Mrs Buckwalter has been advised that the Cost and Classification study report is a confidential document and has not been released publicly. I have been advised that this document was one of a number of sources of information considered in the development of the funding bands for the Community Participation Program.

- (2) Mrs Buckwalter has not been denied this information.

*1842 THE ROCKS MARKETS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

With regards to The Rocks Markets:

- (1) Have any management staff from Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority worked with one or more stallholders for a weekend to understand the practical operations of The Rocks Markets and the impact of the proposed operational changes?
- (2) If so, when?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question 1562.

- *1843 TOTAL WEEKLY GAS 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 gas usage and the Minister's response to Question 1202:

- (1) Is the Minister's answer "No" a response to Part (1) "Does, your department have information on NSW's total weekly gas usage?"
- (2) Given the Minister's response confirms he will only take action in "times of emergency situations", where will he get the information from and what action will he take?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The NSW Department of Water and Energy does not collect gas demand data each week as the NSW gas market clears through arrangements managed by the Gas Market Company (GMC). However when detailed data is required to respond to emergency situations, the Department is able to access daily gas demand data.

Any information required is obtained from relevant industry participants including institutions such as the GMC, and actions will be determined by the nature of the situation.

- *1844 NATURAL GAS SUPPLY LOAD SHEDDING—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 "Inquiry Report on Natural Gas Supply Load Shedding Event of 22 to 24 June 2007" produced by the Department of Water and Energy:

- (1) Has the department received from "gas market participants" their proposed "robust and enforceable arrangements" (p. 4)?
- (2) Which "gas market participants" participated in developing the arrangements?
- (3) When will the relevant bill be introduced in Parliament?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) These questions have been responded to in Question 1551.

- *1845 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What advice does the Domestic Violence unit within the Department of Community Services provide employers or supervisors regarding management of allegations of domestic violence against staff members?
- (2) Is there any intention to develop a publication concerning the management of domestic violence in the workplace?
- (3) Could details be provided?

Answer—

- (1) Advice is available 24 hours, seven days a week from the DoCS state wide Domestic Violence line which provides counselling and referral services. The contact number is 1800 65 64 63.
- (2) No.
- (3) NA.

- *1846 ACQUISITION OF LAND—MACMASTERS BEACH—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Is the department, in conjunction with Gosford City Council, involved in the acquisition of land for a sewerage pump station at MacMasters Beach known as Lot 1, DP 843709 and/or Lot 1, DP 1105645?
- (2) Did the department obtain permission from the owners before construction of the pump station?
 - (a) If so, does the department have evidence of that consent?
 - (b) What is the evidence?

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- (3) Has the department paid compensation to the former owners of the land, Mr and Mrs Chambers?
 (4) (a) Has the department obtained valuations of the land?
 (b) If so, what is the amount?
 (5) (a) Did the former owners and a representative from the department reach an agreement on the value of the land earlier this year?
 (b) If so, why has the department not honoured that agreement?
 (6) What is the present state of negotiations between the department and the former owners?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Commerce is involved in the completion of the Gosford Regional Sewerage Scheme as project manager for the Department of Water and Energy and Gosford Council.

I am advised a construction lease was signed on June 1 1990, by the Chambers and a delegate of the then Minister for Public Works and Ports.

The Department of Commerce, as project manager, has engaged the State Property Authority to undertake the acquisition of property for this project. The State Property Authority falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Finance, The Hon. John Watkins MP.

*1847 CENTRAL COAST HIGHWAY—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What was the final total cost of road-widening along the Central Coast Highway from Terrigal Drive to the Matcham turn-off?
 (2) When will road-widening from Tumbi Road to Oceanview Road Wamberal be completed?
 (3) What is the estimated cost of the works?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Central Coast Highway upgrade between Terrigal Drive and Carlton Road, valued at \$15 million, was open to traffic on 14 August 2007.

The first stage of the Tumbi Road to Ocean View Road upgrade between Tumbi Road and Pitt Road, was open to traffic on 21 December 2007. It is expected the entire \$42 million project will be completed in early 2009 subject to weather.

*1848 TERRIGAL DRIVE—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What plans are there for widening Terrigal Drive, Terrigal?
 (2) When will the works commence?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has committed \$25 million to upgrade Terrigal Drive between Erina Fair and Terrigal over the next four years.

The Roads and Traffic Authority is undertaking a route study along Terrigal Drive to identify potential improvement works.

*1849 PLANNING PANELS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Do you agree with the proposal to establish planning panels at councils?
 (2) Do you share the local government areas' view that planning panels will remove local councillors' capacity to determine local planning issues?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) and (2) Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels are an effective device for dealing with certain types of developments that may be problematic for councils to deal with (eg, developments in which the council has an interest as applicant, or controversial developments).

*1850 AIR TESTING—NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) What air testing is undertaken regarding air quality on the Northern Beaches?
- (2) At what locations is air testing undertaken on the Northern Beaches?
- (3) At what locations is air testing undertaken outside the Northern Beaches but which pertain to the Northern Beaches?
- (4) How often is testing undertaken at locations referred to in (2) and (3)?

Answer—

Sydney's air quality is reported daily as a Regional Pollution Index (RPI). The RPI is produced for three regions in Sydney (Eastern Sydney, North Western Sydney and South Western Sydney) and is available on the Department of Environment and Climate Change website at www.epa.nsw.gov.au/airqual or from the 24 hour Air Pollution Telephone Information Line on 1300 130 520.

The Department will continue to review the way it monitors air quality in line with developments in science and technology, to ensure that it addresses the most pressing environmental and public health priorities in the most effective way possible. The air quality network now uses state-of-the-art technology which gives a greatly improved overall picture of air quality for the entire Sydney Basin, including Western Sydney.

The nearest air quality monitoring location to the Northern Beaches region is a monitoring station at Lindfield. The station is operated by the Department of Environment and Climate Change and records information that is representative of air quality in the upper North Shore of Sydney, and continuously measures levels of ozone, oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide and fine particles.

*1851 NARRABEEN LAGOON CATCHMENT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) What steps will the Minister take to ensure conservation of the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment?
- (2) What is the timeframe for bringing about conservation of the catchment?

Answer—

My colleague the Minister for Lands again refers to the answer to Question 901 which was asked by Mr Hazzard on 16 October 2007.

*1852 UNANSWERED CORRESPONDENCE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Why has the Minister not replied to my letter 07L065 dated 20 June 2007 (your reference RML 97469) seeking extension of a CountryLink bus service to Boorowa?
- (2) As Boorowa is a medium-sized rural town with no public transport connections, will the Minister extend a CountryLink bus service to connect Boorowa to train services from either Harden or Yass Junction stations?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Iemma Government has funded a fifteen month trial of a weekly bus service between Boorowa and Young to allow residents to access a range of services such as medical, shopping, financial, recreational and long distance transport in Young and Yass. The main transport need expressed so far has been to access services in Young. However, according to consumer demand some services to Yass may be coordinated during the trial.

The aim of the trial is to determine community need for transport assistance, possible patronage and the financial viability of a regular bus service linking Boorowa with the regional centres.

The trial is being coordinated by the Boorowa Council and services provided by a local school bus operator. Eleven people booked on the first service provided on 13 December 2007.

*1853 BRIDGE BACK TO LIFE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

- (1) What discussions has the Minister, his staff or the Department of Juvenile Justice had with Ms R Obad or any other representative of the Bridge Back to Life Foundation about the establishment of a hostel for youth at risk in the Young district?
- (2) Is the Department of Juvenile Justice providing any financial assistance to Bridge Back to Life to

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establish this facility?

(3) If so, how much?

Answer—

I am advised:

Neither the Minister for Juvenile Justice, or the Department of Juvenile Justice has had discussions with any representative from the Bridge Back to Life Foundation or Ms R Obad regarding the establishment of a hostel for youth at risk in the Young District.

*1854 OUTSTANDING FEES FOR STATE WARDS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many State Wards or children under the "Care of the Minister for Community Services" attend preschools or early learning centres in NSW?
- (2) How many preschools or early learning centres do these children attend?
- (3) As at 4 December 2007, how many of these preschools are owed outstanding fees by the Department of Community Services?
- (4) How much in total is owed by Department of Community Services for preschool or early learning centre fees for State Wards or children in the Care of the Minister for Community Services?
- (5) What is the average length of time taken by the Department of Community Services to process these fees?
- (6) As at 4 December 2007, what is the longest outstanding period for these unpaid fees?

Answer—

This information is held at a local level. Collecting this data would be an unreasonable diversion of the department's resources.

*1855 SCHOOL BUILDINGS—RUNNING WATER—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) Is it a safety/health requirement of all school buildings (including demountable classrooms) to have running water/tap/sink?
- (2) (a) Is there a standard that refers to this as a requirement?
(b) If so, what is it?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) Yes.

(b) The Schools Facilities Standard specifies the provision of water for curriculum requirements such as art, food technology and science laboratories and for functional areas such as canteen, staff rooms and toilets.

*1856 TRAFFIC COMMITTEES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many local councils in NSW have traffic committees?
- (2) How many of these and which councils meet face-to-face on a regular basis?
- (3) What is the usual timeframe for these meetings i.e. monthly?

Answer—

I am advised:

152 Local Councils in NSW have Local Traffic Committees.

The majority of meetings are held monthly, however some Local Traffic Committees meet more or less frequently as required.

*1857 WATER QUALITY MONITORING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

Now that the sewerage treatment plant at Brooklyn is operational, when will the department vary the environmental protection licence to require regular water quality monitoring of the exclusion zone at the outfall site under the Hawkesbury River bridge?

Answer—

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

*1858 UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE—Ms Sonia Hornery 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 university of Newcastle in:
 - (a) 2006;
 - (b) 2007?
- (2) What is the number that has enrolled, so far, for 2008?
- (3) What number was enrolled in 2007 from the following postcodes:
 - (a) 2284;
 - (b) 2287;
 - (c) 2285;
 - (d) 2308;
 - (e) 2307;
 - (f) 2299;
 - (g) 2305;
 - (h) 2322;
 - (i) 2298?

Answer—

- (1) The number of students attending the University of Newcastle in 2006 was 26,246. In 2007 the number of students was 27,725.
- (2) To date, 6,290 students have enrolled for 2008.
- (3) The number of students enrolled in 2007 from each of the following postcodes is as follows:
 - (a) Postcode 2284—196 students
 - (b) Postcode 2287—1,062 students
 - (c) Postcode 2285—546 students
 - (d) Postcode 2308—77 students
 - (e) Postcode 2307—124 students
 - (f) Postcode 2299—571 students
 - (g) Postcode 2305—519 students
 - (h) Postcode 2322—301 students
 - (i) Postcode 2298—418 students

*1859 INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CRONULLA ELECTORATE—Mr Malcolm Kerr 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 much money has been allocated to infrastructure in the Cronulla electorate in 2007-08?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Please refer to the Budget Papers 2007-08, BP4 Infrastructure Statement, also the member should seek information from the relevant portfolio Ministers.

*1860 COURT CASES IN SUTHERLAND COURT HOUSE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What was the total number of court cases in the Sutherland Court House during:
 - (a) 2005;
 - (b) 2006?
- (2) What is the breakdown of those cases involving:
 - (a) domestic violence offences;
 - (b) assault offences;
 - (c) drink driving offences;
 - (d) traffic offences;
 - (e) child abuse (sexual and physical abuses, child neglect)?
- (3) From the response to (2), how many of those cases resulted in criminal convictions to the defendant?

Answer—

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This question should be addressed to the Attorney General.

*1861 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/AUTISM—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) Which schools in the Cronulla electorate have special classes and/or programs for children with disabilities?
- (2) Which schools in the Cronulla electorate have special classes and/or programs for children with autism?

Answer—

- (1) Endeavour Sports High School has support classes for students with intellectual disability and hearing impairment. In addition funding to 16 of the electorate's schools support 74 students with a disability. Students with disabilities enrolled in public schools in the Cronulla electorate are supported by Sydney Region's student services specialist teams of itinerant teachers (21 positions) based in the Sutherland Shire.
- (2) There are no schools in the Cronulla electorate with special classes for children with autism. Schools in the Cronulla electorate are supported by two specialist autism itinerant teachers who are part of the Sutherland area team. In addition funding is provided to support 28 students with autism in mainstream classes in 13 of the electorate's schools.

*1862 YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVING IN NURSING HOMES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

With respect to the Council of Australian Governments 2006 commitment to reduce the number of young people with disabilities living in nursing homes:

- (1) How many young people with disabilities (defined as under 50) are living in nursing homes in NSW?
- (2) How many young people with disabilities are living in nursing homes in the electorate of Sydney?
- (3) How many young people with disabilities living in nursing homes in NSW have been allocated alternative accommodation since the COAG agreement?
- (4) How many young people with disabilities living in nursing homes in the electorate of Sydney have been allocated alternative accommodation since the COAG agreement?
- (5) What action has the NSW Government taken to provide alternative supported accommodation for young people with disabilities living in nursing homes?
- (6) What additional support services does the NSW Government provide for young people with disabilities who continue to live in nursing homes?
- (7) What support services has the NSW Government established to prevent young people with disabilities from being forced to move into nursing homes?
- (8) How has the Government involved young people with disabilities, their families, and advocacy groups in the development of these policies and programs?
- (9) How many young people with disabilities in NSW remain in nursing homes but would be deemed suitable for alternative accommodation?
- (10) How is the NSW Government monitoring the progress of its COAG commitment?
- (11) How is the NSW Government evaluating these programs and, in particular, their impact on the lives of young people living with disabilities and their families?

Answer—

- (1) As of 31 August 2007, there were 362 younger people under 50 years residing in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) in NSW. This figure is based on the latest data provided by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing.
- (2) The NSW Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program's data on the target population is broken down into Local Government Areas (LGAs) which do not align with this particular electorate. The State Electoral District of Sydney includes parts of the Sydney City, Woollahra and Randwick LGAs.

As at 31 August there were 11 people under the age of 50 years residing in RACFs in the Sydney, Woollahra and Randwick LGAs.

- (3) I am pleased to advise that two younger people currently residing in RACFs have accepted alternative accommodation placements in a new group home in the Hunter Region. A number of additional applicants have been considered for the remaining place, and are undergoing support planning and grouping processes.
- (4) I am advised that at this stage, no alternative accommodation has been procured for young people

residing in RACFs in the Sydney, Woollahra or Randwick LGAs.

- (5) The NSW Government has established three supported accommodation places in the Hunter Region. The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) will shortly implement procurement processes to expand the range of accommodation options for eligible and prioritised applicants.
- (6) Support services to be provided for younger people who continue to live in an RACF include YPIRAC In-Reach services such as therapy, day programs, community access opportunities, assistance with transport and specific equipment to enhance their quality of life. These services also extend to include those people who need to remain in a RACF while suitable alternative accommodation is secured.
- (7) The NSW Government through the YPIRAC Program is currently finalising a framework of support services to prevent younger people from inappropriately entering residential aged care. It is proposed to offer a range of services, which may include topping up existing support services, providing in-home support, providing interim funding for people waiting for other services and establishing alternative accommodation arrangements.
- (8) An Expert Working Group (EWG) has been formed to assist DADHC with policy and program development and implementation. Members were selected for their knowledge of contemporary trends in the provision of disability and/or aged care and their understanding of the support needs of younger people with a disability living in, or at risk of entering residential aged care. Membership includes a carer representative and peak bodies representing the major client groups, for example those with expertise in brain injury, Multiple Sclerosis, Huntington's disease and spinal injury. YPIRAC Program policy requires that individual support planning takes place in consultation with the individual and their family/carers to ensure services are tailored for the individual's needs and circumstances.
- (9) I am advised that as of 16 November 2007, 49 of 167 applications (30%) received from younger people currently residing in RACFs aged 50 years and below were seeking accommodation alternatives to residential aged care. I am further advised that 24 of the 62 people (38%) assessed to date for suitability to move out of RACFs have been recommended to move to alternative accommodation as part of their long term support options. A significant number were also referred to other programs for assistance.
- (10) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care monitors the progress of the YPIRAC Program through internal governance mechanisms. Progress is also monitored by the NSW Government through regular reports on the implementation of Stronger Together and nationally through the Community and Disability Services Minister's Conference.
- (11) Services operated or funded by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care are subject to monitoring under the Department's Integrated Monitoring Framework, which seeks to deliver improved performance and outcomes for clients through consistent and transparent monitoring of accountability and reporting requirements. The YPIRAC Program also operates within a National Evaluation and Performance Reporting Framework which includes program targets and data reporting requirements. A final evaluation will be undertaken by the Australian Government regarding the net reduction of younger people residing in RACFs over the life of the Program. A set of national Quality of Life indicators is currently being formulated under a project commissioned by the Australian Government in consultation with the States and Territories. The NSW Government will finalise its own evaluation framework once the Quality of Life indicators have been fully developed for the Program.

*1863 ALCOHOL RELATED BRAIN INJURY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health—

With respect to Alcohol Related Brain Injury:

- (1) How many people suffer from alcohol related brain injury in NSW?
- (2) How many additional people are diagnosed each year?
- (3) What services does the NSW Government provide for people who have this condition?
- (4) Is it true that the only specialist service for Alcohol Related Brain Injury in Australia is in Melbourne?

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- (5) What education campaigns has the Government carried out to inform the community about Alcohol Related Brain Injury?
- (6) Will the NSW Government work with other Governments to develop a national community awareness campaign?
- (7) What education programs does the NSW Government provide to increase community awareness and prevent Foetal Alcohol Spectral Disorder?
- (8) What treatment and support services does the NSW Government provide to address Foetal Alcohol Spectral Disorder?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I refer the Member to the 1999 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report *The Definition, Incidence and Prevalence of ABI in Australia*, which notes that accurate information about the prevalence of Alcohol Related Brain Injury in Australia is difficult to obtain because people with alcohol related brain injury can be unwilling to come forward for diagnosis, or are less likely to be in contact with the health system.

(3) In NSW, people with alcohol related brain injury are eligible for mainstream drug and alcohol detoxification and residential rehabilitation services.

In addition to this, in response to the Legislative Standing Committee on Social Issue's Report on the *Inebriates Act*, a trial of involuntary drug and alcohol treatment for severely substance dependant people, including eligible people with alcohol related brain injury, will commence within the Sydney West Area Health Service in 2008. Further, in line with the Government's response to recommendations from the Standing Committee, an interagency working group is examining service arrangements for this target group.

(4) NSW Health is not in a position to comment on health services available on an Australia-wide context. The Member may wish to make approaches to relevant Ministers in other jurisdictions for information on this issue.

(5) I can advise that the NSW Government takes a broad approach with its communication and education campaigns in relation to warning the community about the harms of risky drinking and alcohol abuse.

Specific examples of the Government's education and awareness campaigns include the "Be a part of it, not out of it" which was piloted in four parts of NSW during February/March 2007, targeting young males between the ages of 14 and 29. The aim of the campaign was to challenge the culture of how much and the way people drink. The campaign will be expanded in the New Year.

Fact sheets on alcohol-related harms are also available through the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au

The NSW Government has also led work with the Commonwealth Government and the liquor industry to introduce an industry wide approach to labelling alcohol products with clear 'standard drink' information. The new 'standard drink' logos were endorsed by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy in May 2006 and are now appearing on wine, beer and liquor products.

(6) Under the National Alcohol Strategy 2006-2009, which was endorsed by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy in May 2006, a number of information resources have been developed which provide information and guidance for consumers and professionals on safe drinking levels. This may be accessed at www.alcohol.gov.au

(7) and (8) National Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Drug Use during Pregnancy, Birth and the Early Development Years of the Newborn, which include recommendations for the prevention, treatment and care of women and babies with a range of problems including alcohol use and FASD, have been distributed to key stakeholders in NSW including hospitals, maternity services, early childhood services and drug and alcohol services.

