



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2014-15

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 24

MONDAY 2 MARCH 2015

(House prorogued [2 March 2015]. This prorogation edition includes answers received since publication of the Questions and Answers paper on the last sitting day.)

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
Monday 2 March 2015

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 23 (Including Question Nos 6674 to 6677)	16 January 2015
Q & A No. 23 (Including Question Nos 6678 to 6682)	12 February 2015
Q & A No. 24 (Questions—Nil)	-

12 DECEMBER 2014

(Paper No. 23)

*6674 CHILDCARE IN GAMBLING VENUES—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What data does the Government have about childcare in gambling venues?
- (2) What data relating to childcare in gambling venues applies specifically to the inner city?
- (3) What data does the Government have regarding trends in this provision of childcare over time?
- (4) How does the Government ensure appropriate child protection standards and procedures apply for onsite childcare in gambling venues?

Answer—

- (1) The Government does not collect data on early childhood education and care at gambling venues.
- (2) As above.
- (3) As above.
- (4) All approved early childhood education and care services must meet the requirements of the Children (Education and Care Services) National Law and its accompanying Regulations. The standards and safeguards mandated by the legislation apply to all approved services, irrespective of the nature of the site or venue.

*6675 DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION ADVERTISEMENT IN THE DAILY TELEGRAPH—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter—

Did the Daily Telegraph or News Corporation pay for the use of a New South Wales train carriage to film the digital subscription advertisement?

Answer—

I am advised:

A third party filmed the advertisement and was responsible for payment of the fee covering costs for use of the train.

Information about filming and photography of Transport for NSW assets can be found at <http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/sydneytrains/commercialfilmingand-photography>.

*6676 FLASHING SCHOOL ZONE SIGNS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Hunter representing the Minister for Roads and Freight, Minister for the North Coast, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Will the Government erect flashing school zone signs outside any schools in the Bankstown electorate within the next 12 months?
 - (a) If so, at which schools will the flashing school zone signs be erected?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

As at 19 December 2014, all schools in Bankstown Local Government Area have received a set of flashing lights.

*6677 PORT OF NEWCASTLE AND PORT BOTANY LEASES—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations—

- (1) Did the Government advise the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) of a cap on container numbers at the Port of Newcastle prior to leasing the Port of Newcastle and Port Botany?
- (2) Did the Government agree to compensate NSW Ports for container numbers in excess of the cap at the Port of Newcastle?
- (3) Did the Government advise bidders for the ports leases to obtain regulatory approval from the ACCC in relation to the cap on container numbers at the Port of Newcastle?
- (4) Will the cap on container numbers at the Port of Newcastle reduce competition between ports in New South Wales for the container trade?
- (5) Has the ACCC advised the Government that the cap on container numbers at the Port of Newcastle may be unlawful and could be unenforceable?

Answer—

The transaction arrangements that the State entered into with the successful bidders for Port Botany and Kembla and the Port of Newcastle reflect its Freight and Ports Strategy, that Port Kembla should be the State's next container terminal once Port Botany reaches capacity.

This strategy recognises that Port Botany has significant capacity for container growth; most containers travel within a relatively short distance of Port Botany; future demand for containers is expected to occur in the South West of Sydney and thereby closer to Port Kembla than Newcastle; and the landside infrastructure costs to support a major container facility at Newcastle are higher than for Port Kembla.

The arrangements do not prohibit the development of a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle and enable the growth of container volumes through Newcastle servicing that region.

The Government's transaction team engaged extensively with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission regarding the competition and regulatory framework, including the container arrangements.

8 JANUARY 2015

(Paper No. 23)

*6678 VOLUNTEERS AT MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What changes, if any, are being planned by the management of Mount Druitt Hospital that would affect the current role of volunteers raising funds for the hospital?
- (2) Are there plans to stop volunteers from accessing the current kiosk and gift shop at the hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) None.
- (2) No.

*6679 AFFORDABLE HOUSING—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Planning, and Minister for Women—

- (1) What is the status of the Affordable Housing Taskforce's report into affordable housing in New South Wales?
- (2) What action has the Government taken in response to the Taskforce's Draft Report and any subsequent report(s)?
- (3) What is the status of the State Environmental Planning Policy, affordable housing Choice that was identified in the Affordable Housing Taskforce's Draft Report?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Affordable Housing Taskforce interim report can be found online at www.planning.nsw.gov.au.

*6680 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services—

- (1) How many domestic violence shelters are located in New South Wales?
- (2) Are any domestic violence shelters funded by the Government?
- (3) If so, are these shelters partially or fully funded by the Government?
- (4) What is the maximum number of domestic violence victims that are able to be housed at shelters across New South Wales on any given night?

Answer—

Details of the Going Home Staying Home reforms, including information about women's services, is available on the Housing NSW website at <http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/Help+with+Housing/Homelessness/Going+Home+Staying+Home/E-Newsletters.htm>.

*6681 NEWCASTLE CBD SUBSIDENCE ISSUES—Mr Tim Crakanthorp asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, and Special Minister of State—

- (1) How much of the Newcastle CBD is undermined?
- (2) How much funding is available to the Mine Subsidence Board?
- (3) Has the Minister, or the Board, developed a plan to remediate the Newcastle CBD subsidence issues?

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(4) If not, why not?

Answer—

Most of the Newcastle Central Business District is undermined by old mine working in the Borehole Seam at a depth of 50 - 70 metres. The Mine Subsidence Board has prepared a mine subsidence category plan for Newcastle and this is available on the Board's website to assist developers understand possible mine subsidence risks and requirements.

Unlike the inaction of our predecessors, this Government is strongly committed to revitalising the Hunter.

The Government is aware of the significant undermining of the Newcastle CBD and a number of strategies are being explored to remediate this issue.

*6682 COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION—Mr Barry Collier asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, and Special Minister of State—

Can the Minister assure the people of the Sutherland Shire that there will be no coal seam gas exploration or mining in the catchment area of the Woronora Dam?

Answer—

The catchment area of the Woronora Dam lies within the Sydney Water Catchment Special Area.

In November 2013, the Government put a hold on all coal seam gas exploration and extraction activities in the Special Areas of Sydney's drinking water catchment. This was in response to the community's concerns about the impact of coal seam gas activity on water supplies in this important catchment area.

The Government asked the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Mary O'Kane, to examine the cumulative impact of all activities which impact ground and surface water in the Sydney Water Catchment Special Areas.

The report, 'Cumulative impacts on ground and surface water in the Sydney Water Catchment,' was released on 30 May 2014.

The Government will maintain its ban on coal seam gas exploration and extraction in the Sydney Water Catchment until it fully considers all the recommendations in this report, and will closely monitor any impacts on the environment.