There are currently a range of special teams in NSW Area Health Services to care for pregnant women with drug and alcohol issues, their babies and families. The teams provide support to pregnant women and their families throughout the pregnancy, during the birth and in the weeks and months following delivery.

An audit is underway of drugs in pregnancy services in NSW that will consider access to services, model of service, and service standards. The findings of the audit will form the basis for the development of minimum standards for drugs in pregnancy service provision.

At the national level, NSW is represented on the expert Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Working Party that is expected to report to Health Ministers in 2008 on developments in Australia and internationally to address the problem and to identify best practice approaches to reduce the incidence of FASD.

*1864 SYDNEY CBD SPEED LIMIT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that Sydney's Central Business District (CBD) has large volumes of pedestrian activity and the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) says that pedestrians are twice as likely to be killed when hit by a vehicle travelling at 50 kilometres per hour than at 40 kilometres per hour:

Will you agree to reducing Sydney's CBD speed limit to 40 kilometres per hour?

Answer—

I am advised:

Speed limits in NSW are determined by a number of factors including the surrounding conditions, road alignment, road usage, adjacent development, vehicle types and volumes, crash history, the number of access points along the route, the presence of vulnerable road users, roadside hazards and adjoining speed limits.

The existing default 50kmh urban speed limit has strong community support and is in line with the nation-wide introduction of a national 50kmh default urban speed limit.

*1865 ADHD—PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many children and adolescents are diagnosed and assumed to have ADHD within NSW and have been prescribed medications such as dexamphetamines or Ritalin?
- (2) How many general practitioners in NSW are authorised to diagnose and prescribe medications such as dexamphetamines or Ritalin to children and adolescents assumed to have ADHD?
- (3) What level of Government support has there been for the management of children and adolescents supposedly diagnosed with ADHD to be managed with therapy other than dexamphetamines or Ritalin?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) It is not possible to accurately ascertain the number of children who have a diagnosis of ADHD and who have been prescribed medications such as dexamphetamines or Ritalin. Children and adolescents in NSW prescribed stimulants under-authority are expected to meet the guidelines for the diagnosis.
- (2) Less than 10 General Practitioners have an ongoing authority to prescribe stimulants under the CNS program in NSW (i.e. without having to obtain individual authority for each script written for each individual patient). They have this authority based on the isolation of their patients to obtain the prescription in a regional area distant from their usual specialist paediatrician or child psychiatrist. Even in this situation, the child or adolescent is reviewed annually by a specialist.

Other General Practitioners may be granted a once off authorisation for a script in a particular situation for a particular patient based on an application to the NSW Department of Health Pharmaceutical Services Branch under the "other designated person" provision.

- (3) Area Health Service based services offer a range of standard assessment and treatment services tailored to meet the needs of children and adolescents diagnosed with ADHD and their families or carers. The services include psychoeducation, individual behaviour management programs, parent management training, individual and family therapies as well as pharmacotherapy. Other Government agencies such as the Department of Education and Training also provide non-medical support services and programs.

The NSW Government has also established a Special Review Committee for ADHD in children and adolescents in NSW chaired by Professor Phillip Mitchell. The Committee is reviewing the public matters and prescribing practices associated with the assessment and treatment of ADHD. In particular, it is reviewing current practice in the assessment and treatment of ADHD through a survey of medical practitioners approved to prescribe stimulant medications, current developments of clinical guidelines, and undertaking a clinical audit of medical practitioners approved to prescribe stimulants.

*1866 CHATSWOOD TO EPPING RAIL LINE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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- (1) Do the Government's engineering reports and investigations indicate that it is not possible to build a railway station at the UTS Lindfield site?
- (2) Are any decisions or considerations ongoing regarding any new train stations (in addition to those already being constructed) for the Chatswood to Epping rail line?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) There are no additional stations currently being considered as part of the Epping to Chatswood Rail Line project.

*1867 PROGRAM OF APPLIANCES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What consultation did the Health Department undertake specifically with disability groups with respect to the recent review of the Program of Appliances for Disabled People?
- (2) Will a means test be introduced whereby many carers and disabled people will need to make increased co-payments for appliances supplied under the PADP scheme?
- (3) If so, what are the increases in the co-payments?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Broad consultation was undertaken with key disability advocacy groups, non-government organisations providing services for people with disabilities, consumers with disabilities, and relevant area health staff in November and December 2005.

Key stakeholders were advised of, and invited to take part in consultations to inform the review in three area health services. The three host locations were selected to include rural, regional, and metropolitan representation.

A further consultation specifically for peak disability advocacy groups and Non-Government Organisations (NGO) was conducted in metropolitan Sydney. Sixty-five different organisations were invited to attend this meeting.

Similar issues were identified by stakeholders across the three areas and at the peak advocacy consultation.

Invitees were also invited to provide written submissions to the reviewers in response to a prepared discussion paper. The range of comments that were raised during the consultations and in the 35 written submissions received is detailed in the Review.

- (2) and (3) The Review made several recommendations regarding initiatives to be undertaken in relation to co-payments and financial eligibility.

The NSW Government is conducting further work to ensure that any co-payments or financial eligibility criteria applied are reasonable, consistent with other similar government programs, do not impose financial hardship or preclude people with a disability from being able to access the assistance they need.

*1868 REGIONAL FACILITY GRANTS PROGRAM—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) What amount of funding has been budgeted across NSW for this year under the Department of Sport and Recreation's Regional Facility Grants Program?
- (2) How much of that funding has been allocated to the Department's Southern Region?
- (3) What is the breakdown of the statewide allocation region by region?
- (4) Why has the Southern Region's allocation, which is usually around \$500-600,000, been more than halved this year?

Answer—

- (1) Approximately \$1.5M.
- (2) No decision on regional funding allocations has been made at this time.
- (3) See answer to (2).
- (4) See answer to (2).

*1869 DISABILITY HOMES—Mr Geoff Provost asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In relation to disability homes in the Tweed:

- (1) What is the number of disability homes that are currently owned or leased by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care in the Tweed electorate?
- (2) What is the maximum number of disabled persons that could be accommodated in the homes listed in response to (1)?
- (3) What is the actual number of disabled persons currently being accommodated in the homes listed in response to (1)?
- (4) (a) Are there any future plans to lease, purchase or build additional disability homes in the Tweed?
(b) If so, what are they?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) owns/leases two properties in the Tweed Electorate. DADHC owns 30 Parkes Lane, Terranora and this property is operated by a non-government organisation. The John Williams Memorial Charitable Trust owns 11 Caroline Street, Pottsville. I am advised that this property is currently in the design/construction phase and is scheduled to be in operation by mid 2008.
- (2) I am advised that the maximum number of people with a disability that can be accommodated in the Terranora group home is five. The Pottsville property will be a five bedroom children's respite home which, when completed, will have a capacity of five people at any one time.
- (3) I am further advised that the Terranora home currently accommodates four people. A fifth person is currently transitioning to this home. Pottsville has no clients at this stage.
- (4) (a) The future need for Stronger Together growth places over the next 3 years is in the planning phase. Additional facilities for the Tweed area will be known in early 2008.
(b) N/A.

*1870 STAFFING OF DISABILITY HOMES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In relation to the staffing of disability homes in the Tweed:

- (1) What is the number of carers currently employed in disabled persons homes in the Tweed:
 - (a) on a full-time basis;
 - (b) on a part-time basis?
- (2) What is the ratio of carers working in disability homes to disabled persons residing in disability homes for:
 - (a) the Tweed electorate;
 - (b) the rest of NSW (State average)?
- (3) (a) Are there any future plans to increase the number of disability carers in the Tweed electorate?
- (4) (b) If so, what are they?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that there are six group homes in the Tweed electorate, all of which are operated by non-government funded services. The NSW Government funds non-government organisations (NGOs) to provide a range of supports to people with a disability, including staffing. Staff are employed by the individual organisations and staffing levels are based on the day to day needs of the people residing in the house.
- (2) (a) Staffing levels in DADHC funded, NGO operated Group Homes vary depending on the needs of the clients and are subject to a comprehensive tender process. The Department funds hundreds of NGOs and hence average figures are not available.
(b) In the case of DADHC-operated group homes, the average ratio in NSW of full-time equivalent staff per resident is 1.47. It should be noted that the ratio of staff to residents is affected by several variables. These include the assessed support needs of the residents, the number of people in the house, day activity participation and the number of group homes within a defined area e.g. Electorate, Local Planning Area or Region.
- (3) The NSW Government has a number of strategies in place to increase the capacity of services across the state to increase client supports, including building labor force capacity and planning for growth and improvement. Stronger Together, the NSW Government's 10-year plan for disability services which commenced in 2006, provides the framework for planned growth. More than \$1 billion in new funds has been committed to this strategy over its first five years. More than 700 new accommodation places are to be rolled out in NSW between 2008 and 2011 as a result of Stronger Together growth. Planning is underway to determine where and what form these places will take. Regional allocations will take account of the current distribution of places and how this compares to

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equitable population shares. I am pleased to advise that it is likely that the Tweed Local Planning Area will receive some new accommodation places in this period.

*1871 FLYING FOX COLONIES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to flying fox colonies:

Given recent incidents on the NSW North Coast in which colonies of flying foxes are relocating and cannot legally be removed by residents:

What is the NSW Government's policy regarding the relocation of flying fox colonies from private and public property in NSW?

Answer—

The Department of Environment and Climate Change does not generally support the forced relocation of flying fox colonies, except in extreme circumstances. Such measures do not generally prove to be successful in the longer term, and they often result in animal deaths, or the issue simply moving from one location to another.

Rather, the Department seeks to work with communities and local government to develop coordinated flying fox management strategies. Such strategies may involve minor modifications to habitat, while also providing advice to residents as to how best to manage living near a flying fox colony.

In exceptional circumstances, the Department may consider the relocation of a colony. However, this would only be considered as a last option and only where the risk of harm to the colony and individual flying foxes is minimal and where there is a management strategy which clearly shows where the colony will be moved to and how it will be moved.

*1872 EMISSIONS REDUCTION—COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) How does the Government intend to reduce the emissions from the 30 million tonnes of coal consumed annually by NSW coal-fired power stations?
- (2) How will the Government offset the additional emissions if it decides to build the new baseload coal-fired power station recommended by the Owen Inquiry?
- (3) How many trees would need to be planted to offset these new emissions?
- (4) What other proven technology options are available for the NSW electricity market to meet the predicted shortfall of around 10,500 GWh by 2013-14?

Answer—

(1) NSW supports the Commonwealth Government's establishment of a National Emissions Trading Scheme by 2010 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Scheme will set a cap on emissions and the market will determine where emissions can be reduced.

An emissions trading scheme will build on existing greenhouse gas emission reduction activities. For example, in June 2005 the NSW Government became the first Australian jurisdiction to commit to long term green house gas reduction targets. The NSW Greenhouse Plan identifies measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions resulting from electricity produced from coal-fired power stations. These include the NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme, the Climate Change Fund, Energy Savings Action Plans, the Building Sustainability Index and mandatory energy performance standards and labelling of appliances.

(2) and (3) Any new baseload power stations would operate under the national emissions trading scheme. They would need to acquire sufficient emission permits to cover their greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon sequestration through planting trees may be one way to acquire permits.

(4) Energy consumption in NSW is forecast to increase to 91,000 Gigawatt-hours (GWh) a year by 2013-14, an increase of 10,500GWh from 2006-07.

NSW's innovative energy efficiency measures such as BASIX, Energy Savings Action Plans and the Greenhouse Gas Abatement scheme, are currently playing and will continue to play, a significant role in reducing energy consumption.

Renewable energy and other small-scale generation are forecast to provide over 1,500GWh of the 10,500GWh needed.

The Owen Inquiry found the remaining 9,000GWh required annually by 2013-14 is likely to be met by gas- or coal-fired generation. Other technologies such as solar or geothermal are expected to contribute significantly in the longer term.

The Inquiry also found that emissions trading rules will influence the type of generation of any new baseload generation needs. Increased generation from wind, biomass energy, solar thermal and geothermal hot rock could also reduce the reliance on burning coal.

*1873 FTE NURSE NUMBERS IN THE SOUTH EASTERN SYDNEY AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

As at 30 June in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, how many FTE nurses in the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service payroll (excluding agency nurses) were working at:

- (1) Prince of Wales Hospital;
- (2) Royal Hospital for Women;
- (3) Sydney Children's Hospital;
- (4) Sydney Hospital;
- (5) Sydney Eye Hospital;
- (6) St George Hospital;
- (7) Sutherland Hospital;
- (8) Bulli Hospital;
- (9) Coledale Hospital;
- (10) David Berry Hospital;
- (11) Kiama Hospital;
- (12) Milton-Ulladulla Hospital;
- (13) Port Kembla Hospital;
- (14) Shellharbour Hospital;
- (15) Shoalhaven Hospital;
- (16) Wollongong Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, the Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available Annual Reports of the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service. The 2006/07 Annual Report will be available shortly.

*1874 FTE NURSE NUMBER IN THE GREATER WESTERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

As at 30 June in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, how many FTE nurses in the Greater Western Area Health Service payroll (excluding agency nurses) were working at:

- (1) Bathurst Base Hospital;
- (2) Orange Base Hospital;
- (3) Condobolin Health Service;
- (4) Cowra Health Service;
- (5) Parkes Health Service;
- (6) Dubbo Base Hospital;
- (7) Broken Hill Health Service?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

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However, the Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available Annual Reports of the Greater Western Area Health Service. The 2006/07 annual report will be available shortly.

*1875 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How much revenue has been raised from car parking at the following hospitals for each of the financial years beginning 2000-01 up to and including 2006-07 for:

- (1) Albury Base;
- (2) Coffs Harbour;
- (3) Dubbo;
- (4) Lismore;
- (5) Maitland;
- (6) Manning;
- (7) Orange;
- (8) Port Macquarie;
- (9) Shoalhaven;
- (10) Tamworth;
- (11) Tweed Heads;
- (12) Wagga Wagga?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (12) The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely collect or report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities, nor do all health facilities charge a fee for car parking. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Services away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, each Area Health Service is required to publish information on revenue raised from other sources, which includes car parking, in their respective annual reports. Revenue raised from car parking is retained by the Area Health Service to fund clinical services. The Member is referred to the respective Area Health Service Annual Reports. The 2006/07 Annual Reports will be available shortly.

*1876 POLICE HIGHWAY PATROL NUMBERS—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many:

- (a) substantive positions; and
- (b) actual officers

of the Police Highway Patrol have there been in 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and currently, based at Pennant Hills?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Authorised strength figures for Highway Patrol at Pennant Hills for the years requested are as follows. Actual strength figures vary throughout the year depending on staff movements.

Year	Authorised Strength
2004	18
2005	19
2006	19
2007	20

*1877 PLAN OF MANAGEMENT—CHURCH POINT RESERVE—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—

What are the likely environmental impacts of the proposed Plan of Management for the Crown lands at Church Point Reserve in Pittwater?

Answer—

The new master plan that has been developed involves some infill of Pittwater to accommodate off-shore parking and recreational access. A preliminary investigation of the environmental impacts of the filling proposal has been positive and allows the Department of Lands and Pittwater Council to move forward with the development of the Plan of Management. While the Plan will consider further the environmental impacts, full consideration will be undertaken when a development application is lodged.

- *1878 FORESHORE AT CHURCH POINT RESERVE—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—

What discussions have taken place between Pittwater Council and the Department of Lands regarding the proposed reclamation of the foreshore at Church Point Reserve?

Answer—

A committee comprising representatives of on-shore and off-shore residents, Pittwater Council and the Department of Lands has been working on the preparation of a Plan of Management for Church Point for a number of years. The on-shore and off-shore residents have proposed different master plans for the reserve. Senior representatives of Council and the Department met recently to determine which option to adopt in order to move forward to the preparation of a Plan.

- *1879 FISH NURSERY—CHURCH POINT CROWN RESERVE—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 discussions have taken place between Pittwater Council and the Department of Primary Industries regarding the future of the fish nursery at Church Point Crown Reserve?

Answer—

I am advised that there have been no discussions between Pittwater Council and the Department of Primary Industries regarding the future of the fish nursery at Church Point Crown Reserve.

- *1880 DENTAL SERVICES AT KEMPSEY DENTAL CLINIC—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the availability of a public dentist for patients attending the Kempsey Community Health Centre:

- (1) Are no dentists available for the Kempsey community except for students?
- (2) If so, who attends the patients who ring the Dental Hotline and are placed on a waiting list?
- (3) How long do chronic toothache patients within the Kempsey district have to wait on the list?
- (4) What is North Coast Area Health dental policy?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Both adults and children are eligible for treatment at the Kempsey Dental Clinic. The Child Dental Service operates 5 days per week and the Adult Dental Service 1 day per week. In addition, Kempsey clients are given the option to travel to Port Macquarie for treatment at the Port Macquarie Dental Clinic if an urgent appointment is required.

(3) Patients who are triaged as urgent (priority code one) are seen within 24 hours. In addition, all public patients requiring care under the Priority Oral Health Program have access to the Oral Health Fee for Service (voucher scheme) for priority oral health services through arrangements with private dentists.

(4) The North Coast Area Health Service policy for treatment of oral health patients is the NSW Priority Oral Health Program as well as relevant NSW Department of Health Policy Directives.

- *1881 FORSTER-TUNCURRY BRIDGE—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) (a) Has testing been carried out by the Roads and Traffic Authority or any agency authorised by them to determine levels of the sand around the footings of the Forster-Tuncurry Bridge?
- (b) If so, what are the results of such tests?
- (2) If there is insufficient sand for the safety and integrity of the bridge, what does the Roads and Traffic Authority intend to do about it?
- (3) (a) If it involves further sand being placed at or around the footings of the bridge, has the Roads and Traffic Authority considered, in conjunction with other government agencies, the movement of sand

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in Wallis Lake where sand has accumulated to the detriment of channel navigation and oyster farming?

(b) If not, will they?

- (4) If they have, what is the Roads and Traffic Authority's views and those of the other agencies that might be involved in respect of such activity?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA undertakes annual deck level surveys and sand bed level checks near the bridge piers, with the most recent test undertaken in November 2007.

In addition, the Newcastle Port Corporation on behalf of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) carries out annual bed level surveys to monitor sand levels in the immediate vicinity of the bridge.

The surveys indicate bed levels near the bridge have not altered significantly over the last several years and sand levels near the piers do not require additional sand placement at this time.

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- *1882 MENTAL HEALTH WARDS—MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) How many wards are currently open at the Mount Druitt Hospital?
- (2) How many of the above are for mental health patients?
- (3) With the recent announcements of an expansion of mental health services at the Blacktown and Nepean Hospitals, what impact will these announcements have on mental health services at Mount Druitt?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 9.
- (2) 1 transitional behavioural assessment intervention service unit.
- (3) Any enhancements of the mental health service at Blacktown or Nepean Hospitals benefit the citizens of Mount Druitt. The Sydney West Mental Health Service operates as a network and all residents of Sydney West have access to all services according to need. Blacktown Hospital is the main mental health provider for the city of Blacktown, including Mount Druitt.

Acute ambulatory services provide mental health assistance and treatment at the Mount Druitt Hospital Emergency Department, and if patients are assessed as needing hospitalisation or more intensive treatment, they are transferred and admitted to the Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre or Acute Inpatient Unit at Blacktown Hospital. The community of Mount Druitt has equal access to mental health services provided to the Blacktown community. In addition, a general outpatient mental health clinic and a perinatal mental health service, including community visits, are provided at the Mount Druitt Community Health Centre.

Sydney West Area Health Service was recently granted \$1M for youth mental health services. It is proposed that this service will be based in Mount Druitt.

- *1883 NEW MARINE PARK—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Will the Minister rule out a new marine park south of the Batemans Marine Park in the Twofold bioshelf?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of industry concerns about statements made by the National Parks Association?

Answer—

The NSW Government has no plans to establish new marine parks at this time.

- *1884 PRINCES HIGHWAY INTERSECTION—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When will you answer correspondence relating to the intersection of the Princes Highway and the Anglican College south of Bega?
- (2) Will you ensure a slip lane is placed for vehicles travelling south from the college at the intersection?
- (3) Are you aware of the concerns of the BCA about this intersection?

Answer—

I am advised:

A reply has been sent.

*1885 NSW PATIENTS TREATED IN CANBERRA HOSPITAL—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will the State Government approve one central health facility in the Eurobodalla?
- (2) How much has the NSW Government paid the ACT Government to treat NSW patients in Canberra Hospital in 2006-07 and 2005-06?
- (3) (a) How many patients from the Bega electorate were treated in Canberra?
(b) How many were from the Eurobodalla Shire and Bega Valley Shire?
- (4) What specialties were required in treating these patients and what is the breakdown of patient numbers?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The redevelopment of a hospital in the Eurobodalla Shire is identified as a project for consideration in future years in the NSW Department of Health's Capital Strategic Investment Plan. Planning for the development of a regional hospital will be considered against other works in progress across the Greater Southern Area Health Service.
- (2) Payments for cross-border patient flows between NSW and the ACT in the time period specified have not yet been finalised.
- (3) and (4) The information sought is not routinely collected and reported on an electorate basis and to answer the question would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Greater Southern Area Health Service from the exercise of its core functions.

*1886 ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION AND GREENHOUSE 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—

In relation to electricity consumption and greenhouse emissions in NSW:

- (1) Does the Minister have access to information detailing the emissions from (in millions of tonnes) and consumption (in GWh) of NSW electricity in each year from 2003 to 2007 to date (given that Figure 4 in the "Energy Directions Green Paper" displays "Electricity Consumption and Greenhouse Emissions in NSW" (p. 12) only up to 2002)?
- (2) If so, what are the results for each year from 2003 to 2007 to date?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Yes.

Financial Year ending 30 June	Electricity consumed in NSW (GWh)	Estimated Greenhouse Emissions from NSW electricity consumption (Million Tonnes)
2003	61,233	60.8
2004	62,599	64.2
2005	64,514	67.8
2006	66,157	70.7
2007	67,683	72.3

*1887 GREENHOUSE GAS ABATEMENT SCHEME—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 NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme and the Minister's response to Question 1306:

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- (1) Given that the Minister stated the "Scheme Administrator is currently in the process of modifying the Scheme Registry to allow online access to enhanced information", when will the Scheme Registry be available online?
- (2) What attributes of the Scheme Registry will be available online?
- (3) What attributes of the Scheme Registry will be searchable online?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Scheme Registry is currently available online.
- (2) and (3) In addition to the existing registers of accredited Abatement Certificate Providers and Abatement Certificates, an enhanced capability to search certificate creation by accredited Abatement Certificate Providers online is currently under development. As the Scheme Administrator, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal advises that subject to satisfactory testing, the enhanced Scheme Registry is expected to be available online by May 2008.

*1888 FEED-IN TARIFFS—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 feed-in tariffs and the Minister's response to Question 1268:

- (1) Is the Minister aware industry advice is that a viable feed-in tariff would encourage large-scale commercial premises to install PV solar panels, which would dramatically reduce electricity demand by those businesses and provide a net increase in the network's electricity supply during daylight hours?
- (2) If so, what action will the Minister take with regard to feed-in tariffs?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The NSW Government will be working co-operatively with the Commonwealth through the Council of Australian Governments to develop a consistent national approach to feed-in tariffs.

*1889 ROADWORKS—AVOCA DRIVE—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When will roadworks on Avoca Drive, Green Point be completed?
- (2) What other roadworks are proposed for Avoca Drive?
- (3) When will they commence?

Answer—

I am advised:

The upgrade of Avoca Drive to four lanes between the Central Coast Highway and Sun Valley Road opened to traffic on 19 December 2007.

Further information regarding the Avoca Drive upgrade is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1890 TRAVEL TEN TICKETS FOR PENSIONERS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Has the Minister received expressions of concern from seniors groups and senior individuals regarding the lack of Travel Ten ticketing for pensioners?
- (2) What steps will you take to address the concerns of pensioners regarding these concerns?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government's major reform of bus services has extended government concession arrangements onto private bus services in metropolitan Sydney and the outer metropolitan bus contract areas of Newcastle, Wollongong, the Central Coast, the Blue Mountains and the Lower Hunter.

As a result, the Pensioner Excursion Ticket (PET) is now available on services provided by private bus operators as well as on CityRail and government bus and ferry services. Priced at a flat rate of \$2.50, the PET provides for all day travel across the metropolitan transport network.

Following the introduction of a number of pre-paid services across the State Transit network, open dated PETs and half fare single ride tickets are now available to pensioners and seniors from most TransitShops

and ticket agents along State Transit's pre-paid bus routes. Multiple PETs and single ride tickets can be purchased in advance and validated when first used.

*1891 LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What number of Local Environmental Plans are awaiting consideration and/or approval by the Minister?
- (2) What are the councils from which LEPs are awaiting consideration and/or approval by the Minister?
- (3) On what dates were each of the LEPs submitted to the Minister?

Answer—

- (1) As at December 12, 2007, there are no LEP's in my office awaiting consideration and/or approval.
- (2) and (3) Not applicable.

*1892 DEVELOPMENTS UNDER PART 3A—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) In considering the criteria for determining whether to take in developments under Part 3A, why does the Minister fail to fully detail to the relevant communities his reasons for so doing?
- (2) What information does the Minister consider he should release to affected communities?

Answer—

- (1) The Major Projects SEPP provides a list of types of development and specified sites which can be considered major projects.

For some projects (eg retail, residential or commercial above \$50M in value) and State Significant Sites, the Minister must decide if such a development is important in achieving State or regional planning objectives before it is declared to be a Major Project.

- (2) The Department has already placed guidelines relating to these developments on its website for public information.

*1893 PROPOSED EPURON WIND FARM AT GULLEN RANGE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Crookwell airfield is situated within 3 kilometres of the proposed wind turbine locations in the Gullen Range Wind Farm?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the project application for the proposed development of the Gullen Range Wind Farm does not mention the location of the airfield or its proximity to the Wind Turbine locations?
- (3) Has the Department of Planning had any consultation with Epuron regarding the proximity of the Crookwell airfield to the proposed wind farm?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am advised by the Department of Planning that the Project Application does not mention this.
- (3) I am advised that the Director-General's requirements for the Environmental Assessment states that it must address aviation issues. The requirements specifically state that the impacts on the operation of the Crookwell airstrip must be considered.

*1894 YOUNG HOSPITAL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Has the Young Hospital urgently requested a new ECG machine, a new humidicrib and an IStat machine from the Greater Southern Area health Service?
- (2) How old is the current equipment that these items will replace?
- (3) On what date was the request made for this new equipment?
- (4) What is the reason for the delay in providing this new equipment to Young Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (4) No urgent request has been made for this equipment.

*1895 DOCS AND ITS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE FAMILY OF DEAD BABY FOUND IN NEWCASTLE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

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- (1) With regard to the family of the baby found dead wrapped in a blanket inside a shopping bag in Belmont North on 4 December 2007, what involvement has DoCS had with the family in the past ten years?
- (2) Has your department ever taken one of the four siblings into care or removed them from their family?
- (3) How long has the family been known to DoCS?
- (4) What correspondence, if any, has there been between DoCS and the Department of Housing regarding this family?
- (5) What systems does your Department have in place to provide effective communication with other related departments to allow for interagency cooperation?
- (6) Are the siblings of the dead baby currently in the care of DoCS or their father?
- (7) Is it your intention to return the children to the care of their mother?

Answer—

(1) to (4), (6) and (7) As the matter is subject to Court proceedings, it is inappropriate to provide further comment at this time.

(5) The NSW Interagency Guidelines for Child Protection Intervention sets out the processes for NSW agencies, including Health, Police, Housing and Education, to work together effectively with the Department of Community Services to help children, young people and their families.

*1896 BEROWRA AND BROOKLYN POLICE BUILDINGS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Will both Berowra and Brooklyn police buildings be reopened for 24-hour occupancy and activity?
- (2) If no, will either be opened and if so for how many hours in 24 hours?

Answer—

Local Area Commanders determine staffing allocations and operational hours at police stations with a view to providing maximum police coverage of the area to meet community needs. Staffing allocations and operating hours may therefore vary according to operational requirements.

*1897 MAINTENANCE WORKS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS—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) In relation to the answer to Question 1247, which schools listed are having what work specifically?
- (2) What is the individual cost of this work?

Answer—

The NSW Labor Government is investing a record \$873 million this financial year to upgrade and maintain NSW public schools and TAFEs. This funding includes over \$700,000 per day on maintenance to ensure schools and TAFEs are safe and efficient places to teach and learn.

The Department of Education and Training has identified maintenance work to be carried out at the following schools in the Hornsby electorate:

Asquith Boys High School

- Repair of basketball courts—actual cost \$56,566
- Repair of trip hazards in playground—actual cost \$48,137.

Asquith Girls High School

- Repair of ceiling fans in 6, 18, TD3, Block B - BR1003, Block F - FR1004 & FR1001—contracted free service
- Car park repair—estimated cost \$132,000
- Sand and reseal timber floor—estimated cost \$15,400
- Painting of window frames—estimated cost \$279,180.

Asquith Public School

- Repair of water leaks, damage to ceilings and walls in Block A—contracted free service
- Repair of playground paving—actual cost \$24,924.

Cherrybrook Technology High School

- Repair of window crack in demountable K4—estimated cost \$320
- Repair of roof leaks in NS110, 15551, room K14—contracted free service
- Repair of roof leaks, carpets dried out, deodorised and given anti-bacterial treatment or replaced

in demountable 11015704 K7—contracted free service
Replacement of carpet—actual cost \$56,263.

Clarke Road School

Eradication of spiders—actual cost \$514
Repair of leaking cisterns in toilets in Block B and infants' demountable D11503—contracted free service.

Galston High School

Work to stop possum entering Lab 3—actual cost \$224
Repair to sliding door in woodwork room C3R0005—actual cost \$114
Repair of eaves—estimated cost \$11,000
Sanding and reseal of timber floor—estimated cost \$22,000.

Galston Public School

Repair of floor in BOOD—actual cost \$19,321.

Hornsby Girls High School

Repainting of window frames and sills—estimated cost \$360,910.

Hornsby Heights Public School

Repair of heater in administration block—contracted free service
Repair of roof leak in Block A—contracted free service.

Hornsby North Public School

Repainting of external surfaces—estimated cost \$155,100.
Sanding and resealing of timber floor—estimated cost \$13,200.

John Purchase Public School

Replacement of asphalt paving—estimated cost \$42,328
Painting of covered walkways—estimated cost \$51,700
Sanding and resealing of timber floor—estimated cost \$15,180
Replacement of wall tiling—estimated cost \$11,000.

Normanhurst Public School

Repainting of external surfaces—estimated cost \$58,300
Sanding and resealing of timber floor—estimated cost \$9,900.

Normanhurst West Public School

Repair of roof leak in Block B—contracted free service.

Thornleigh West Public School

Replacement of light diffuser in hall—estimated cost \$100
Installation of gas fitter to connect gas oven to school hall kitchen and disposal of old oven—estimated cost \$1,000
Replacement of control gear in emergency fluoro in hall—estimated cost \$150
Sanding and resealing of timber floor—estimated cost \$24,200.

Waitara Public School

Replacement of fluoro tubes in library and classroom—contracted free service.

Wideview Public School

Repair of Block F outside lights and replacement bolts for outside electrical box—estimated cost \$500
Repair of leaking urinals in boys' toilets—contracted free service
Repair of basketball court—estimated cost \$22,000.

*1898 HORNSBY POLICE STATION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Is any maintenance work planned for Hornsby Police Station?
- (2) If yes, what is it and what will be spent?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Maintenance expenditure for Hornsby police station is budgeted for each month. Additionally, Minor Works for the station for the financial year 2007- 08 are estimated at \$11,600.

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*1899 CAPITAL ASSISTANCE AND REGIONAL FACILITY PROGRAMS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) (a) How much money was allocated to the Wallsend electorate from the Capital Assistance Program in 2006-07?
(b) What projects was this for?
- (2) (a) How much money was allocated to the Wallsend electorate from the Regional Facility Program in 2006-07?
(b) What projects was this for?
- (3) When will the 2007-08 allocation be announced?

Answer—

- (1) (a) \$49,320.
(b) Three applications from the Wallsend electorate were received under the 2006-07 Capital Assistance Program, all were successful in receiving funding as follows:
Newcastle City Council - \$14,320 for extension of Col Curran Oval.
Lake Macquarie City Council - \$10,000 for construction of shelters over grandstands and two team weather shelters at Edgeworth Sporting Oval.
Shortland RSL Junior Soccer Club - \$25,000 for construction of change room and toilet facilities at Tuxford Park.
- (2) (a) \$110,000.
(b) One application was received from the Wallsend electorate and was successful in receiving funding as follows:
Newcastle City Council for the construction of five additional holes and upgrade of course at Beresfield Golf Club.
- (3) The announcement of successful projects for the 2007-08 Capital Assistance Program is imminent while the Regional Sports Facility Program announcement of successful projects is anticipated January/February 2008.

*1900 NEW ACCOMMODATION AND MEDICAL CENTRE—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Health—

Given the Minister's decision to sell the Queen Mary Building located at RPA Hospital and commit the funds from the sale to a new accommodation and medical centre on Missenden Road:

- (1) What is the time frame and costing for the new accommodation and medical centre?
- (2) What are the intended numbers from country areas that will be accommodated?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The development of the affordable accommodation is part of the proposed Northwest Precinct development, which is incorporated in the RPA Hospital Western Campus draft Masterplan and Development Strategy. This strategy is currently under review and, once completed, will be submitted to Treasury for consideration.
The costs associated with the development of the affordable accommodation cannot be separated from the overall North West Project and its cost plan, which is yet to be agreed and market tested.
- (2) The specific numbers have yet to be identified.

*1901 LOCAL AREA COMMANDS—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What are the details regarding "flexible" v "block" rostering in the Local Area Commands of Barwon, Castlereagh and Bourke?
- (2) How many officers are registered undertaking second jobs in each command?
- (3) What is the number of officers in each command on restricted duties and workers compensation?
- (4) What is the ratio of staff over a 24 hour period compared to call demand, as per graphs outlined in the recent Auditor-General's Report into Police Rostering, page 4?
- (5) What is the amount of rostered time police are present and on duty at all "single" police stations?

Answer—

Staff allocations and leave management are a matter for the Local Area Commander. As stated in the House on 5 December 2007, the Commissioner is working with his senior officers to ensure that staff are rostered appropriately and this process takes into account the information in the Auditor-General's report.

*1902 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many Department of Community Services staff are employed in the Sutherland shire?
- (2) (a) How many caseworkers are employed in the Sutherland Shire?
(b) How many of this number have experience of one year or more?
- (3) What is the average caseload for caseworkers in the Sutherland Shire?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) This information is not collected by local government area.

*1903 CAR PARKING REVENUE—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

How much revenue has been raised from car parking at Sutherland Hospital for years beginning 2003 up to and including 2006-07?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Member asked a similar question at LA 1326. I refer the Member to the response provided to that question.

*1904 SCHOOL ZONES—WAGGA WAGGA ELECTORATE—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many accidents have occurred in 40 kph school zones in the Wagga Wagga electorate in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many people have been fined for speeding in 40 kph school zones in the Wagga Wagga electorate in the past 12 months?

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

Information relating to speeding fines is a matter for the Treasurer.

*1905 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) How many people were nominated for the Volunteer of the Year award and what were their names?
- (2) From what electorates were the nominees?
- (3) Who were the winners and from what electorates?
- (4) Who decides who the successful candidates are?
- (5) Is there a committee who chooses the finalists and if so, what is the name of the committee?
- (6) What are the details of the criteria for selection of the finalists?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) The inaugural NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards were established and independently conducted by The NSW Centre for Volunteering.

For reasons of privacy of the nominees, I am unable to release their names. Information is not sorted into electorates, as this is irrelevant to the nomination and judging process.

However, I can advise that more than 160 nominations were received, from over 140 locations throughout metropolitan, rural and regional NSW.

This is a great success for the first year of the Awards and I extend my thanks to the Centre for Volunteering for this achievement.

Judges for the Awards were from a broad cross-section of youth, community service, environmental, health care and health promotion organisations, in addition to local council and volunteering peak body representatives.

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Extensive details on the Awards, including the 2007 winners and the eligibility criteria, are publicly available at the NSW Centre for Volunteering's website at:

http://www.volunteering.com.au/latest_news/nsw_volunteer_award/index.asp

- *1906 BAULKHAM HILLS AMBULANCES—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health—
How many ambulances are permanently stationed in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area?
Answer—
I am advised that:
The NSW Ambulance Service does not allocate ambulances on the basis of Local Government Area.
- *1907 BAULKHAM HILLS AMBULANCE OFFICERS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health—
How many ambulance officers are stationed in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area?
Answer—
I am advised that:
The NSW Ambulance Service does not allocate ambulance officers on the basis of Local Government Area.
- *1908 PROPOSED UNDERPASS AT WINDSOR ROAD—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
What is the present position in respect of the proposed underpass at Windsor Road at the intersection of Old Northern Road and Seven Hills Road?
Answer—
I am advised:
Preliminary construction work is continuing on the bus priority project being undertaken on Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills.
- *1909 BAULKHAM HILLS TOWN CENTRE DCP—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
In respect of the Baulkham Hills Town Centre DCP recently approved by Baulkham Hills Council, what steps does the Minister propose to take in the consultation process instigated by council to build an underpass under Windsor Road at the intersection of Windsor Road, Old Northern Road and Seven Hills Road?
Answer—
I am advised that Baulkham Hills Shire Council has resolved to consult with RTA and Ministry of Transport in relation to a proposal to build an underpass under Windsor Road within Baulkham Hills Town Centre. I am not aware of any request from Council for myself or my Department to be involved in this consultation process at this stage.
- *1910 DISCLOSURE OF DESALINATION PIPELINE CONTRACT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
Given that SydneyWater published details of the desalination project contract in line with Section 15A of the Freedom of Information Act 1989, despite being exempt as a State Owned Corporation because it said that it wanted "to be open and transparent when it comes to this important project", and that construction of the pipelines to Erskineville are a necessary part of the project:
Will the contract between SydneyWater and the successful tender for construction of the desalination water delivery pipelines be disclosed in accordance with Section 15A of the Freedom of Information Act 1989?
Answer—
I am advised:
Although Sydney Water, as a State Owned Corporation, is exempt from Section 15A of the Freedom of Information Act 1989, the contract for the desalinated water pipeline and a summary will be placed on the Sydney Water website.
- *1911 HOUSING NSW DEFICITS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

With respect to the October 2007 Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute report "Operating deficits and public housing: policy options for reversing the trend: 2005/06 update" which found that Australian housing authorities face increasing demand and higher costs leading to budget deficits and worsening backlogs:

- (1) How does the Housing NSW deficit for 2006-07 per dwelling compare to the reported \$2,745 deficit per dwelling for 2005-06?
- (2) Did the reported levelling out in 2005-06 of the proportion of low income households and people with multiple support needs being allocated social housing continue in 2006-07?
- (3) Has the reported growth in salary, administrative and related costs continued to moderate in 2006-07, as reported for 2005-06?
- (4) Did the expenditure on maintenance continue to increase in 2006-07 as reported in 2005-06?
- (5) Does the Government plan other strategies to increase rental income following the changes to market rents and introduction of water use charges?
- (6) What is the Government's estimated capital backlog at the end of 2006-07 compared to 2005-06?
- (7) How many units of public housing were lost in 2006-07 as a result of the strategy to cover deficits by selling housing stock?
- (8) Will the NSW Government apply a Community Service Obligation for the difference between the commercial price and the rent paid by concession holders as recommended by AHURI in order to cover these operating deficits?
- (9) Will the NSW Government work with the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to develop cooperative strategies to increase social housing and prevent future budget deficits?

Answer—

- (1) The actual 2005/06 deficit per dwelling reported in the AHURI report is \$2,510 not \$2,745 as indicated in the Member's question. This compares with the 2006/07 figure of \$2,537.
- (2) Income eligibility limits set by Housing NSW result in all households that are housed in public housing in NSW being "low income" households. The numbers of newly housed tenants that present with indicators of complex or multiple support needs has increased slightly since 2005/06.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not at the current time. The Government is mindful that the majority of public housing tenants are receiving government support and are on limited incomes.
- (6) The 2006-07 maintenance backlog has declined by approximately \$34 million.
- (7) Nil. Housing NSW does not sell stock to cover operating deficits. The proceeds of sales of housing stock are used to fund the building or acquisition of new public housing stock.
- (8) The NSW Government will be working with the Commonwealth Government and other States and Territories to develop options to address operating deficits in the context of a new National Housing Agreement.
- (9) Yes.

*1912 INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES—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—

In light of the Western Australian Government's commitment to ensure that every school in WA is inclusive of children with intellectual disabilities:

- (1) Is the NSW Government aware of the WA Government's inclusive education policy?
- (2) What is the NSW Government's policy on inclusive education?
- (3) What action has the NSW Government taken to ensure that schools meet the needs of children with intellectual disabilities?
- (4) What action has the Government taken to include children with intellectual disabilities in schools in the Sydney electorate?
- (5) How does the NSW Government work with the families of children with intellectual disabilities to ensure the effectiveness of inclusive education programs?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) The Western Australian Government's inclusion policy for students with an intellectual disability is modelled on the NSW Department of Education and Training's Funding Support Program. The NSW Government meets its obligations to provide educational access for all students through a wide range of provisions. This includes providing parents with a choice on the type of

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educational setting they want for their child. Access to the NSW curriculum is supported by an extensive range of specialist services to support students in the educational setting in which they are enrolled.

The educational needs of all children including those with intellectual disabilities are met through the mandatory curriculum of NSW schools. This curriculum is supported by extensive special education services which support students who may require accommodations and learning adjustments. Teachers use their professional judgement to align the individual needs of children with the mandatory curriculum requirements set down by the NSW Board of Studies. Teachers in NSW government schools draw on specific educational services to meet the needs of children with intellectual disabilities. These services include specialist support for teachers, targeted funding and support in regular and special schools.

In 2007 the NSW Government allocated in excess of \$80 million to support students with disabilities enrolled in regular schools. Schools use this targeted funding to provide additional teacher time, additional teacher aide time, professional development for their teachers, as well as time for planning and programming.

In the Sydney electorate this year, more than \$280,000 has been allocated to support more than 40 students with disabilities in regular classes. In addition, specialist teachers work in NSW government schools in the Sydney electorate to support students with intellectual disabilities.

NSW government schools support parents and caregivers through engaging them in curriculum planning for their children. They further support parents by linking other government services and non government provisions supporting the needs of their family and children. Parents play a critical role in an annual review of their child's education. This review process is conducted by schools and assists teachers to design, deliver and evaluate the learning programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

*1913 NORTH SHORE LINE—EXTRA TRACK—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What plans are there for building an extra track on the North Shore line:
 - (a) south of Chatswood;
 - (b) north of Chatswood?
- (2) What timeframes are attached to these plans?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding expansion of the North Shore Line in relation to the proposed CBD Rail Link is available on the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation's website, www.tidc.nsw.gov.au

*1914 DISABILITY HOMES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In relation to disability homes in the Davidson Electorate:

- (1) What is the number of disability homes that are currently owned or leased by the department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care in the Davidson electorate?
- (2) What is the maximum number of disabled persons that could be accommodated in the homes listed in response to (1)?
- (3) What is the actual number of disabled persons currently being accommodated in the homes listed in response to (1)?
- (4) (a) Are there any future plans to lease, purchase or build additional disability homes in Davidson?
(b) If so, what are they?

Answer—

(1) I am advised that the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care owns/leases 7 accommodation/respite properties in the Davidson Electorate. As summarised below:

- 4 owned DADHC operated group homes
- 1 owned non Government Organisation operated group home
- 1 owned and DADHC operated respite centre
- 1 Children's respite home under construction (owned by the John Williams Memorial Charitable Trust)

TABLE A

Address	Type	Max no of people	Actual no. of people
2 Paul Avenue ST IVES	Group home - DADHC owned/operated	4	4
56 Yarrabin Road BELROSE	Group home - DADHC owned/operated	4	3
1 Kambora Avenue FRENCHS FOREST	Group home - DADHC owned/operated	4	4
42 Boundary Street ROSEVILLE	Group home - DADHC owned/operated	5	5
1 Shanuk Street BELROSE	Group home – Non Government Organisation operated	4	4
6 Karalta Crescent BELROSE	Respite – DADHC owned/operated	4	Vary but max 4
20 Aparra Street FORESTVILLE	Respite (John Williams Property - under construction)	4	0

(2) Please see TABLE A above for the maximum number of persons with a disability that could be accommodated in the homes listed in response to (1).

(3) Please see TABLE A above for the actual number of persons with a disability currently being accommodated in the homes listed in response to (1).

(4) (a) The future need for Stronger Together growth places over the next 3 years is in the planning phase. Additional facilities for the Davidson area will be known early in 2008.

(b) N/A.

*1915 STAFFING OF DISABILITY HOMES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In relation to staffing of disability homes in the Davidson electorate:

- (1) What is the number of carers currently employed in disabled persons homes in the Davidson electorate:
 - (a) on a full-time basis;
 - (b) on a part-time basis?
- (2) What is the ratio of carers working in disability homes to disabled persons residing in disability homes for:
 - (a) the Davidson electorate;
 - (b) the rest of NSW (State average)?
- (3) (a) Are there any future plans to increase the number of disability carers in the Davidson electorate?
(b) If so, what are they?

Answer—

(1) (a) I am advised that there are 32 full time staff employed in group homes operated by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) in the Davidson Electorate.

(b) I am advised that there are 43 part-time staff employed in DADHC operated group homes.

In addition there are casual staff employed to fill shifts that are not covered by full time or part time employees.

The total number of positions attached to group homes in Davidson is 72.59 (full time equivalent).

It should be noted that there are also a number of group homes operated by non-government organisations in the Davidson electorate.

(2) (a) I am advised that there are 49 people with a disability residing in 12 DADHC operated group homes in Davidson, giving a ratio of 1.48 full time equivalent staff per resident.

(b) The average ratio for NSW of full time equivalent staff per resident is 1.47. It should be noted that the ratio of staff to residents will be affected by several variables. These include the assessed support needs of the residents, the number of residents in the house, day activity participation and the number of group homes within a defined area e.g. Electorate, Local Planning Area or Region.

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- (3) (a) and (b) At the present time there are no plans to increase the number of positions attached to homes in Davidson. DADHC is however in negotiation with the Public Service Association about the Community Living Award. DADHC is proposing to place a team leader in each of the 12 houses. This will not affect direct care hours, but it would provide the equivalent of a 0.4 full time position per house for administrative purposes.

*1916 HOUSING PROPERTIES—KU-RING-GAI ELECTORATE—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

What is the number of housing properties by suburb owned or leased within the Ku-ring-gai electorate?

Answer—

As at June 2007, Housing NSW has 160 owned or leased properties in various suburbs within the Ku-ring-gai electorate.

*1917 WATER RESTRICTIONS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) How many fines have been issued in 2007 within the Ku-ring-gai local government area for breaches of the city's water restrictions?
- (2) What is the latest estimate of the reduction in water use for Ku-ring-gai residents for the years:
 - (a) 2004;
 - (b) 2005;
 - (c) 2006;
 - (d) 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) As at 6 December 2007 the total number of fines issued for the Ku-ring-gai local government area is 13.
- (2) The average yearly water use for houses in Ku-ring-gai is:
 - (a) 315 kilolitres for 2003-04;
 - (b) 285 kilolitres for 2004-05;
 - (c) 288 kilolitres for 2005-06;
 - (d) 271 kilolitres for 2006-07.

*1918 UTS—KURING-GAI CAMPUS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

What is the timetable for the Department of Planning to decide on the handling of the proposal from UTS to redevelop its Kuring-gai campus?

Answer—

I am advised that the Department of Planning is awaiting a response to submissions and preferred project from the applicant.

A community reference group meeting will be held in January. The Department will independently assess the proposal and make its report and recommendation to me.

There is no "timetable" other than the steps that must be undertaken by statute.

*1919 VISITORS TO NATIONAL PARKS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What are the latest estimates for the number of annual visitors to:

- (a) Lane Cove National Park; and
- (b) Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park?

Answer—

The Department of Environment and Climate Change's most recent estimate for the number of annual visits to Lane Cove National Park is 1,338,000, while the estimate for Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is 2,231,000 annual visits.

As people may visit a national park more than once during the year, parks agencies estimate 'visits' rather than 'visitors' in assessing park use.

*1920 KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What is either the actual or estimated number of vehicles entering/leaving Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park at:

- (a) North Turrumurra; and
- (b) Mount Colah?

Answer—

Vehicle entries to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park are estimated to be approximately 167,000 per year at North Turrumurra and 160,000 per year at Mount Colah.

*1921 REGATTA STREET BOAT DOCK—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) Given that in 2005 Maunsells consultants were commissioned by NSW Maritime to report on the viability of an upgrade to the Regatta Street Boat Dock and its precinct and that after consultation with stakeholders the proposed concept was broadly accepted, why has Maunsells 2005 report been withheld from the stakeholders?
- (2) Can the Minister advise what plans for the future, if any, NSW Maritime has for the Regatta Boat Dock?
- (3) Why are NSW Maritime officials refusing permission to current berth holders at the Regatta Street Dock to make any improvements or repairs to their berths?
- (4) Is the Minister aware of any objections NSW Maritime may have to the current berth holders leasing the Regatta Street Boat Dock directly from the Department of Lands?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) I can advise that NSW Maritime is in discussion with NSW Lands regarding the future management of the Ballina Boat Harbour, Regatta Avenue Ballina, and foreshore. The Maunsell study was commissioned to investigate options for the potential redevelopment of the boat harbour. This study forms a part of the ongoing discussions which are progressing and a decision on the future operations of the facility is expected soon. NSW Maritime will meet mooring licence holders if necessary to discuss their concerns.

*1922 POLICING OF TWEED WATERWAYS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Given that the establishment of the Water Police branch on the Tweed River enables the river to be patrolled 24-hours a day thereby reducing incidents of drink-driving and misbehaviour:

- (1) (a) Are there any plans to establish a permanent NSW Water Police branch on the Tweed River?
(b) If so, what are they?
- (2) If yes, what is the proposed date for which this branch on the Tweed River will be operational?
- (3) What is the number of drink-driving infringements issued on the Tweed River during 2006 and 2007 year-to-date?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) and (2) The allocation of resources within a Command is a matter for the Commander. Commanders routinely explore a range of options to provide the most effective policing response.
- (3) The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics. I suggest the Honourable Member's question is more appropriately addressed to the Attorney General, within whose portfolio the Bureau resides.

*1923 PETROLEUM PRODUCTS SUBSIDY SCHEME—NORTHERN NSW—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Given that the Minister has previously advised on the total dollar value of petroleum supplied to Northern NSW from the period 2000-01 to present:

- (1) What is the dollar value of the subsidy applied to the provision of both diesel and unleaded petroleum to the Zone 1 region for each financial year beginning 2000-01 to present?
- (2) What is the dollar value of the subsidy applied to the provision of both diesel and unleaded petroleum to the Zone 2 region for each financial year beginning 2000-01 to present?

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Answer—

This question should be directed to the Treasurer, as the administration of the Petroleum Products Subsidy Scheme Act 1997 falls within his portfolio.

*1924 STAFFING LEVELS OF RURAL AND REGIONAL PUBLIC HOSPITALS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given the Minister has advised that she intends to increase staffing levels in rural and regional public hospitals by 16%:

- (1) What is the number of staff currently employed in the Tweed Hospital?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the figure provided in (1) into:
 - (a) administration and support staff;
 - (b) nursing staff;
 - (c) doctors, surgeons and specialists?
- (3) What was the average number of staff employed in the Tweed Hospital during 2005 and 2006?
- (4) What is the breakdown of the figure provided in (3) into:
 - (a) administration and support staff;
 - (b) nursing staff;
 - (c) doctors, surgeons and specialists?
- (5) What is the breakdown of the new proposed staffing levels at the Tweed Hospital in line with the 16% staff increase into:
 - (a) administration and support staff;
 - (b) nursing staff;
 - (c) doctors, surgeons and specialists?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (4) The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely collect or report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, the Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available Annual Reports of the North Coast Area Health Service. The 2006/07 Annual Report will be available shortly.

(5) I refer the Member to the media release dated 4/12/07, which is available from the NSW Health website.

*1925 ALGAL INCIDENTS AT WARRAGAMBA—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Will the State Emergency Operations Centre be informed by the Department of Water and Energy or the Sydney Catchment Authority in the event of future algal incidents at Warragamba?
- (2) Will Emergency Services be provided with an official statement, or will they continue to source their information from media articles?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the answer provided to Written Questions 1403 and 1404.

*1926 TOXIC ALGAE LEVELS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Given that 7 and 9 September 2007 showed extremely high levels of potentially toxic algae down as far as 20 metres in Lake Burragorang, do you stand by your statement, made to the Budget Estimates Committee on 15 October, that the blue-green algal bloom only affects the top metre of water in the lake?

Answer—

The Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water was not at the Budget Estimates Committee on 15 October 2007.

*1927 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY—OPERATIONS PLAN 2—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Given that according to the Sydney Catchment Authority Operations Plan 2, if blue-green algal toxins in water supplied from Warragamba Dam reach more than 1 microgram per litre the pipelines from Warragamba to Prospect water filtration will be shut off, how would the Minister then propose to meet Sydney's water needs?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the answer provided to Written Questions 1403 and 1404.

- *1928 HELICOPTER TRIPS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

How many helicopter trips were undertaken by the department each year for the years 1995-2006 inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised that the data requested are not available in the form asked, as it is difficult to define what comprises a 'trip'. Aircraft use is more commonly measured by flying hours.

- *1929 OPERATIONAL POLICE STATIONS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many stations were operational in NSW for each year from 1995-2006 inclusive?

Answer—

As at July 1 2007, United Services Group advised that there are 467.

- *1930 MARKED POLICE VEHICLE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many marked police vehicles were operational in NSW for each year from 1995-2006 inclusive?

Answer—

The actual number of marked vehicles varies during any given year.

- *1931 MARKED POLICE VEHICLES—LOCAL AREA COMMANDS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many marked police vehicles were directly operational in the North Shore Local Area Command, Gladesville Local Area Command and Eastwood Local Area Command for each year from 1995 to 2006 inclusive?

Answer—

Local Area Commands were only established in 1997 so the data sets are not directly comparable. I am advised, however, that in 1995 there was a total of 20 cars across what are now the three nominated Commands, compared with 27 in 2006.

- *1932 OVERSEAS TRIPS—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 overseas trips were undertaken by department staff each year for the years 1995-2006 inclusive?

(2) What was the cost of this travel, including accommodation, for each of those years inclusive?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Premier's approval is required for Ministers' travel overseas.

Overseas travel is undertaken on the basis of value to the taxpayer and public sector development. Travel undertaken is always on government business and essential for the performance of official business on behalf of the NSW Government.

Comprehensive details of recent overseas trips by the Premier and Ministers were released to the opposition under a Freedom of Information request.

- *1933 ACUTE BEDS IN THE SYDNEY SOUTH WEST AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

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How many acute beds were available at each hospital in the Sydney South West Area Health Service in 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, information about Sydney South West Area Health Service beds and bed equivalents is published in the Area Health Service's annual reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available annual reports. The 2006/07 annual report will be available shortly.

*1934 FTE AGENCY NURSE NUMBERS IN THE SYDNEY WEST AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many FTE agency nurses are employed at each hospital in the Sydney West Area Health Service?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, the Department of Health routinely provides workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available Annual Reports.

*1935 ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING LIST—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many people were on the elective surgery waiting list at Gosford Hospital and Wyong Hospital in September 2007?

Answer—

I am advised

Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service is in the process of implementing a new Patient Administration System. This new system will improve patient information. Gosford and Wyong Hospitals were the first hospitals in the Area to move over to the new system at the beginning of September 2007.

The size of the waiting list is reported monthly and available on the NSW Health Internet site. However, the data is not available electronically for Gosford and Wyong Hospitals for September 2007 due to the changeover process.

*1936 RIGHTS OF CARE GIVERS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Community Services—

What is the department's policy regarding the rights of a care giver (such as a foster parent) to have representation (legal or otherwise) in case conferences relating to children in their care?

Answer—

The department's policy is clear that who attends a case meeting is dependent upon the purpose of the meeting, with decisions on attendance being made in an effort to achieve the best outcome for the child. There are no rights to attend which supplant the statutorily imposed paramount consideration of the safety, welfare and well-being of the child. Subject to those comments there is no rule opposing carers having representation. Departmental officers will only be accompanied by legal officers in exceptional circumstances.

*1937 LEGAL COSTS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What proportion of legal costs incurred by metropolitan developed councils in NSW is spent on enforcing conditions of development consent?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your question:

The Department of Local Government currently reports on councils' performance in relation to legal expenses as a proportion of total planning and development costs. The information is included in the Department's NSW Local Government Councils Comparative Information publication.

The forty-three councils in the Sydney Statistical Division reported \$196.653 million in planning and development costs. Of this, \$21.726 million, or eleven per cent, was reported as legal expenses related to planning and development costs.

*1938 LEGAL COSTS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What proportion of legal costs incurred by Metropolitan Developed Councils in NSW is spent on enforcing orders against unlawful development?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice No 1937.

*1939 LAKE BURRENDONG STATE TRUST—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) In Budget Estimates held on 26 October 2007 in reply to a question by the Hon Melinda Pavey which stated "Are you aware of the issue in relation to Lake Burrendong State Trust" you said "Not much".

How do you equate your answer in Estimates with the letter you wrote to Mrs Rosslyn Joseph dated 14 November 2007 where you said in the second paragraph "I have been kept well informed of the issues at Burrendong"?

(2) Did you mislead the Hon Melinda Pavey and the Estimates Committee in your answer?

(3) If so, why?

Answer—

(1) My response was ironic. This was clearly understood by all present and further emphasised in the detailed outline I gave of the history of the current issues affecting the park.

(2) No.

*1940 RIVER LEVEL GAUGES—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

Are the gauges situated on the Hawkesbury River and other tributaries of the Hawkesbury River, used to detect rising river levels so as to alert communities of flooding risks in the shortest possible time, in good working order?

Answer—

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

*1941 BELLS LINE OF ROAD—SPEED LIMIT—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given safety concerns regarding the speed limit on the Bells Line of Road and the serious accidents that have occurred on this road due to a neglect of road maintenance, will the Minister immediately introduce 80 kph zones to all sections of the Bells Line of Road, with the exception of the village of Bilpin and 100 kph zones where adequate overtaking lanes exist?

Answer—

I am advised:

A review of the speed limit on Bells Line of Road between Windsor and Darling Causeway is in progress. Comments are currently being sought from relevant stakeholders.

*1942 BELLS LINE OF ROAD—SHOULDERS—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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Given safety concerns regarding the condition of the Bells Line of Road, especially the road shoulders, and given the RTA is currently undertaking work to stabilise these shoulders, will the Minister instruct the RTA to also tar seal the shoulders of the Bells Line of Road from Kurrajong to Bell?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority is unaware of works referred to by the Member.

- *1943 BELLS LINE OF ROAD—CROSSING—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given safety concerns regarding schoolchildren crossing the Bells Line of Road when accessing the Bilpin Oval, will the Minister request the RTA immediately install safety measures such as flashing signage or illuminated flags or similar safety devices to enable the Bilpin schoolchildren safe access to the Bilpin Oval?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 26 September 2007, the Premier announced a \$46.5 million four-year program to further enhance the safety of students in school zones.

Flashing light technology and electronic alert systems will be installed in a further 400 school zones, comprising the rollout of 100 systems a year over the next four years.

School zones are being selected for the new technology rollout based on risk criteria including traffic and pedestrian volumes, surrounding speed limits and crash history.

- *1944 BELLS LINE OF ROAD—DANGEROUS TREES—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given safety concerns regarding six dead trees overhanging the Bells Line of Road and another twelve dangerous trees identified as traffic hazards on this road, and given the Roads Act clearly states the RTA may remove any trees that are traffic hazards without reference to any other Act, law or other authority, will the Minister instruct the RTA to remove these dangerous trees on the Bells Line of Road so as to avert another tragedy like the most recent case of a tree falling on a vehicle travelling on the Bells Line of Road?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is currently investigating trees overhanging Bells Line of Road for trimming. However, trees outside the RTA's maintenance limits are a matter for Hawkesbury City Council or the owners of the property in which the tree is located.

- *1945 BELLS LINE OF ROAD—UNBROKEN LINE—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given safety concerns regarding schoolchildren and residents on the Bells Line of Road at Bilpin, will the Minister immediately request an unbroken line be implemented on the Bells Line of Road through Bilpin village extending the location of the Bilpin Fire Brigade?

Answer—

I am advised:

The location of broken separation lines are made on the basis of overtaking sight distance for both horizontal and vertical alignments. A driver should have sufficient visibility to detect oncoming vehicles in sufficient time to allow safe and uninterrupted overtaking with minimal risk of collision.

While these engineering design principles are used to determine the location of double lines, non-compliance from motorists toward these line markings, for whatever reason, is a matter of enforcement, which would be best addressed by the NSW Police Force.

*1946 MOUNT DRUITT RAILWAY STATION—TICKET SALES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What are the current figures for ticket sales from the Mount Druitt Railway Station?
- (2) What proportion of these sales are from the ticket vending machine at this station?
- (3) How many complaints have been received from commuters that the machines have failed to provide a rail ticket after the money has been lodged in the machine?
- (4) How many of these complaints relate to the vending machine at the Mount Druitt Rail Station?
- (5) How do the figures above compare to the same situations at the Rooty Hill Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) Railcorp reports on patronage as required in its annual report.

Over the last 12 months, no ticket vending machine complaints were logged for Mount Druitt Station.

Of the few complaints made relating to the ticket vending machines at Rooty Hill Station, none related to the failure to produce a ticket.

*1947 ALCOHOL EDUCATION—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) What programs does the Government currently have in place to educate young people about the dangers of alcohol?
- (2) What evidence does the Government have on the results of these programs?

Answer—

- (1) DoCS contributes to the funding of the Youth Drug and Alcohol Court (YDAC) program. The YDAC program operates under the leadership of the Attorney's General's Department, and is jointly funded by the New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments.

Further information on alcohol education is available from my colleague, the Hon John Della Bosca MLC in his capacity as Minister for Education and Training.

- (2) An evaluation of the YDAC program was published in 2004. A further review is under way.

*1948 YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING NSW—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

What is the Government doing to address the high number of young people leaving NSW to live in other states and territories?

Answer—

This is a whole-of-government issue and does not relate to any one portfolio over any other. This is a matter for my colleague the Premier, the Hon Morris Iemma, MP.

*1949 YOUTH SUICIDE RATE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) How many young people committed suicide in NSW in 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05?
- (2) What percentage was male and female?

Answer—

This is a matter for my colleague the Hon Reba Meagher MP, Minister for Health.

*1950 PREVENTION OF YOUTH SUICIDE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

What is the Government doing to prevent youth suicide?

Answer—

The NSW Government is focussed on delivering mental health services that are accessible and relevant to young people through the NSW Suicide Prevention Strategy.

This strategy is a matter for my colleague the Hon Reba Meagher MP, Minister for Health.

*1951 POLICE-CITIZENS YOUTH CLUBS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

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- (1) What evidence does the Government have on the utilisation of PCYCs in NSW?
- (2) What is the breakdown across all PCYCs?

Answer—

I am advised that usage of Police and Community Youth Clubs varies depending on a range of factors including population and the number and nature of programs run by the branches.

- *1952 FUNDING OF POLICE-CITIZENS YOUTH CLUBS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What was the NSW Government's investment into PCYCs in 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05?
- (2) What is the location of the PCYCs that received funds in 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05?

Answer—

The NSW Government has provided funding to support the employment of 57 civilian managers in PCYCs across NSW as well as the purchase of two PCYC Mobile Activity vans, targeting crime hotspots. The Government has also funded the Youth in Sport program in over 25 PCYCs across the state each year and provided police officers to 58 PCYCs to develop and deliver youth crime prevention and youth support programs.

- *1953 YOUTH ALTERCATIONS WITH STAFF OF PUBS AND CLUBS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many incidents involving altercations between young people (aged under 25) and hotel (i.e. pub/club) staff were reported to NSW Police in 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05?

Answer—

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

- *1954 YOUTH OFFENCES UNDER INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many young people committed an offence while under the influence of alcohol in 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05 and for what types of offences?

Answer—

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

- *1955 WIRELESS BROADBAND CBD PROJECT—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When will the Government accept tenders for its wireless broadband CBD project?
- (2) When will the service be delivered?

Answer—

I refer to my previous answer.

- *1956 WIND POWER SITES—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 suitable sites for wind power and the Minister's response to Question 1242:

- (1) How does the Minister reconcile his statement that, "it is not my role to select sites for wind power in New South Wales" (Written Question 1242) with his statement on 8 October 2007 discouraging the site selection of the proposed Silverton Wind Project, "that despite the optimistic note in the release of this proposal, it is assessed by our experts that New South Wales isn't a high wind state"?
- (2) Is wind power a priority for the Iemma Government given the Minister's statement on 8 October 2007 that, "New South Wales isn't a high wind state where you could reliably guarantee, efficiently, wind power into the grid to meet both economic and target needs"?

Answer—

- (1) Mr Debnam is confusing a company's decision to invest in a project at a specific site with the State's

general knowledge of wind resources across the National Energy Market (NEM).

- (2) The NSW Government is highly supportive of all renewable energy technologies, industry wind generators and of market mechanisms to encourage their wider deployment.

*1957 ETHANOL BLENDED FUELS—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 public sector use of ethanol blends:

Given the Premier's response to Question 1118, can the Premier confirm the Government therefore collects no management information on the quantity of ethanol used by public sector vehicles?

Answer—

As the previous response was provided by the Premier, this question should be directed to the Premier.

*1958 SYDNEY FERRIES—PASSENGER JOURNEYS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to Sydney Ferries and the Minister's responses to Questions 0377 and 1120:

- (1) Given the Minister's previous responses, is the management information currently used by Sydney Ferries on "passenger journeys" limited only to that published in its annual report?
- (2) If not, will the Minister make that unpublished data available as has been the case with previous questions to the Minister?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Passenger data is publicly available on Sydney Ferries Corporation website.

*1959 CAR ACCIDENT STATISTICS—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Has the Roads and Traffic Authority carried out any investigations into the impact the colour of a car has on the likelihood of it being involved in an accident?
- (2) If yes, what are the findings as to whether colour has any impact on the likelihood of a car accident occurring?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of NRMA research released in July 2004, which states that black cars have 22% more accidents with 30% more expensive damage?
- (4) How are findings such as this, which suggest that the colour of cars does have an impact on the likelihood of accidents, addressed in the Government's Road Safety policy?

Answer—

I am advised:

Data on vehicle colour is not reported for crashed vehicles. However, in 2007 the RTA, National Roads and Motoring Association, Royal Automobile Club of Victoria, Transport Accident Commission and VicRoads funded a Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) study into the role of vehicle colour in crashes.

The MUARC study found that there was a 12% higher crash risk for black cars, compared with white cars. Similarly, the crash risk for grey cars was 11% higher, silver 10% higher and both blue and red were 7% higher than white cars.

The 2007 MUARC study supersedes the NRMA research released in 2004.

The findings from the 2007 MUARC study are a useful consideration for all car buyers. However, it is important for motorists to recognise that other factors, such as occupant protection levels and safety features, including electronic stability control, were more influential than vehicle colour in improving vehicle safety.

It is also important to note speeding, drink driving and fatigue remain the most significant factors contributing to fatal road crashes.

*1960 CROSSING SUPERVISOR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What criteria are used to determine whether or not crossing supervisors are required at primary and infants schools in NSW?

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- (2) Would a primary school such as Forest Hill Public School, with Children as young as four years of age being required to cross a major highway independently, require a crossing supervisor position?
- (3) Will the Minister listen to the concerns of the parents and teachers of students at Forest Hill Public School and review the decision to replace the crossing supervisor with traffic/pedestrian lights?

Answer—

I am advised:

The proposed upgrade of the crossing at Forest Hills Public School includes the provision of traffic signals. A fully signalised crossing has been deemed the most appropriate for the multi-lane highway environment. Work to install the signals has not yet commenced.

Crossing supervisors are not permitted to control traffic at signalised intersections. However, in recognition of the concerns of the local school community, a crossing supervisor will remain at the location for a transition phase of up to 10 weeks. This will assist younger children to adjust to the signalised crossing over an extended period.

The RTA always encourages parents or guardians, wherever possible, to hold their child's hand when crossing any road until they are at least ten years of age.

The RTA has met with parents and teachers at Forest Hill Public School on several occasions to discuss the issue. The RTA considered other alternatives, such as a footbridge or the installation of lights at the Fife Street intersection, before deeming signals at the crossing as the best overall safety measure for the protection of pedestrians accessing Forest Hill Public School.

*1961 HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVERS—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many heavy vehicle drivers who do not have ready access to the internet whilst on the road are kept up to date with B Double route changes?
- (2) Are all Roads and Traffic Authority offices able to provide up-to-date route maps for B Double drivers on request?
- (3) Will the Roads and Traffic Authority supply all B Double drivers with a hard copy B Double route map annually to ensure ease of compliance and to accommodate those owners/drivers who do not have ready access to the internet or have no internet access at all?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) now updates its restricted access vehicle maps on a quarterly basis.

The maps are freely available from the RTA's website, and can be printed on a standard A4 home or office printer.

By updating the maps on a quarterly basis, the RTA is achieving significant greater currency of its published map information.

Drivers are welcome to contact the RTA's regional route assessment coordinators if they wish to discuss specific issues.

*1962 ISOLATED PATIENTS TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Thomas George asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What was the budgeted allocation and number of approved claims for the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) in 2004-05?
- (2) What was the budgeted allocation and number of approved claims for the IPTAAS in 2005-06?
- (3) What was the budgeted allocation and number of approved claims for the IPTAAS in 2006-07?
- (4) What is the budgeted allocation for the IPTAAS in 2007-08?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The IPTAAS budget allocation for 2004/05 was \$7.692M.

The IPTAAS budget allocation for 2005/06 was \$7.87M.

From 1 July 2006, funding for all non-emergency health-related transport programs was integrated into a single Transport for Health budget. Accordingly, there is no specific IPTAAS budget allocation for 2006/07 and 2007/08.

The number of approved claims for IPTAAS in 2006/07 was provided in response to a previous question in the Legislative Council, I refer the Member to the response provided to LC 0853. With respect to the number of approved claims approved prior to that period, I am advised the Department of Health has not routinely collected or reported at this level of detail and to answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Services away from the exercise of their core functions.

*1963 RIVER RED GUMS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Has the Department identified land suitable for conversion to river red gum reserve?
- (2) What is the endangered status of river red gums in NSW?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government recognises the importance of protecting the Riverina's unique ecosystems. In July 2005, the Government purchased the 80,000 hectare Yanga Station on the Lowbidgee floodplain. This property, which contains Australia's second largest River Red Gum forest, is now included in the state's national park and reserve system. The purchase of Yanga has more than doubled the area of River Red Gum forest protected within the Riverina.
- (2) River Red Gum as a species and as an ecological community has not been listed as endangered under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. Whilst no formal endangered status been assigned to the River Red Gum forests, they are currently under stress due to prolonged drought conditions and changed flooding regimes along the Murray River and its tributaries.

*1964 CLIMATE CHANGE FUND—COMMUNITY PROJECTS SCHEME—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) What are the details of the Climate Change Fund's Community Projects Scheme?
- (2) When will the scheme be open to applicants?
- (3) What is the allocation of funds for the Community Projects Scheme?

Answer—

The Climate Change Fund does not include a Community Projects Scheme.

*1965 NATIONAL PARKS BUILDINGS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What is the cost of upgrades and maintenance of buildings in national parks and what is the revenue earned?

Answer—

National parks contain a diverse array of buildings, such as visitor centres, depots, amenities and heritage buildings. However, various 'off-park' buildings are also used by the Department of Environment and Climate Change in its management of parks, including offices, workshops and residences. A distinction is not readily available between the costs for buildings that are within national parks and all other buildings.

The Department spends in excess of \$6 million per year on building maintenance, including maintaining sites of historic significance. This is in addition to maintaining the wide array of other integral facilities such as walking tracks, fire trails, car parks and various other visitor infrastructure.

In addition, the NSW Government has invested \$38 million over four years, from 2005 to 2009, on the Revitalising Sydney's National Parks' Program to upgrade and maintain visitor and historic heritage assets in Sydney's iconic national parks.

The NSW Government also provides the Department with \$2 million per year for the Heritage Assets Maintenance Program. This funding is directed toward maintaining or upgrading heritage buildings by addressing the heritage aspects of the total works. Major sites funded in the past 10 years include Fort Denison, the Green Cape Lightstation near Eden, Yarrangobilly Caves House, buildings at the Hartley Village and Hill End Historic Sites, the Quarantine Station at North Head, the Willandra Homestead complex near Griffith, Seal Rocks and Cape Byron lighthouses, Currango Homestead in Kosciuszko National Park and Cadman's Cottage.

The Department gains revenue from the leasing and licensing of various facilities within parks, often through the adaptive re-use of historic heritage assets. However, the revenue earned from a specific site or building will not always be accounted separately from other park revenue sources. In 2006-07, the Department collected \$12 million in recurrent-funded leasing revenue. This includes not only accommodation leases, but also commercial leases and income from infrastructure such as radio towers.

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*1966 AWARENESS OF UNSAFE DRUG USE IN YOUNG WOMEN—Ms Pru Goward 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)—

What efforts is the Office of Women making to promote awareness of the fertility, child bearing and infant health consequences of unsafe drug use among young women?

Answer—

Issues relating to the promotion of awareness of the fertility, child bearing and infant health consequences of unsafe drug use among young women are matters within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Health, the Minister for Community Services and the Minister for Youth. The question should be referred to them for a response.

*1967 OFFICE FOR WOMEN PROGRAMS—Ms Pru Goward 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) How much accrued leave has been attributed to the Office for Women?
- (2) What programs does the Office for Women sponsor for young women in families at risk of domestic violence?
- (3) What programs does the office sponsor or supervise for Indigenous women at risk of domestic violence?
- (4) What research has the office commissioned or sponsored into non-traditional occupations and skills training for women?
- (5) What is the office doing to ensure TAFE courses in hairdressing and other traditional female occupations are maintained in regional TAFE colleges?

Answer—

- (1) As at 17 December 2007, staff associated with the Office for Women had accrued 2,007 hours of recreation leave and 3,891 hours of extended leave.
- (2) The Office for Women supported a range of projects in 2007 to assist young women at risk of domestic and family violence. The Office funded YWCA NSW to develop the Y-Is Up Project, an educative program for students in high school aimed at preventing violence against women and girls and assisting young people to develop safe relationships. The project is being delivered in Campbelltown, Lismore, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee in 2007/08.

In December 2007, OFW released a new resource, Stand Up 4 U, a DVD developed by Streetwise focussing on the early warning signs of potentially abusive relationships for young high school aged women. The DVD is being distributed through schools and key community organisations that deliver services and advice to young women, and is being used as a resource for the Y-Is Up Project.

Early in 2007, in partnership with Tresillian, the Office for Women released You're a Parent Now, a DVD for first-time parents. The DVD aimed to raise new parents' awareness of relationships changes that occur at the time of a birth, and the need to improve their relationship and communication skills so that they can better support their child's development. The DVD was distributed, with NSW Health's Having a Baby booklet, to new parents through all public maternity hospitals in NSW in 2007.

The Office partnered with Relationships Australia to produce an interactive skills-building CD-ROM program covering the essentials of relationships to help women and their partners develop skills in building and maintaining healthy relationships and effective parenting. The CD-ROM is expected to be available early in 2008.

The January 2007 issue of the Office for Women NSW Women newsletter featured articles on a range of different relationships including family relationships, mentoring, and those formed over the internet. Some 4,000 copies of NSW Women were mailed to individual readers, women's organisations, schools and libraries across the State.

In addition, the Office supports a number of programs that aim to empower young women and teach the value of financial independence, namely the Lucy Mentoring Program, the Young Women's Leadership Program, GirlSavvy and SistaSpeak.

Further information on specific programs that target young women in families at risk of domestic violence should be sought from the Minister for Community Services, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Youth.

- (3) The Office for Women's Sistaspeak program is a culturally appropriate program for 11 to 15 year old Aboriginal girls, focusing on self-esteem, safe families, culture, leadership and economic independence.

As a contribution to the NSW Interagency Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities, the Office for Women is currently developing a pilot leadership and advocacy program to assist in developing more self-sufficient and sustainable Aboriginal communities led and supported by increasingly skilled Aboriginal women. It is expected that the pilot will be developed and its implementation begun in 2008.

- (4) The Office for Women supports gender research by participating as a partner in a number of Australian Research Council projects. Current projects relevant to non-traditional occupations are Girls and Information Technology; and Understanding the Impact of Gender Diversity on Regional Board Performance.

The Office for Women is also a member of the NSW Department of Education and Training Director-General's Advisory Group for Gender Equity in Education which is responsible for developing and supporting strategies to promote expansive career pathways for girls.

- (5) Issues relating to TAFE courses should be directed to the Minister for Education and Training.

*1968 NESB AND DISABLED WOMEN IN NSW PUBLIC SERVICE—Ms Pru Goward 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) What is the representation of NESB women in the NSW public service by salary level, status, department and hours worked?
- (2) How does this compare with NSW averages?
- (3) What is the representation of disabled women in the NSW public service by salary level, status, department and hours worked?
- (4) How do these compare with NSW averages?

Answer—

The representation of NESB women and women with disability in the NSW public sector and data relating to broader range of NSW public sector employees is collated by the Public Sector Workforce Office within the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Questions relating to public sector employment should be directed to the Premier.

*1969 LANE COVE TUNNEL CAMERAS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) (a) How many traffic control cameras are in the Lane Cove Tunnel?
(b) How many of these are speed cameras?
- (2) How many speeding fines have been issued since the opening of the Lane Cove Tunnel?
- (3) In relation to the number of speed cameras in the tunnel, how many speeding fines have been issued to the same driver on a single trip through the tunnel?
- (4) How much revenue has been raised by the speed cameras in the Lane Cove Tunnel since its opening?
- (5) Of the revenue raised by speed cameras in the tunnel, how much goes to the operators of the tunnel?
- (6) (a) Where are the speed cameras in the Lane Cove Tunnel monitored?
(b) Are they monitored by RTA staff or contractors?
(i) If contractor, what contractor?
(ii) What is the cost of monitoring the cameras?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are 208 closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras for the purpose of traffic monitoring inside the Lane Cove Tunnel and the on ramps and off ramps. None of the CCTV cameras are used for speed detection. There are two fixed speed cameras in the Lane Cove Tunnel, one in each direction.

No more than one speeding fine is issued to the same driver on a single trip through the tunnel.

No revenue raised by speed cameras in the Tunnel goes to the operators of the Tunnel.

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The fixed speed cameras are owned and operated by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and potential offences are adjudicated by the State Debt Recovery Office. The fixed speed camera's operational status and maintenance is managed by the RTA's Camera Enforcement Branch.

*1970 STATE FUNERALS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) Who was granted a State Funeral in (a) 2005, (b) 2006 and (c) 2007?
- (2) What was the cost to the people of NSW of each State Funeral in (a) 2005, (b) 2006 and (c) 2007?

Answer—

The NSW Government granted State Funerals for the Honourable Judge Bob Bellear in 2005, for Mr Kevin Charles (Pro) Hart in 2006 and for Mr Bernard Douglas "Bernie" Banton in 2007.

Certain costs of these State Funerals were met by the NSW Government in accordance with the New South Wales Policies on State Funerals and State Funeral Costs.

The costs to the NSW Government of these State Funerals were \$17,346, \$24,107, and \$198,201 respectively.

*1971 SCHOOL CROSSINGS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Which Schools in the Burrinjuck electorate have flashing lights located at their school crossings?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 26 September 2007, the Premier announced a \$46.5 million four-year program to further enhance the safety of students in school zones.

Flashing light technology and electronic alert systems will be installed in a further 400 school zones, comprising the rollout of 100 systems a year over the next four years.

School zones are being selected for the new technology rollout based on risk criteria including traffic and pedestrian volumes, surrounding speed limits and crash history.

*1972 PUBLIC DENTAL WAITING LISTS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) As at 6 December 2007 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—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The data requested by the Member is not routinely reported at a clinic level. To provide this data in the level of detail requested would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Area Health Service from the exercise of its core functions. However, a component of the oral health funding enhancement announced in the 2006/07 budget has been set aside to ensure the Centre for Oral Health Strategy develops and reports on ambulatory oral health waiting lists and Paediatric general anaesthetic waiting lists statewide. It is anticipated that this data will be available on the NSW Health website shortly.

(3) and (4) Public Dental Clinics are located in Cowra, Young, Cootamundra and Yass. It should be noted that none of these townships have an eligible population base to sustain a full-time public dentist. However, all public patients requiring care under the Priority Oral Health Program have access to the

Oral Health Fee For Service voucher scheme for priority oral health services through arrangements with private dentists. In addition, Yass and Cootamundra have visiting public dentists, on a part-time basis.

*1973 NSW OMBUDSMAN REPORT OF REVIEWABLE CHILD DEATHS 2006—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) With regard to Recommendation 3, page 78 and 79 of the NSW Ombudsman Report of Reviewable Deaths in 2006 Volume 2: Reviewable Deaths, will his department release the recommendations for greater interagency cooperation with police to parliament?
- (2) (a) When will this occur?
(b) Is the department still on target for the "late 2007" deadline?
- (3) When will the improvement recommendations be implemented?
- (4) With regard to Recommendation 4 of the same report, DoCS advised the Ombudsman that by the end of 2007 DoCS will have completed or initiated five quality reviews into the areas listed in Recommendation 4. Can the Minister advise the current progress and status of these five quality reviews?
- (5) Given DoCS commitment to conduct five quality reviews each calendar year, what steps, if any have been taken to ensure that these reviews are undertaken in a thorough and timely fashion?
- (6) Is the department going to start the 2008 calendar year ahead or behind their commitment to review their practices?

Answer—

The Ombudsman makes a report to Parliament each year on reviewable deaths and progress in implementing recommendations from previous years' reports.

*1974 SEWERAGE CONNECTION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

What is the update on sewerage connection for residences in Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point?

Answer—

I am advised:

Gosford City Council is working jointly with Sydney Water to provide shared infrastructure for sewage treatment and disposal of treated effluent from Brooklyn, Dangar Island, Mooney Mooney, Cheero Point and Peat Island.

The NSW Government will provide approximately \$4.7 million in funding to Gosford City Council towards the cost of construction of the scheme under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program and the Priority Sewerage Program.

The NSW Government through the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC), is also providing funding of \$3.85 million to Gosford City Council towards the cost of servicing the DADHC facility on Peat Island.

Sydney Water has nearly completed the construction of the sewage treatment plant at Brooklyn which will treat the sewage from Mooney Mooney, Cheero Point and Peat Island. Construction of the sewage collection system for Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point is expected to commence in early 2008. This will be followed by the construction of a transfer pipeline across the Hawkesbury River linking the collection system to the sewerage treatment plant. The current target date for the completed Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point sewerage scheme is early 2009.

*1975 BLACK SPOT FUNDING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Was the RTA application for Black Spot Funding at a Pacific Highway Mount Colah Intersection lodged before the November 2007 meeting to decide such future funding?
- (2) If so, what is the latest update on progress?
- (3) If not, when is the application anticipated to be considered?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Mount Colah project has been submitted for consideration under the National Black Spot program for funding in the 2008/2009 financial year.

The application will be considered by the NSW Black Spot Consultative Panel which is expected to meet

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in late February.

*1976 STUDENT ENROLMENT—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) How many students are currently enrolled at Hornsby TAFE as at 30 November 2007?
- (2) How many students are enrolled for 2008?
- (3) (a) Are there any differences in courses offered at Hornsby TAFE in 2007 as compared to 2008?
(b) If any, what are they?

Answer—

- (1) The student course enrolments for Hornsby TAFE identified on the TAFE NSW reporting system as at 30 November 2007 were 8,137.
- (2) The majority of new enrolments in TAFE for 2008 will not occur until next year.
- (3) (a) There are no anticipated differences in the course profile of Hornsby TAFE for 2008 in comparison to 2007.
(b) Not applicable.

*1977 GRANTS TO NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

- (1) How much money did the State Government allocate in grants to Newcastle City Council in 2006-07?
- (2) What projects were these grants for?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) The NSW Local Government Grants Commission is established under the Local Government Act 1993 and makes recommendations on Federally funded financial assistance grants to local councils. The 2006-07 Financial Assistance Grant entitlement for Newcastle City Council was \$11,185,655.
- (2) The Financial Assistance Grants are untied grants and may be used by councils for any purpose.

*1978 ISOLATED PATIENTS TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Health—

As more specialist health services are being centralised, how and when will the State Government provide an equitable and properly funded Isolated Patient Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme?

Answer—

The Member's question incorrectly asserts that specialist health services are being centralised when in fact the NSW Government is committed to improving health services for people living across NSW and this means engaging specific strategies to deal with the challenges of service provision in some rural and remote areas.

In the 2007/08 budget the funding for rural and regional health services reached \$3.69 billion a 6.5% increase over the 2006/07 State budget. This funding continues the commitment to rural and remote health outlined by this Government in the NSW Rural Health Plan released in September 2002.

Much has already been achieved through the initiatives in the Plan with the priority clinical services receiving specific attention and funding, resulting in direct, on the ground improvements in rural patient access to services.

Transport for Health (IPTAAS) is designed to assist people in isolated and rural communities to gain access to specialist medical treatment not available in their own area. The program recognises that people living in isolated and rural communities experience particular difficulties in having to travel long distances for specialist medical treatment and aims to reduce the impact of this disadvantage upon the health of individuals and communities.

The 2007-08 budget allocated \$16.4 million to Transport for Health program.

*1979 DOCTOR VACANCIES—BARWON COMMUNITIES—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What are the doctor vacancies in the following Barwon communities:
 (a) Cobar?
 (b) Baradine?
 (c) Dunedoo?

(2) What is the update on strategies to fill these positions?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2)

- (a) There are currently two General Practitioner (GP) visiting medical officer vacancies at Cobar Hospital. An application by an Overseas Trained Doctor for appointment as a GP visiting medical officer to the Cobar Health Service is currently being processed. If this applicant is successful, then the remaining GP vacancy will again be advertised in early 2008.
- (b) The Baradine Medical Centre, which is owned by the Aged Care Committee, currently has one vacancy for a GP visiting medical officer. The Medical Centre has been unsuccessful to-date in recruitment to this position. The NSW Department of Health is currently progressing an application for one GP Area of Need position at the Baradine Medical Centre. Recruitment through the Greater Western Area Health Service's processes will be initiated. In the interim, Ochre Health is providing locum and visiting medical officer services to Baradine for the next three months.
- (c) The Greater Western Area Health Service has created a second GP visiting medical position to Dunedoo. An offer for appointment was made and has been accepted for a doctor to provide services to Dunedoo and relief services to Coolah. Negotiations are currently underway regarding the details of this position, including the start-up date.

*1980 BOTANY BAY NATIONAL PARK—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What is the latest estimate for the number of annual visitors to Botany Bay National Park?

Answer—

The Department of Environment and Climate Change estimates that Botany Bay National Park receives approximately 100,000 visits each year.

As people may visit a national park more than once during the year, parks agencies estimate 'visits' rather than 'visitors' in assessing park use.

*1981 SCHOOL ZONES—CRONULLA ELECTORATE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many accidents have occurred in 40 kph school zones in the Cronulla electorate in the past 12 months?
 (2) How many people have been fined for speeding in 40 kph school zones in the Cronulla electorate in the past 12 months?

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

Information relating to speeding fines is a matter the Treasurer.

*1982 ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING LIST—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

How many people were on the elective surgery waiting list at Sutherland Hospital in September 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The size of the waiting list is reported monthly and available on the NSW Health Internet site at www.health.nsw.gov.au/waitingtimes/byhosp.html

*1983 BUS STOP SIGNS—BAULKHAM HILLS LGA—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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What consultation, if any, was carried out prior to the installation of the new bus stop signs in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area?

Answer—

I am advised:

Under the new Metropolitan Bus System Contracts, bus operators are responsible for the installation of bus stop signage. I am advised that Hillsbus informed Baulkham Hills Shire Council prior to the installation of bus stop plinths on strategic bus corridors in the local area.

*1984 ADDITIONAL BUSES—BAULKHAM HILLS LGA—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many additional buses have been requested by the bus service providers in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area?
- (2) In particular how many additional buses have been requested for the City and North Sydney M2 routes together with the dates such buses were requested?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to Question On Notice 1591 on the Question and Answer paper.

*1985 MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS—BAULKHAM HILLS ELECTORATE—Mr Wayne Merton 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 much has been allocated for maintenance works and the upgrading of school buildings in the Baulkham Hills electorate during 2007-08?
- (2) What are the details of such expenditure, if any?

Answer—

Baulkham Hills High School:

Replacement of carpet in rooms C1R1004, C2R0001, C2R1008, DR1007 – \$12,375
Reimbursement to school of half the cost of fencing repairs – \$477
Repair of canteen roof and gutter – \$78,000
Installation of portable canteen - \$1,500
Repairs to C3 library and extension roofs – \$61,500
Replacement of damaged carpet in building C1 – \$28,245

Crestwood High School:

Repair of trip hazards and concrete path – \$20,900
Cleaning out of storm water retention pit – \$780
Repair of drainage pit - \$2,540
Reimbursement to school of half the cost of tree removal - \$400
Repair of trip hazard – \$5,000

Cumberland High School:

Construction of new games court, resurfacing of existing games court – \$176,000
Geoteck survey – \$149,600
Upgrade of pavement, drainage and associated works – \$165,00
Reimbursement for air-conditioning of science laboratory for disabled student – \$13,909

Excelsior Public School:

Groundworks for portable building installation – \$750
Repair of concrete CR008 – \$1,400
Repair of windows of CR0008 – \$2,800
Replacement of carpet in AR004 – \$1,335
Installation of temporary fencing for portable building – \$607

Jasper Road Public School:

Removal of demountable – \$6,956
Installation of demountable – \$16,119
Minor modifications to demountable for transport – \$253
Repair of pavement – \$49,500

Matthew Pearce Public School:

- Repair of electrical sawboard – \$3,800
- Replacement of carpet – \$5,000
- Replacement of damaged carpet in large audio visual room – \$7,251
- Repair of roof and carpet – \$8,900
- Reimbursement to school for upgrade of security lighting – \$3,000

Model Farms High School:

- Upgrade of consumer mains to 400amps – \$34,753
- Reimbursement for half the cost of an awning – \$7,883
- Reimbursement for initial termite investigation – \$1,560
- Reimbursement for air-conditioning repair – \$3,881
- Reimbursement for carpet replacement – \$17,610
- Replacement of carpet – \$5,000
- Termite treatment – \$5,000

Winston Heights Public School:

- Carpet for room IR0016 – \$10,000
- Repair and resurfacing of car park and associated works – \$66,000
- Repair and resurfacing of games court and associated works – \$66,000

Winston Hills Public School:

- Replacement of folding door – \$11,000
- Reimbursement for repairs to playground – \$5,090

*1986 OUT OF HOME CARE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Community Services—

With respect to the South Australian Government's whole-of-Government approach ensuring that the Government meets the needs of children in Out of Home Care, for whom the Government is legal guardian and should act as parent:

- (1) What assessment has the NSW Government made of the South Australian model?
- (2) What has this assessment shown about the outcomes of this approach?
- (3) How does the NSW Government ensure that all agencies implement the NSW Charter for the Rights of Children and Young People in Care?
- (4) How does the Government ensure that all children in care get pre-school and other schooling, including designated liaison officers at schools, help with homework, access to computers and resources to attend excursions?
- (5) How does the Government ensure that all children in care have regular comprehensive physical, dental, sight, hearing and developmental checks?
- (6) How does the Government ensure that all children in care get support to develop life skills such as cooking, budgeting and managing a home?
- (7) How does the Government ensure that all children in care get help to manage the transition to adulthood including training, careers advice, work readiness skills and employment?
- (8) How does the Government ensure that all children in care get the opportunity to take part in sport, recreation and cultural activities?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government is aware of the South Australian Government's Rapid Response service initiative for children and young people in out-of-home care, introduced in November 2005.
- (2) The NSW Government is not aware of any evaluation undertaken by the South Australian Government.
- (3) The Charter of Rights was developed in compliance with section 162 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. Section 162(3) provides that each designated agency and authorised carer has an obligation to uphold the rights conferred by the Charter of Rights. Agencies' capacity to comply with this obligation is assessed by the Children's Guardian as part of out-of-home accreditation.
- (4) to (8) These matters are covered variously by legislation, in particular the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, Memoranda of Understanding between government agencies, and in standards, guidelines and policies designed to ensure that young people who can't live at home get the best care possible.

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*1987 OVERHEAD CABLES AND MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS—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 motor vehicle accidents in 2006:

- (1) How many motor vehicle accidents caused damage to electricity poles?
- (2) How many accidents involving electricity poles resulted in fatal injury?
- (3) How many accidents involving electricity poles resulted in hospitalisation?
- (4) How many accidents involving electricity poles resulted in cuts to power supply?
- (5) How many residential dwellings were affected by cuts to power supply due to motor vehicle accidents involving electricity poles?
- (6) How many businesses were affected by cuts to power supply due to motor vehicle accidents involving electricity poles?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) I am advised the data systems of the three electricity distribution network businesses do not record the specific information sought, or allow extraction of the information without an undue diversion of resources. However, information on the general performance of the electricity network, electrical accidents and incidents can be found in publications available on the websites of the energy businesses.

*1988 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many staff are employed in his Ministerial Office?
- (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
- (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media related responsibilities are employed in his Ministerial Office?

Answer—

I am advised:

Ministers' staff are employed by the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet pursuant to the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002.

Arrangements for the employment of special temporary employees to carry out work for political office holders are the same for Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and the Leader of the Opposition.

Pay rates for staff are set against a pay scale designed to suit the staffing requirements of each Minister's office. Comprehensive details of this scale, and the number of staff at each level, were recently released to the Opposition in response to an application under the FOI Act.

*1989 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) How many staff are employed in his Ministerial Office?
- (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
- (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media related responsibilities are employed in his Ministerial Office?

Answer—

As Ministerial staff are employees of the Department of Premier and Cabinet under the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002 this question should be directed to the Premier.

*1990 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

- (1) How many staff are employed in her Ministerial Office?
- (2) How many staff have left since 1 April 2007?
- (3) How many press secretaries or staff with media related responsibilities are employed in her Ministerial Office?

Answer—

Ministers' staff are employed by the Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet pursuant to the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. This question should be directed to the Premier.

*1991 REHABILITATION CENTRE—BALLINA HOSPITAL—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Health—

Why was the recently opened new rehabilitation centre at Ballina Hospital completed without the inclusion of a hydrotherapy pool?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive North Coast Area Health Service that:

The first two stages of the Transitional Care / Rehabilitation Centre were recently opened at Ballina Hospital. The third stage is currently being tendered and is scheduled for completion in 2008.

Hydrotherapy facilities have not been included in the development at this stage, as hydrotherapy services are available and accessed for patients at established facilities within the Ballina township. However, the development has been designed so that expansion in the future is capable of supporting hydrotherapy facilities, should the service delivery aspect of the development require such a facility.

*1992 DEMERIT POINTS—MR PATRICK O'NEILL—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Were points demerited from the drivers licence of Mr Patrick O'Neill of Palmdale even though the charge against him was dismissed by Wyong Local Court?
- (2) If so, was this appropriate under section 10 of the Crimes Sentencing Procedures Act?
- (3) If points were demerited inappropriately when will they be reinstated?

Answer—

I am advised:

Section 10 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedures) Act 1999 applies only where the Court finds a person guilty of an offence. Although the Court has the option of not recording a conviction, demerit points for certain traffic offences still apply. This is because the offence has been proved.

*1993 BIDDABAH PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Greg Piper 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 new hall, canteen and covered walkways for Biddabah Public School announced by the former Ministers in 2006 and 2001, and which are behind schedule:

How will these projects be honoured in 2007-08 given that they were not listed in the 2007-08 budget?

Answer—

Planning for the hall, canteen and covered walkways will commence in 2007/2008 in close consultation with the school community.

The provision of a new hall, canteen and covered walkways will be honoured during the current term of Government.

*1994 CITYRAIL CUSTOMERS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Will the 2008 survey of CityRail customers and subsequent surveys include information from rail users in the Lower Hunter in addition to areas of the Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong, Southern Highlands and the Central Business District which were surveyed in the 2006 and previous surveys?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator's (ITSRR) survey of CityRail customers is available on ITSRR's website at <http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/>

*1995 TWEED HOSPITAL STAFFING—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given the Premier announced to the Parliament a new \$30 million plan that will see nine specialist doctor position allocated to the North Coast region of NSW:

- (1) How many of these positions will be allocated to the Tweed Hospital?
- (2) What is the actual area of specialisation of each of the specialists to be allocated to the Tweed

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Hospital?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) \$30 million has been announced for additional Specialist Medical Officer positions across NSW. 4.5 fulltime equivalent positions have been allocated to North Coast Area Health Service Hospitals.

I am advised the Tweed Hospital allocation is currently being determined by the North Coast Area Health Service Management in consultation with the North Coast Area Health Service Referral Hospital Emergency Department Directors. The extra Specialists announced by the Premier are Specialists in Emergency Medicine.

*1996 FINANCING INDUSTRY—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

Given that proposed amendments to the Consumer Credit Code Amendment Bill 2007 and Consumer Credit Amendment Regulation 2007 will have significant effects on financing franchises operating in the Tweed:

- (1) (a) Will the proposed amendments potentially shut down the "non-deposit taking lenders" financing industry both in the Tweed and across NSW?
(b) If yes, what measures are being put in place to protect the operators of these financial institutions?
- (2) (a) Would the Government need to source at least \$140 million to cover the shortfall in supply that would result from the effects of the amendments on the "non-deposit taking lenders" financing industry?
(b) If yes, what alternatives will be made available to the clientele of these financial institutions, many of which lack the option of borrowing from banks?
- (3) Will the Minister personally meet with representatives of the financing industry in the Tweed to discuss the effects of these proposed amendments?

Answer—

- (1) (a) As with any other business, whether financial institutions continue their operations will depend on the efficiency of their operations and the viability of their customers.
(b) The New South Wales Government has a proud history of consumer protection. In 2001, New South Wales introduced a framework for providers of short term credit, under the Consumer Credit Code. The amendments have been adopted by other states and are working well.
- (2) (a) No.
(b) There are other options available to these consumers, including no interest and low interest loans, as well as government and charitable assistance. The first step for any of these consumers is to make an appointment to see a financial counsellor to find out what are their best options.
- (3) My Office has already met with representatives from the industry. The issues are well known to me.

*1997 YOUTH SERVICES IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) What is the current level of funding (if any) that is currently contributed by the NSW Government to Rosie's Youth Services, a Queensland-based youth outreach service that has begun operating in the Tweed?
- (2) What is the amount of any funding planned to be provided by the NSW Government to Rosie's Youth Services in the future?
- (3) What is the current level of youth homelessness in the Tweed electorate?
- (4) What NSW Government initiatives are in place to reduce youth homelessness in the Tweed electorate?

Answer—

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) Information on this issue is available Northern Rivers Social Development Council website www.nrsdc.org.au. The source of the information is not detailed.
- (4) Funding is provided to services under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), a joint Commonwealth and State initiative and the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) to

help reduce youth homelessness in the Northern Region. Information relating to organisations funded in the Tweed area is available in the DoCS annual report www.community.nsw.gov.au

*1998 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) What legal powers does the Commonwealth Government possess to compel New South Wales to meet its share of greenhouse gas reductions under Kyoto?
- (2) What reduction in NSW CO₂e emissions against 1990 levels does the Minister intend to achieve in 2020?
- (3) How much will this reduction add to the average NSW household electricity bill?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government is committed to working cooperatively with the Commonwealth Government to assist Australia to meet its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol and future global climate change agreements. Under the external affairs power of the Australian Constitution, the Commonwealth Government has authority to take necessary action to fulfil obligations arising from entering international treaties.
- (2) In June 2005 NSW became the first Australian jurisdiction to commit to long-term greenhouse emission reduction targets, with a 60 per cent cut in emissions by 2050, and a return to year 2000 levels by 2025.
- (3) There are likely to be costs associated with the introduction of a carbon price and other responsible actions to address climate change. The NSW Government is committed to minimising those costs and has announced a new Energy Efficiency Strategy. The strategy will assist households and businesses to reduce their energy use, reduce greenhouse emissions and lower their electricity bills by implementing energy efficiency measures.

On 30 April 2007, New South Wales with the other State and Territory Governments commissioned the Garnaut Climate Change Review to examine the impacts of climate change on the Australian economy, and recommend policies and policy frameworks to improve the prospects for sustainable prosperity. The Prime Minister has confirmed that the Commonwealth Government will also be participating in this Review.

*1999 KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

How many people visited Kosciuszko National Park between 1 May and 31 October in each of the following years:

- (a) 2005?
- (b) 2006?
- (c) 2007?

Answer—

The Department of Environment and Climate Change estimates that Kosciuszko National Park receives more than 3.1 million visits per year. This includes repeat visitation. This estimate has been reasonably consistent over the three year period from 2005 to 2007.

Estimating the exact number of visitors to Kosciuszko National Park is difficult due to the large number of entry points to the national park as well as the use of Snowy Mountains Highway, Barry Way and the Alpine Way as transit roads. In addition, entry fees and annual passes are mostly applied on a per-vehicle rather than a per-visitor basis.

*2000 MOUNTAIN PYGMY POSSUMS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) What is the estimated population of mountain pygmy possums in Kosciuszko National Park?
- (2) What was the estimated population of mountain pygmy possums in Kosciuszko National Park in 2002?
- (3) Is the population expanding or contracting?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The population of mountain pygmy-possums in Kosciuszko National Park is currently estimated at around 484 (\pm 70) adults, of which 317 are females and 167 are males.

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- (2) Accurate estimates are not available for 2002, but levels would probably have been similar to estimates made before 2000, which was 613 (\pm 92) adults, comprising 395 females and 218 males.
- (3) The overall population is contracting, with most contraction occurring since 2000 and predominantly in the two large populations located at the Perisher Blue and Charlotte Pass ski resorts.

The species may be one of those most at risk from climate change. Declines in possum numbers may be related to poor survival and low juvenile recruitment in years of low snow cover and drought. The alpine environment may help protect the mountain pygmy possum from predation by feral cats and foxes. Under the projected influence of climate change, however, it may have to move to higher locations to avoid predators, but there will be nowhere higher to go.

It is estimated that the possum could be extinct by 2020 if climate change continues unabated.

The mountain pygmy possum is one of the species mentioned in the recently-released NSW Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2006-2008, the state's first detailed plan to help wildlife survive global warming. The plan sets out a framework for identifying species like the pygmy possum which are at risk from climate change and how to determine ways to protect them.

*2001 BIOBANKING CREDITS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Has the Government ever considered a proposal to create Biobanking credits through improving national parks, for example, by removing weeds and feral animals?

Answer—

National parks are not appropriate biobank sites as the Department of Environment and Climate Change already has clear responsibilities under the Nationals Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 to manage these areas for conservation purposes. Biodiversity sites can only be created where conservation actions have not been committed for any purpose other than to offset the impacts of planned development.

The NSW Government has a strong record of achievement in controlling pest animals and weeds in the State's national parks. This year, it is anticipated that the Department will spend approximately \$19 million on pest and weed control in national parks.

*2002 WILD DOG DESTRUCTION BOARD—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) How many staff does the Wild Dog Destruction Board employ?
- (2) How many vacancies were created and filled in 2006-07?
- (3) What is the current pay rate for staff working for the Wild Dog Destruction board?
- (4) How often is the integrity of each section of the fence checked?
- (5) How long has the State Government been paying drought relief funds to the Wild Dog Destruction Board?

Answer—

These questions are more appropriately directed to the Minister for Lands as the Minister responsible for the Wild Dog Destruction Act 1921.

*2003 GOVERNMENT-FUNDED OVERSEAS TRIPS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many Government-funded overseas trips were undertaken by department staff each year for the years 1995-2006 inclusive?
- (2) What was the cost of this travel, including accommodation, for each of those years inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Travel by NSW public officials is governed by Premier's Department Circular 2005-03 Official travel within Australia and overseas.

Travel undertaken is always for official government business.

All overseas travel by agency staff is reported in the Department's annual report.

*2004 GOVERNMENT-FUNDED OVERSEAS TRIPS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)

- (1) How many Government-funded overseas trips were undertaken by department staff each year for the years 1995-2006 inclusive?
 (2) What was the cost of this travel, including accommodation, for each of those years inclusive?

Answer—

I am advised:

Travel by NSW public officials is governed by Premier's Department Circular 2005-03 Official Travel within Australia and Overseas.

Travel undertaken is always for official government business.

It is determined on the basis of value to the tax-payer and public sector development.

Significant benefits to the agency and/or the State must be established prior to approving travel.

Such benefits may be demonstrated in areas such as health, policing, counter terrorism and security, education, trade and investment, environment, agriculture, and transport.

All overseas travel by agency staff is reported in the Department's annual report.

- *2005 ACUTE BEDS IN THE GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many acute beds were available at each hospital in the Greater Southern Area Health Service in 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, information about Greater Southern Area Health Service beds and bed equivalents is published in the Area Health Service's annual reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available annual reports. The 2006/07 annual report will be available shortly.

- *2006 ACUTE BEDS IN THE NORTH COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many acute beds were available at each hospital in the North Coast Area Health Service in 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, information about North Coast Area Health Service beds and bed equivalents is published in the Area Health Service's annual reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available annual reports. The 2006/07 annual report will be available shortly.

- *2007 ACUTE BEDS IN THE SOUTH EASTERN SYDNEY ILLAWARRA AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many acute beds were available at each hospital in the South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service in 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

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However, information about South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service beds and bed equivalents is published in the Area Health Service's annual reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available annual reports. The 2006/07 annual report will be available shortly.

*2008 TOXICOLOGY REPORTS—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Why is there a delay of more than 4 months in the Coroner's Office obtaining toxicology reports in Sydney?
- (2) Does the Attorney General recognise the importance of grieving relatives being informed of cause of death?
- (3) What is the Attorney General doing to reduce these delays?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the answer given in response to Written Question No 4847 – Coroner's Report, published on 10 November 2005.

*2009 TOXICOLOGY REPORTS—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why is there a delay of more than 4 months in the Coroner's Office obtaining toxicology reports in Sydney?
- (2) Does the Minister recognise the importance of grieving relatives being informed of cause of death?
- (3) What is the Minister doing to reduce these delays?

Answer—

I recognise that providing grieving relatives with a cause of death in a timely manner is of vital importance and that the provision of forensic toxicology reports may provide crucial information in establishing the cause of death.

I am advised that the demand on the Division of Analytical Laboratories, who perform these tests, has increased dramatically in recent times. The number of cases received by the laboratory in the first six months of 2007 is 14% greater than for the same period in 2006.

Additional demands arise from new drugs, which require additional and more sophisticated testing.

These matters have been compounded by workforce shortages that were exacerbated under the former Howard Government's neglect of our universities for over a decade.

In order to address these issues, I am advised that:

- recruitment action is underway to replace the vacant positions in the Division of Analytical Laboratories;
- overtime is being used to assist in reducing the backlog while new staff are being trained; and
- new equipment is being purchased that will enable faster analysis, including the coverage of a wider range of previously non-quantifiable drugs.

*2010 LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT—STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What are the current staffing numbers at the Land and Environment Court of NSW?
- (2) What were employee-related costs for the Land and Environment Court of NSW in each of the following years:
 - (a) 2006-07?
 - (b) 2005-06?
 - (c) 2004-05?
 - (d) 2003-04?
 - (e) 2002-03?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the budget estimates papers.

*2011 HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENTS—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—

How many students were enrolled at high schools in Pittwater at the conclusion of the 2007 academic year?

Answer—

The number of students enrolled at high schools in Pittwater at the conclusion of the 2007 academic year is not yet available.

*2012 MONA VALE POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What is the latest estimated date for completion of the refurbishment works at Mona Vale Police Station?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Works at Mona Vale police station are scheduled for completion in the first half of 2008.

*2013 COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

Given your stated support for resource sharing to drive local government efficiencies, what is your policy regarding financial incentives to encourage councils to consider amalgamations?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your question:

The Government has not changed its policy of no forced council amalgamations. The Government is prepared to consider options for voluntary amalgamations where there are clear benefits and support among the affected communities.

The Government continues to encourage councils to work more closely together through strategic alliances and other forms of council collaboration to increase efficiencies and to improve services to their communities.

*2014 FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD):

- (1) Does NSW Health offer specific diagnostic and support services for people with FASD and their families?
- (2) If not, why not, given that it is estimated that there could be more than 200,000 people in Australia with FASD?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Member is referred to my response to Question on Notice LA1702.

*2015 SECTION 8 OF THE POLICE ACT 1990—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Does Section 8 of the Police Act 1990 state at Section 8 (1) "The Commissioner is, subject to the direction of the Minister, responsible for the management and control of the NSW Police Force"?
- (2) If so, why has the Minister misled the people living in the Manning/Great Lakes Area Command area by saying he cannot direct the Commissioner to provide additional police for the Manning/Great Lakes Area Command?
- (3) In view of the fact that the Minister has been made aware of the need for more police in the Manning/Great Lakes Area Command when will he, pursuant to Section 8 of the Police Act 1990, direct the Commissioner to provide more police to the command?

Answer—

I have raised the issue of policing in the Manning Great Lakes Local Area Command with the Commissioner of Police.

With regards to police numbers, as at October 2007 Manning Great Lakes Local Area Command, was 18 officers above their authorised strength.

*2016 BELLS LINE OF ROAD—SPEED LIMIT—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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Given safety concerns of schoolchildren and residents on the Bells Line of Road at Bilpin, will the Minister immediately request a 60 kph zone be implemented on the Bells Line of Road through Bilpin village extending to the location of the Bilpin Fire Brigade?

Answer—

I am advised:

A review of the speed limit on Bells Line of Road between Windsor and Darling Causeway is in progress. Comments are currently being sought from relevant stakeholders.

*2017 BAULKHAM HILLS JUNIOR MOTORCYCLE TRAINING CLUB—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

When will the Minister notify the Baulkham Hills Junior Motorcycle Training Club that the agreement to sublease land at the southeastern corner of the M4 and M7 interchange from Waste Services will be formalised?

Answer—

- The Department of Planning has advised that it has not received any formal request to lease from the Baulkham Hills Junior Motorcycle Training Club.
- The referred land is leased to WSN Environmental Solutions (trading name of the Waste Recycling and Processing Corporation). WSN will continue to conduct its operations on the land at least until 2014.
- The present lease arrangements preclude the land being available for alternative uses.

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*2018 PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MOUNT DRUITT AREA—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 is the latest information on academic achievements of public school students in the Mount Druitt area?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the abovementioned information between primary schools and high schools?
- (3) How have these achievements changed from previous assessments?

Answer—

The 2007 Basic Skills Test, Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program, English Language and Literacy Assessment and School Certificate results provide current and reliable student achievement data that allows comparisons over time and between primary schools and high schools.

In 2007, Basic Skills Test results for Years 3 and 5 were generally consistent with 2005 and 2006 results although still below state averages.

The literacy results for Year 8 showed a marked reduction in the percentage of students performing in the low band between 2004 (10 per cent) and 2007 (4 per cent). Comparable results for Year 7 showed only a small reduction of one percentage point (12 per cent in low in 2004, 11 per cent in 2007).

The percentage of students in the low band for Year 8 numeracy between 2004 and 2007 were virtually unchanged (9 per cent).

School Certificate results showed a small reduction in the gap between Mount Druitt and the state average in 2007 compared with the average gap over the previous three years.

*2019 REDUCTION OF BUREAUCRATS—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 Government bureaucracy:

- (1) What is the status of the Government's plan to reduce the number of bureaucrats?
- (2) What is the reduction in bureaucrats achieved in each financial year 2006-07, 2007-08 to date, and budgeted for 2008-09 and 2009-10?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Government's plans to reduce the number of non-frontline public sector positions by 5000 are on track with around 4,700 non-frontline positions either gone or scheduled to go.

*2020 SECURING GAS SUPPLY—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 securing gas supply:

- (1) Is the Minister's aware of the prediction in the 2004 "Energy Directions Green Paper" that, "it is estimated that in the next three to five years the supply of gas from Cooper Basin will fall significantly." (p. 36)?
- (2) Which of the "three main options for increasing New South Wales' gas supply" included in the "Green Paper" (p. 37) has the NSW Government pursued:
 - (a) "Construction of a pipeline from gas fields in Papua New Guinea to the Moomba processing plant";
 - (b) "Increased production of New South Wales' gas resources, including the use of coal seam methane"; and
 - (c) "Construction of a pipeline linking the vast reserves in north-west Australia to the south-east market via the existing Moomba processing plant"?
- (3) Since the publication of the "Green Paper", by how much has gas production increased in New South Wales?
- (4) Since the publication of the "Green Paper", by how much has the production of coal seam methane increased in New South Wales?
- (5) Since the publication of the "Green Paper", what has the Government done to secure the gas supply?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Government has pursued a range of reforms which will facilitate greater investment in the Australian gas pipeline industry.

Reforms include:

- Implementation of a greenfields gas pipeline incentive in the gas Pipelines Access Law in 2006 which improves the regulatory approval process for the development of new pipelines;
- Development of a national gas law and rules to extend the jurisdiction of the gas transmission and distribution sectors,
- The establishment of the Australian Energy Market Commission and the Australian Energy Regulator to improve the regulatory regime;
- Implementation of a gas market bulletin board in mid 2008 and short term trading market at a later stage, to deliver increased transparency, promote further efficient investment in gas infrastructure and provide efficient management of gas supply and demand interruptions, and
- Establishment of an Australian Energy Market Operator, to bring together the existing electricity and gas market operators into one integrated energy market operator.

The decision to construct a pipeline from gas fields in Papua New Guinea to Moomba was withdrawn by the AGL consortium in 2006 due to increasing construction costs and questionable economic viability due to an increase in production of Coal Seam Methane in Queensland.

Increasing production of Coal Seam Methane for supply to the market is being pursued by private producers in the Hunter Valley and Camden.

The construction of a pipeline linking North West Australia to the South East Market is not considered to be commercially viable at this time. The South East market is adequately provided for by existing gas fields in South East Australia.

(3) and (4) The increase in gas production since 2004 is approximately 5 peta joules per annum, consisting totally of expansion in coal seam methane production. This represents less than 5% of state consumption, starting from a low base prior to 2004.

(5) A joint report from the Ministerial Council on Energy and the Ministerial Council on Minerals and Petroleum resources has found that gas supply for Eastern Australia will be sufficient to meet demand in the medium to long term.

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This is consistent with advice obtained on available gas supply by the Owen Inquiry in 2007 carried out by Wood Mackenzie. The report found that gas production rates in Eastern Australia are adequate to support the high gas demand scenario to 2020.

Meanwhile the Government is continuing to develop gas market arrangements for NSW by introducing the NSW Gas Supply Continuity Scheme. The Scheme will commence operation in April 2008 and will ensure adequate supplies of natural gas to meet market needs, unless there is infrastructure failure.

*2021 DEPARTMENTAL MERGES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to Government bureaucracy:

- (1) What is the status of the Government's plan to merge the Premier's Department and the Cabinet Office?
- (2) What reduction of bureaucrats and budget savings will be realised in the financial year 2007-08 and each subsequent year?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I refer you to the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

*2022 BINALONG DEVIATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) With reference to your 26 September answer to my Written Question 0162, what was the scope of the preliminary investigations into the bypass of the village of Binalong?
- (2) What options are currently under consideration by the RTA for the bypass?
- (3) Has the RTA set a project completion date for the bypass of Binalong?
- (4) If so, what is the target date for the bypass to be commenced or completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

Provision for the connection to a future bypass of Binalong was included in the design of the Illalong Deviation.

*2023 AIR-CONDITIONING OF SCHOOLS—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—

- (1) Has the Department of Education and Training completed the prioritisation of competing projects for the 2007-08 Air Cooling Program?
- (2) Which schools in the Burrinjuck electorate will be fitted with air-conditioning during 2007-08?

Answer—

The NSW Labor Government's decision to extend the air cooling program to schools with a mean maximum January temperature of 30°C or above, meant an additional 425 schools qualified for air cooling. Under the previous Liberal/National Government the mean maximum January temperature had to be above 33°C.

The 2007-2008 Air Cooling Program will fund 78 projects at 76 schools. The following schools in the Burrinjuck electorate will receive air cooling as part of this program: Boorowa Central School, Bribbaree Public School, Cootamundra High School, Cootamundra Public School, Cowra High School, Eurongilly Public School, Galong Public School, Gundagai High School, Murrumburrah High School, Murrumburrah Public School, Quandialla Central School, Wombat Public School, Young High School and Young Public School.

*2024 DOCS INDICATORS FOR SYSTEM CAPACITY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) With regard to Recommendation 17, page 89 of the NSW Ombudsman Report of Reviewable Deaths in 2006 Volume 2: Reviewable Deaths, given the Minister's department's commitment to the Ombudsman to develop "robust indicators" to assist in tracking assessments and provide a guide as to the capacity of the system, can the Minister provide details of when these indicators will be developed?
- (2) If already developed when will they be implemented?
- (3) (a) What are the indicators and how do they work?
(b) What figures do they use?

- (4) What does the Minister anticipate the indicators will show?
 (5) Given the Ombudsman has repeatedly called for such indicators to aid in calculating capacity and to track and report on risk of harm assessment outcomes, what is the Minister doing to ensure that he does not have to request for such a system again?

Answer—

The Ombudsman makes a report to Parliament each year on reviewable deaths and progress in implementing recommendations from previous years' reports.

*2025 REPORTS TO DOCS HELPLINE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many reports of suspected child abuse or neglect were made to the DoCS Helpline in the suburbs contained within the Hornsby electorate for:
 (a) 2002-03;
 (b) 2003-04;
 (c) 2004-05;
 (d) 2005-06;
 (e) 2006-07?

- (2) What were the reasons?

Answer—

Statistical information relating to 'child at risk of harm' reports is not available by electorate.

Information on the number of reports referred to DoCS regions for further assessment can be accessed in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Statistical report available at

www.community.nsw.gov.au

*2026 PRESENTATION OF MEDALS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

What is the rationale behind the decision taken to only allow "Sitting Members of the Government" to present medals to the State Emergency Services personnel who assisted with the fire storms in the Central Coast/Hunter Valley?

Answer—

Neither I, nor my office, have made any such decision.

*2027 HORNSBY HOSPITAL DENTAL CLINIC—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

Of the list of patients seen at Hornsby Hospital Dental Clinic (see answer to Question No 1249), how many children under the age of 18 years were seen in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 to date?

Answer—

Figures for the child population 0-18 years seen at the Hornsby Hospital Dental Clinic, during the years in question, is as follows:

2002 - 3,456 children
 2003 - 3,566 children
 2004 - 4,141 children
 2005 - 3,476 children
 2006 - 3,472 children
 1 January to 11 December 2007 - 2,769 children

*2028 PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Community Services—

What services are available to parents with children with behavioural problems in the Tweed electorate?

Answer—

Support services for children with behavioural problems are available to parents through the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Education and Training, the Department of Health, Centerlink, the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and the Department of Community Services.

*2029 NSW STUDENTS—TRAVEL IN QUEENSLAND—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to bus subsidies for NSW students travelling on public transport in Queensland:

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- (1) Will the Minister confirm that NSW students travelling to university in Queensland are not entitled to subsidised public transport?
(2) If yes, what are the reasons why NSW students should be disadvantaged?

Answer—

I am advised:

Most States and Territories, including Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia, only offer tertiary student concessions to students who live and study in their respective jurisdictions.

- *2030 CHINDERAH 29-BERTH MARINA—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 Chinderah 29-berth marina:

- (1) Was the lease for the Chinderah 29-berth marina given without the native title issues being resolved?
(2) If yes, what were the reasons as to why it was deemed that the investigation was not necessary?

Answer—

Native title issues were addressed through a non-claimant application lodged with Federal Court under Part 3 of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. The Federal Court afforded protection to the issue of lease under Section 24FA of that Act.

- *2031 ACUTE BEDS IN THE GREATER WESTERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many acute beds were available at each hospital in the Greater Western Area Health Service in 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, information about Greater Western Area Health Service beds and bed equivalents is published in the Area Health Service's annual reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available annual reports. The 2006/07 annual report will be available shortly.

- *2032 ACUTE BEDS IN THE SYDNEY WEST AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many acute beds were available at each hospital in the Sydney West Area Health Service in 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, information about Sydney West Area Health Service beds and bed equivalents is published in the Area Health Service's annual reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available annual reports. The 2006/07 annual report will be available shortly.

- *2033 ACUTE BEDS IN THE HUNTER NEW ENGLAND AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How many acute beds were available at each hospital in the Hunter New England Area Health Service in 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report the requested data on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would, on this occasion, substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, information about Hunter New England Area Health Service beds and bed equivalents is published in the Area Health Service's annual reports. The Member is referred to the publicly available annual reports. The 2006/07 annual report will be available shortly.

*2034 LONGWALL MINING UNDER CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE—UPPER CANAL—Ms Pru Goward 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) Will the surface subsidence associated with approval of longwall panel 409 of Appin Colliery under the Upper Canal affect water flow rates and reliability of the gravity controlled flows in the Upper Canal?
- (2) Will longwall 409 subject the brittle and historic metal aqueduct spanning Simpsons Creek to a surface subsidence of over one metre so that it is likely to be damaged?
- (3) Is it correct that the sandstone culvert about 750 metres east of the Simpsons Creek aqueduct will be subjected to about one metre of surface subsidence and stresses and strains that are beyond the capacity of this historic and frail structure?
- (4) Can the Minister estimate how many months the Upper Canal will be off line whilst the canal is mined and the subsequent damage caused by mining longwall 409 is repaired?
- (5) Did the Government require the preparation of a full risk analysis for the Upper Canal, which supplies Sydney with 20 per cent of its water, before it approved the subsidence management plan?
- (6) How many months was the Upper Canal off line whilst the tunnel connecting the Broughton's Pass Weir with Upper Canal Tunnel was repaired?
- (7) Has the Minister adequately considered the risk to Sydney's water supply security whilst the Upper Canal is off line as a result of longwall mining, noting that for example, an extensive pathogen outbreak in Lake Burragorang could necessitate the Warragamba supply being taken off line at the same time?

Answer—

- (1) It is a condition of the Subsidence Management Plan approval for Appin longwall 409 that an Asset Protection Plan for Sydney Catchment Authority infrastructure must be approved prior to the commencement of any longwall mining. The plan must be developed to the satisfaction of the Sydney Catchment Authority. The Asset Protection Plan will address flow issues, the Upper Canal and the Simpsons Creek Aqueduct.
- (2) See answer to question (1).
- (3) See answer to question (1).
- (4) The Sydney Catchment Authority will plan water flows to allow preventative measures and any repairs to be effected. Details of this are a matter for the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water.
- (5) Risk Management workshops were undertaken prior to approval of longwall 409.
- (6) The Sydney Catchment Authority facilitated planned shutdowns of the tunnel to allow the installation of preventative works. Inspections and repairs were undertaken in consultation with the Sydney Catchment Authority. The tunnel was operational during the mining process.
- (7) Approval of longwall 409 was the subject to detailed discussions with the Sydney Catchment Authority and a series of risk management workshops. Approval conditions require an Asset Protection Plan to be prepared to the satisfaction of the Sydney Catchment Authority which will detail how operational requirements are to be met.

*2035 LONGWALL MINING UNDER CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE—SOUTHERN RAILWAY—Ms Pru Goward 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) Will the surface subsidence of about 1.2 metres under the Main Southern Railway that is associated with the mining of the Douglas 7 Area for Appin West Colliery affect rail traffic?
- (2) How many months will it take to mine longwall panels 703 and 704 in the Douglas 7 Area which pass directly under the Main Southern Railway and F5 Freeway?

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- (3) Is BHP-Billiton planning to mine another eight longwall panels under the Main Southern Railway and F5 Freeway, in addition to panels 703 and 704?
- (4) Was a detailed risk management plan for the Main Southern Railway completed before the Douglas 7 Subsidence Management Plan for Appin West Colliery was approved, and if not, is the Minister taking unknown risks with an essential piece of infrastructure?
- (5) Was the risk of closure to the Main Southern Railway to conduct repairs brought about by the 1.2 metres of surface subsidence considered before approval of the Subsidence Management Plan?
- (6) Can the Minister explain how coal trains weighing thousands of tonnes will negotiate rail tracks that will move 1.2 metres vertically and be subjected to all sorts of unknown uneven deflections due to various stresses and strains on rail culverts, cuttings, viaducts and other infrastructure?
- (7) Can the Minister offer an absolute assurance to this House that passenger and freight traffic on the Main Southern Railway will not be delayed, suspended, slowed or otherwise affected due to 1.2 metres of surface subsidence predicted for Douglas Area 7 of the Appin West Colliery?
- (8) Is it not the case that railway lines have in the past been protected from likely surface subsidence movements due to coal mining operations so that essential rail freight and passenger transport will not be interrupted?
- (9) Is it not the case that the rail bridge at Stanwell Park was permanently damaged due to surface movements related to coal mining located some distance away from the bridge and that rail traffic has been speed limited on the Stanwell Park bridge for over a decade as a result of the damage?
- (10) Based on past practice, is the Minister taking unknown and excessive risks with the Main Southern Railway line, which should be protected from any surface movements due to coal mining to ensure security of the State?

Answer—

- (1) It is a condition of the Subsidence Management Plan approval for Douglas Area 7 that a comprehensive Management Plan must be approved for the Main Southern Railway prior to the commencement of Longwall 702. The plan must be developed in consultation with the owners / operators of the infrastructure. The management plan will detail how subsidence impacts on the railway will be managed.
- (2) The total mining time for each of longwall 703 and 704 is around 12 months. The Main Southern Railway and F5 Freeway will be in the main zone of influence for part of this time.
- (3) Longwalls 701-704 are the only Douglas Area 7 longwalls which have been approved by Government. BHPBilliton should be contacted regarding its future plans.
- (4) A comprehensive Management Plan must be approved for the Main Southern Railway prior to the commencement of Longwall 702.
- (5) Potential impacts on the Main Southern Railway were considered before approval of the Subsidence Management Plan.
- (6) Details of the Main Southern Railway Management Plan are currently being developed by BHP-Billiton in consultation with the Australian Rail Track Corporation. This process will consider the operational needs of the rail owner.
- (7) See answer to question (6).
- (8) Longwall mining has occurred beneath rail lines in the past.
- (9) Damage to Stanwell Park railway viaduct was first noted in 1985. Repairs were funded by the Mine Subsidence Board. Track speeds are the responsibility of the infrastructure owner.
- (10) See answer to question (1).

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2036 **RETAIL ELECTRICITY MARKET**—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many companies are currently selling electricity on the retail market in New South Wales?
- (2) How many of these companies are publicly owned?
- (3) How many of these companies are privately owned?
- (4) What are the names of the retail companies mentioned in the answers to questions (2) and (3) above?
- (5) What are the latest estimates of the market share that each of these companies have in New South Wales?

- (6) How have those market share figures changed over the past three years?
- 2037 COMMUNITY SERVICES STAFF LEVELS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- When will the underlying 213 care worker vacancies identified by Director General Shepherd in the recent DoCS Supplementary Estimates hearings be filled?
- 2038 LYMPHOEDEMA TREATMENT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) Does the NSW Department of Health provide any financial assistance for patients diagnosed with Lymphoedema who require specialised sleeves, costing \$418 each, as part of their treatment?
- (2) If so, what are the details of, and criteria for, accessing this assistance?
- 2039 BEECHWOOD HOMES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- (1) How many complaints has the Office of Fair Trading had about sub-standard work carried out by Beechwood Homes in the past three years?
- (2) How many complaints against Beechwood Homes has the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal heard in the past three years?
- (3) Of these complaints how many resulted in a finding requiring rectification action by Beechwood Homes?
- 2040 FTE AGENCY NURSES—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- How many FTE agency nurses have been employed at Hornsby Hospital (with a separate estimation for the Mental Health Unit) for the years:
- (a) 2003;
- (b) 2004;
- (c) 2005;
- (d) 2006;
- (e) 2007 to date?
- 2041 MENTAL HEALTH UNIT—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) How many beds are in the Mental Health Unit of Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) What was the bed occupancy rate for 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 to date?
- (3) Have any beds been closed over this period?
- 2042 GALSTON HIGH SCHOOL—SECURITY FENCE—Mrs Judy Hopwood 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—
- What is the latest update on the need to install a security fence around Galston High School as a result of continuing and frequent events e.g. vandalism at the school?
- 2043 DESALINATION PROJECT—STAGE 2—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- (1) Regarding the desalination project you have spoken of, worth nearly \$2 billion, why have you not mentioned or costed Stage 2, which will be necessary to pump the water uphill some 90 metres to Potts Hill Reservoir which gravity-feeds most of Sydney's drinking water, from Yagoona to Coogee?
- (2) Is the value of this infrastructure of pipes and pumping stations a further billion dollars, meaning the desalination project will cost nearly \$3 billion?
- 2044 UNION CONSULTATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea 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—
- (1) Which unions, including the CFMEU and the United Services Union, were consulted before the Government wrote to relevant electricity industry employees about the proposed power sell-off?
- (2) What was the form and nature of that consultation?

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2045 NORTHERN PENINSULA TRANSPORT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Did the Military Road working group established by the Government report by the end of 2007, as the Member for Maroubra indicated it would when he spoke on 6 December 2007 on a motion regarding Northern Peninsula transport?
- (2) When will this report addressing integrated transport options for the corridor be made public?

2046 NSW MARITIME—EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

In relation to the employment of staff in NSW Maritime:

- (1) Regarding the recent employment of Steve Dunn as Deputy Chief Executive and GM Property Division:
 - (a) Was his position advertised and subject to a competitive merit selection process?
 - (b) How many applicants were there for the role?
 - (c) Which of your Ministerial colleagues advocated in favour of his appointment?
 - (d) Is it now proposed for him to become the new CEO following Mr Chris Oxenbould's recent retirement?
- (2) Regarding the recent employment of senior managers in the Property Division:
 - (a) Other than the GM, how many SES officer or senior officer positions were there prior to Mr Dunn's appointment?
 - (b) Who were they and how much were they paid in total?
 - (c) Other than the GM, how many SES officer or senior officer positions are there now?
 - (d) Who are they and how much will they be paid in total once all in place?
- (3) Regarding the recent employment of Joe Scimone to a senior role in the Property Division:
 - (a) Who in your Ministerial Office spoke with the external recruiter involved in the recruitment process?
 - (b) Who outside NSW Maritime had input into drafting the job specification and why?
 - (c) What employment screening or probity checks were undertaken before you appointed Mr Scimone?
- (4) Regarding the recent promotion of Dennis Buttigieg to a senior role in the Property Division, how many applicants were there for his new role and what was the selection process?
- (5) Regarding the 2006 employment of Patrick Low as GM Policy:
 - (a) Is he the same former Labor Ministerial staffer who was unavailable to ICAC when it investigated the controversy relating to Cecil Hills High School?
 - (b) Which of your Ministerial colleagues advocated in favour of his appointment?
 - (c) How many people were there in the Policy Division before his appointment?
 - (d) How many people currently report to him as GM and do they work in the same building as him?

2047 PHARMACISTS—GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many positions exist for pharmacists in the Greater Southern Area Health Service hospitals?
- (2) How many of these positions are currently vacant?
- (3) How many of these positions have been vacant for less than 12 months?
- (4) What action is being taken by NSW Health to address these shortages?

2048 POPPA BILL'S MOTEL—BANORA POINT—Mr Geoff Provost to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

In relation to Poppa Bill's Motel in Banora Point, which is used to accommodate Department of Housing clients, and its recent sale to a property developer:

- (1) (a) Will the Department of Housing provide the ten displaced persons, who have been given less than two weeks notice to vacate their homes, with emergency accommodation?
- (b) If yes, for how long will the accommodation be provided for?
- (c) If not, why not and what alternative will the Department provide to these persons?
- (2) What are the long-term accommodation options the Department of Housing will present to these persons?

- 2049 KINGSCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Geoff Provest 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 safety concerns at Kingscliff High School regarding a stormwater drainage pond in the school's ground:

- (1) Will the Department of Education provide additional maintenance funding to repair or replace the severely deteriorated fencing which surrounds the pond?
- (2) What is the number of complaints/inquires made to the Department of Education regarding safety concerns in Government schools in the Tweed electorate during:
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008 year to date?

- 2050 TWEED HEADS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—

Given that only 0.5 of a paediatric physiotherapist position remains active at Tweed Heads Community Health Centre and that treatment is only administered to the most critical patients, leaving a patient waiting list that extends to October 2008:

- (1) What treatment options will be made available to:
 - (a) Patients who require urgent treatment and cannot wait until October 2008?
 - (b) Premature babies, whom the level 1 paediatric physiotherapist occupying the active 0.5 position cannot legally treat without supervision?
- (2) Why was the position for a level 2 paediatric physiotherapist not filled when the person previously occupying this position took maternity leave?
- (3) Why has a senior paediatric physiotherapist, who was recruited to cover the position left vacant when the physiotherapist referred to in (2) took maternity leave, let go?

- 2051 ATTENDANCE AT EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—

How does the Minister account for the difference between the number of people who attended emergency departments in September 2007 (154,710) and the number of patients who went through the triage process in September 2007 (145,254)?

- 2052 FTE AGENCY NURSES IN THE GREATER WESTERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—

How many FTE agency nurses are employed at each hospital in the Greater Western Area Health Service?

- 2053 FTE AGENCY NURSES IN THE SOUTH EASTERN SYDNEY ILLAWARRA AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—

How many FTE agency nurses are employed at each hospital in the South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service?

- 2054 UNUSED SCHOOL SITES—Mr George Souris 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) Is there a policy to allow the private sector to lease or purchase unused school sites?
- (2) If so, regarding the unused school site on the corner of Kelso and Church streets Singleton, is it available to be either leased or purchased by non-government schools?

- 2055 LAND AT NARRABEEN LAGOON—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

What is the legal status of the land west and south of the main Academy of Sports building and down to the shore of the Narrabeen Lagoon that was gazetted by the Department of Lands in August 2006 as part of the Oxford Falls Crown Reserve?

- 2056 DOCTORS AT MONA VALE HOSPITAL—WHITE COATS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—

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Are doctors at Mona Vale Hospital required to wear a white coat over their street clothes?

2057 MEDICAL STAFF AT MONA VALE HOSPITAL—UNIFORMS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—

Are medical staff at Mona Vale Hospital who are required to wear uniforms, required to change into their uniforms at the hospital, or are they permitted to travel to and from work in uniform?

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales