

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

No. 133

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

QUESTIONS

AND

ANSWERS

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2001

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

Notice given on date shown

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q&A No. 128 (Including Question Nos 1144 to 1147)	28 November 2001
Q&A No. 129 (Including Question Nos 1148 to 1162)	29 November 2001
Q&A No. 130 (Nil Questions)	—
Q&A No. 131 (Nil Questions)	—
Q&A No. 132 (Including Question Nos 1163 and 1164)	20 December 2001
Q&A No. 133 (Including Question Nos 1165 to 1172)	1 January 2002

16 OCTOBER 2001

(Paper No. 124)

*1117 TREASURY—RESTRUCTURE OF THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT—Mr Gay asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Following the restructure of the Office of Financial Management, as announced in the August edition of *Treasury Focus*:

- (1) What is new role of the Frontier Economics consortium?
- (2) Does the Market Implementation Group still exist?

Answer—

- (1) The Frontier Economics consortium now performs a support role in completing a number of the major energy reform initiatives.
- (2) Yes. The Market Implementation Group has been restructured into two branches. The branches titled Generation and Distribution form part of the Resource Allocation Directorate – Education, Property, Natural Resources and Energy.

*1118 TREASURY—ELECTRICITY TARIFF EQUALISATION FUND—Mr Gay asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

With regard to the Electricity Tariff Equalisation Fund (ETEF):

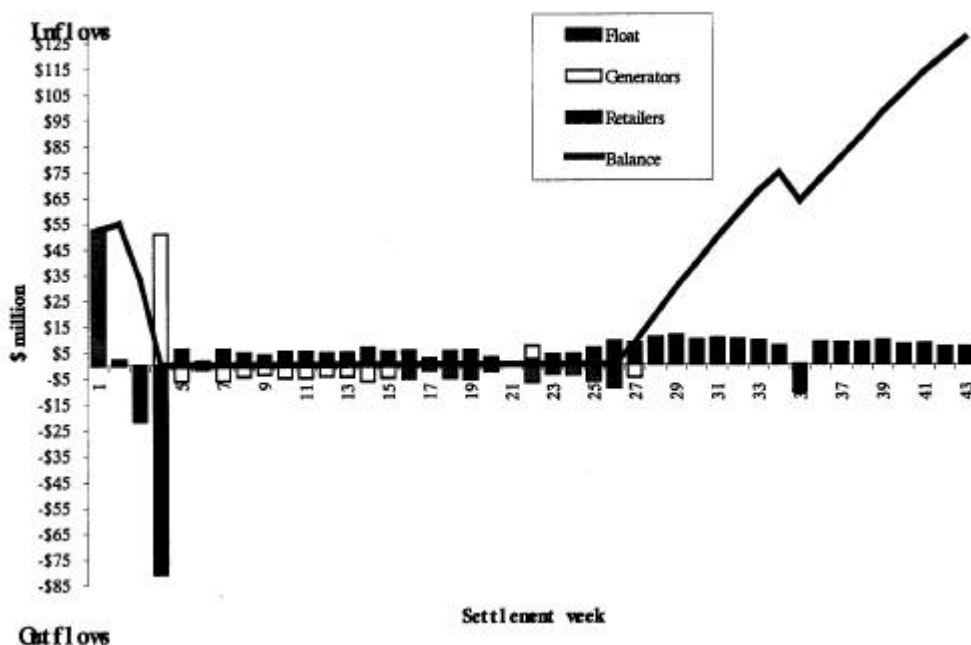
- (1) What is the total amount paid into the fund for:
 - (a) May 2001?
 - (b) June 2001?
 - (c) July 2001?
 - (d) August 2001?
 - (e) September 2001?
- (2) What is the total amount paid out of the fund for:
 - (a) May 2001?
 - (b) June 2001?
 - (c) July 2001?
 - (d) August 2001?
 - (e) September 2001?
- (3) Of the monies paid into the fund, what was the value contributed by the State-owned electricity generators for:
 - (a) May 2001?
 - (b) June 2001?

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- (c) July 2001?
 (d) August 2001?
 (e) September 2001?

Answer—

The weekly flow of ETEF payments involving standard retail suppliers and the State-owned generators is shown in Figure 1. The figure also shows a steady increase in the net reserves held by the fund through the July to October 2001 period (week 26 to week 43). The fund balance at the end of October 2001 was in the order of \$130 million.



For the fund to be in surplus, average New South Wales pool price must be less than the average energy price charged to small regulated retail customers.

While there is currently a surplus in the fund, this would be eliminated if the New South Wales pool price spiked to the maximum allowed in the NEM (\$5,000/MWh at present) for about 2 hours. These price spikes are expected to occur when demand is high (i.e. summer and winter peaks). Thus, in general, the fund is expected to build up surpluses in mild seasons (i.e. spring and autumn) and diminish at other times. In this way the fund is designed to balance out over the longer term. However, it is important to recognise that the fund cannot go into a negative balance because the generators are required to contribute a proportion of their extra profit at these times to make up any shortfall of payments to the retailers. This ensures that retailer risks are always managed, and that the fund balance cannot fall below zero.

Over the 11 months of operation the fund has proven to be an extremely effective mechanism for ensuring that the retailers who are required to supply small regulated retail customers are not subjected to financial risk from pool price fluctuations. At the same time the fund prevents these retailers from using windfall gains from low wholesale prices to cross-subsidise competition for other non-regulated customers. In this way the fund ensures fair competition in the retail market.

Reserves that accumulate in the ETEF will remain in the ETEF. With the introduction of full retail competition from 1 January 2002, household and small retail customers have the option of entering into negotiated supply contracts with any licensed retailer. Small retail customers also have the option of remaining or returning to regulated retail tariffs. This additional volume risk further adds to the need to consider ETEF payment flows over the life of the current IPART determination of regulated retail tariffs (to 30 June 2004).

The Government is implementing arrangements to ensure that the ETEF balance is regularly published prior to the commencement of full retail competition. The information will be available from the Electricity Tariff Equalisation Ministerial Corporation website: www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/etecorp.htm

- (1) (a) \$13,788,421.
(b) \$28,992,691.
(c) \$44,105,911.
(d) \$22,371,854.
(e) \$33,941,164.
- (2) (a) Zero.
(b) Zero.
(c) \$5,000,000.
(d) Zero.
(e) Zero.
- (3) (a) Zero.
(b) \$5,000,000.
(c) Zero.
(d) Zero.
(e) Zero.

The \$5 million payment out of the fund in June 2001 was a payment to the NSW Treasury Corporation to complete the repayment of the initial \$50 million "float" that commenced the Fund. In turn, the NSW Government owned generators were required to make a \$5million contribution to the fund to maintain a zero balance. As can be seen from Figure 1, the generators were repaid this \$5 million contribution when a few weeks later when the fund accumulated more than \$5 million of reserves.

*1119 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT—Mr Gay asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

What proportion of outgoing correspondence from the Minister for Local Government's office is signed by persons other than the Minister?

Answer—

Keeping statistics on who signs outgoing correspondence would be a disgraceful waste of public resources and I am pleased to say I cannot provide a figure in response to this question.

Outgoing correspondence from the Minister's office takes many forms.

As is common practice in Government, the Minister's Senior Policy Adviser usually signs replies to correspondence from members of the public, particularly those of a routine nature.

*1120 MINERAL RESOURCES—CONTRACT GEOLOGISTS—Mr Gay asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries—

- (1) Does the Department of Mineral Resources now require contract geologists to submit annual reports electronically or on CD-Rom?
- (2) Does the department no longer accept annual reports that are not provided in an electronic format?
- (3)
 - (a) Will the department give some consideration to contract geologists who wish to continue submitting annual reports in other formats?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Annual reports must be submitted electronically, except in the case of some small-scale titles such as mineral claims, opal prospecting licences and one unit exploration licences.
- (3) These digital reporting standards were developed by the national Chief Government Geologists Conference in April 1999.

The standards were driven by industry expectations and there are great benefits to both industry and Government in digital reporting. It allows subsequent explorers to readily access exploration data, which is compatible with the NSW Government's commitment to encourage exploration.

*1121 ENERGY—GOSFORD CITY COUNCIL—Mr Gay asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth, and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Environment representing the Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1)
 - (a) Has Gosford City Council distributed a form, apparently on behalf of EnergyAustralia, that seeks to have property owners take responsibility for all underground power consumer mains and service mains from the power pole leading into a property?
 - (b) If so, why?
- (2) Is this a case of asking property owners to accept a liability that they have not previously been expected to assume?

Answer—

- (1)
 - (a) Gosford City Council has distributed a form notifying property owners of a proposal to underground the existing electricity network as part of the Umina CBD street improvement project. The council's project is being undertaken in conjunction with EnergyAustralia. The installation costs for the change from overhead to underground service is being borne by the project.
 - (b) I understand that Gosford City Council has written to affected property owners setting out the conditions required in the New South Wales Service and Installation Rules for underground electricity services. These rules state:

The customer is responsible for the installation and maintenance to the electricity distributor's requirements, of any conduit or structure and associated equipment which is required to be located on their premises for the installation and connection of an underground service. In addition, the customer must provide and maintain satisfactory access to the conduit or structure to avoid any unnecessary delay and inconvenience should work have to be carried out on the underground service. The costs of any excavation or reinstatement of finished surfaces (driveways, paths, etc) or demolition and reconstruction of civil works such as retaining walls, on the customer's premises to enable the electricity distributor to gain access to the underground service to effect any future repairs must be borne by the customer.

I understand that an earlier advice from Gosford City Council to customers had wrongly indicated that customers were to maintain the service cable itself, and that this has subsequently been corrected.

- (2) The conditions and responsibility for an underground electricity service will be different to the conditions for an overhead service on private property. Electricity distributors will continue to be responsible for the maintenance of the service cable in both overhead and underground systems. However, where property owners agree to have electricity services underground, property owners are responsible for access to and maintenance of the conduits on their property.

*1122 FAIR TRADING—MRS IRENE ONORATI—Mr Jobling asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) Is Mr Steve Jones a Manager, Building Investigations Branch, at the Department of Fair Trading?
- (2) (a) Did Mr Jones advise a Mrs Irene Onorati on 8 October 2001 that he had been instructed that departmental officers should advise Mrs Onorati when she rings that:
- “No one should speak to Irene Onorati, she must be referred to the Minister's office”?
- (b) If so:
- (i) Why were these instructions given?
- (ii) Who gave these instructions to Mr Steve Jones?
- (iii) For what reason were they given?
- (iv) Was some approval sought?
- (3) Did a recent memo state: (Extract of memo to: David Catt, c.c B Given, Re: Mrs Onorati.)
- “As discussed with you, I believe this consumer needs continued careful handling at a reasonably senior level, and we cannot afford to appear to be fobbing her off, which is why it is important to fully brief the contact officer who will take the running from now on ...”?
- (4) (a) Are any other members of the public so designated by the department in a similar memo to that issued regarding Mrs Onorati?
- (b) If so, who are they?
- (5) (a) Is anyone else in the department authorised to issue such directives?
- (b) If so:
- (i) Who?
- (ii) On whose authority?

Answer—

(1) to (5) Mrs Onorati wrote to me concerning these matters. The text of my reply was as follows:

Dear Mrs Onorati,

I refer to a letter, received by me on 13 September 2001, from your solicitors, Russo & Partners, and to a Residential Building Work Complaint, dated 11 September 2001, which you have lodged with the Department of Fair Trading, concerning matters relating to your dispute with Architectural Glass Projects Pty Limited and Flat Glass Industries Pty Limited.

I refer also to your letter, received by me on 10 October 2001, regarding your communications with, and access to, officers of the Department of Fair Trading.

I think the easiest way to deal with your inquiries is to draw the following distinction.

Clearly there are your communications as a private individual, who is involved in a building dispute.

On the other hand there are your communications with the Department and my office as an advocate, that is, on behalf of other consumers who have building disputes or complaints.

In relation to the former, as you are aware, I have engaged Sir Laurence Street, AC, KCMG, QC, to assist in bringing your longstanding dispute, relating to your own home, to an end. I am advised that since his engagement, Sir Laurence has both met with and had telephone discussions with yourself and Mr Sal Russo in this regard. In order to ensure that there are no “crossed wires”, I believe it is appropriate that you direct any correspondence or queries about these matters directly to Sir Laurence. As I have discussed with you and Mr Russo, Sir Laurence was engaged with the express intention of achieving a resolution of the matters relating to your personal affairs. Having done this, it would seem to be counter-productive for anyone else (whether my office or the Department of Fair Trading) to also communicate with you about your case. Such a scenario could possibly lead to confusion and contradiction.

Having said this, should you wish to discuss any matter personally with me, you know that I am available to meet with you at any time. In the meantime, I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence about these matters, and a copy of this reply, to Sir Laurence for his attention.

In relation to your role as a consumer advocate, I consider the situation to be quite different. Obviously, as the President of BARG, I would expect you to have appropriate access to the Department of Fair Trading just as I would expect any other consumer advocate, member of parliament or the like to be able to make representations on behalf of another person. In addition, as the President of BARG, you know that I welcome your input, comment and interaction with the Department. As you know, I have publicly and repeatedly acknowledged your role in this regard and will continue to do so. In this context, I also note that BARG has the additional avenue for input into the development of government policy through the presence of Mr Sal Russo on the Home Building Advisory Council. I am informed that Mr Russo is a valuable and vigorous contributor in this regard.

In relation to your comments about matters that occurred before I was Minister (in your letter received by me on October 10) I can only reiterate that I do not think it is valuable to revisit incidents that occurred years ago. As I understand it, the memo to which you refer was issued in 1996. Further, in light of what I have said above, I would hope that you are not implying that I would in any way, shape or form seek to restrict your activities as a consumer advocate.

In relation to your comments about Ms Lyn Baker, I can advise that, as the Director of Home Building and Property Services, Ms Baker personally dealt with matters relating to Henley Homes. I do find it odd that you would be offended by having an extremely senior Departmental officer take such a “hands on” role. On the contrary, to my mind it indicates the level of concern about the matters you had raised. In addition, since Ms Baker took personal control of the matters relating to Henley Homes, 161 complaints have been reduced to five outstanding matters, as at November 7. In addition, Supreme Court action was taken against the company.

In relation to the alleged comments from the un-named Fair Trading official, I asked the Director-General about your claims. He has informed me that he has no personal knowledge of any memos or the like about this matter having been issued. If you have any information to the contrary, I would appreciate you providing it to me. However, I must say that at this stage it is extremely difficult for me to investigate non-specific allegations, made at a non-specific time, by an un-named person with unknown motives. In addition, if this allegedly happened 12 months ago, I do not understand why you have waited until now to raise it.

I can only reiterate my position that if I, or the Department of Fair Trading, are able to assist you or other BARG members with matters under my jurisdiction, we will.

Finally, I understand that since you wrote to me, the Honourable J H Jobling has asked a series of questions, making the same allegations made in your letter to me. Accordingly, I will be providing a copy of this letter as my answer to those questions, as well as sending a copy of this reply directly to Mr Jobling and the other members of parliament on BARG's "copy to" list.

*1123 URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING—PUBLIC HOUSING MAINTENANCE—Ms Rhiannon asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—

What steps has the Department of Housing taken to address the criticisms in the performance audit "Department of Housing: Maintenance of Public Housing" April 2001, performed by the Audit Office:

- (1) To reduce the accumulated backlog of maintenance on public housing stock?
- (2) To ensure that the maintenance of the department's assets are adequately planned and funded?
- (3) (a) To improve its planning for maintenance, including management information to support planning, as recommended in the performance audit?
(b) If so, what steps have been taken?
- (4) To establish a performance reporting framework for housing maintenance?
- (5) To ensure that the procedure for checking the work undertaken by contractors is always undertaken?
- (6) (a) To expand performance reporting for maintenance or benchmarking of maintenance functions within regions and across the department?
(b) If so, in what ways?

Answer—

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Housing has provided the following response:

- (1) From the 1998 commencement of the Department's Accelerated Improvement Program more than 15,000 older dwellings have been refurbished. In 2001-02, a further 7,500 dwellings are targeted for refurbishment.
- (2) Expenditure on maintenance and improvement has substantially increased. With the exception of urgent health and safety responses, maintenance is delivered as programed and planned works. Ongoing property condition surveys and analysis of information captured has enabled improved planning for maintenance.
- (3) The Maintenance Improvement Project has been progressively reforming the department's management of maintenance. The Housing Call Centre provides tenants with a 7-day 24-hour number to report maintenance problems. Asset condition standards have been adopted and a condition assessment program established. Compliance of dwelling condition against the standard is now measurable.

- (4) The department is continuing to develop its reporting capability, including the ability to benchmark performance against other States.
- (5) Procedures for checking contractors' work are in alignment with NSW Treasury guidelines. Contractor performance reviews are an essential part of current maintenance contract management arrangements. An enhanced Contractor Performance Reporting System is under development and is scheduled to be completed prior to new contracts commencing in 2002.
- (6) As part of the Maintenance Quality Plan, a Benefit Realisation Plan is being developed to monitor the ongoing success in meeting key maintenance outcomes which include tenant satisfaction with maintenance, improved dwelling condition and improved cost-effectiveness of maintenance.

*1124 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—TAFE TEACHER NUMBERS—Ms Rhiannon asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast representing the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1)
 - (a) What was the number of full-time teachers in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
 - (b) What is the source of this data?
 - (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (2)
 - (a) What is the number of part-time/casual teachers in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
 - (b) What is the source of this data?
 - (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (3)
 - (a) What is the number of hours taught by full-time teachers in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
 - (b) What is the source of this data?
 - (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (4)
 - (a) What is the number of hours taught by part-time/casual teachers in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
 - (b) What is the source of this data?
 - (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (5)
 - (a) What is the ratio of males to females amongst full-time teachers in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
 - (b) What is the source of this data?
 - (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (6)
 - (a) What is the ration of males to females amongst part-time/casual teachers in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
 - (b) What is the source of this data?
 - (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?

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- (7) (a) What is the average age of full-time teachers in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
- (b) What is the source of this data?
- (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (8) (a) What is the average age of part-time/casual teachers in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
- (b) What is the source of this data?
- (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (9) (a) What is the average length of service of full-time teachers in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
- (b) What is the source of this data?
- (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (10) (a) What is the average length of service of part-time/casual teachers in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
- (b) What is the source of this data?
- (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (11) (a) What is the number of casual teachers who teach less than 10 hours per week in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
- (b) What is the source of this data?
- (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (12) (a) What is the number of casual teachers who teach 10 hours per week or more but less than 20 hours in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
- (b) What is the source of this data?
- (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?
- (13) (a) What is the number of casual teachers who teach 20 hours per week or more in TAFE NSW for the year 2000 (or for the most recent year for which data is available)?
- (b) What is the source of this data?
- (c) If this data is unavailable, why does the Minister not have access to such data?

Answer—

The Minister for Education and Training has provided the following response:

- (1) (a) to (c) The number of full-time equivalent teachers in TAFE NSW is provided in the Department of Education and Training Annual Report 2000, Appendix 9.
- (2) (a) to (c) This information is not available as the number of casual teachers and the hours taught by part-time casual teachers varies across TAFE NSW and is dependent on need and the courses provided at a particular site and time.

- (3) (a) to (c) Full-time TAFE teachers employed under the *Crown Employees (Teachers in Schools and TAFE and Related Employees) Salaries and Conditions Award* “shall be required to teach 19 hours per week direct teaching”.
- (4) (a) to (c) This information is not available as the number of casual teachers and the hours taught by part-time casual teachers varies across TAFE NSW and is dependent on need and the courses provided at a particular site and time.
- (5) (a) Ratio of males to females is 3:2.
(b) Departmental data.
(c) Not applicable.
- (6) (a) to (c) This information is not available as the number of casual teachers and the hours taught by part-time casual teachers varies across TAFE NSW and is dependent on need and the courses provided at a particular site and time.
- (7) (a) The average age of permanent TAFE teachers at June 2000 was 47 years.
(b) Departmental data.
(c) Not applicable.
- (8) (a) to (c) This information is not available as the number of casual teachers and the hours taught by part-time casual teachers varies across TAFE NSW and is dependent on need and the courses provided at a particular site and time.
- (9) (a) The average length of service of full-time teachers in 2000 was 13 years.
(b) Departmental data.
(c) Not applicable.
- (10) to (13) This information is not available as the number of casual teachers and the hours taught by part-time casual teachers varies across TAFE NSW and is dependent on need and the courses provided at a particular site and time.

*1125 PREMIER—WOLLONDILLY SHIRE—Mr Ryan asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

For each of his departmental and agency responsibilities:

- (1) What services does his portfolio provide for young people in the Wollondilly Shire?
- (2) (a) How much funding does he give the Wollondilly project?
(b) Does the project attract Federal or local government funding or private sponsorship?
(c) Who is the designated point of contact for the service and what is the phone number and mailing address?
(d) What is the primary objective of this project?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Bob Carr MP, Premier, that the answers to the honourable member's questions are:

- (1) and (2) The Premier's Department has been instrumental in forming the Wollondilly Community Drug Action Team - a government and community initiative to prevent drug abuse.

The Premier's Department has also been a strong supporter of the Macarthur Youth Commitment, a whole-of-community initiative to improve school retention rates and employment outcomes for Macarthur youth.

*1126 URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING, ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS, HOUSING—WOLLONDILLY SHIRE—
Mr Ryan asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—

For each of his departmental and agency responsibilities:

- (1) What services does his portfolio provide for young people in the Wollondilly Shire?
- (2)
 - (a) How much funding does he give the Wollondilly project?
 - (b) Does the project attract Federal or local government funding or private sponsorship?
 - (c) Who is the designated point of contact for the service and what is the phone number and mailing address?
 - (d) What is the primary objective of this project?

Answer—

The Deputy Premier has provided the following response:

In regard to the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning:

- (1) No applications were received for grants under the 2001 Area Assistance Scheme specifically for young people in the Wollondilly Shire.
- (2) I understand that the Wollondilly Project is a joint project being undertaken by the Wollondilly Shire Council, the Local Health Board, the University of Western Sydney and Rotary.

It is an analysis of the youth needs in the Wollondilly Shire and is currently in the "solution planning" process. I am informed that it is intended to build partnerships with service providers and government agencies and to develop an action plan to meet local youth needs. It appears that funding will then be sought, once the action plan has been developed.

The contact person for this project is Mr Graham Taylor, General Manager, Wollondilly Shire Council, PO Box 21 Picton 2571. Mr Taylor may be contacted on telephone No. 46 771 147.

In regard to the Department of Housing:

- (1) The Department of Housing provides a range of housing services in the Wollondilly Shire, in particular public rental housing and Rentstart. As a partner in the Families First initiative, the Department of Housing has employed a coordinator to work with residents in a number of communities in the Macarthur area (including Wollondilly) to create better environments in which to raise children.

Picton Youth Housing (PYH), in partnership with Argyle Community Housing, was provided a leasing subsidy under the 1999-2000 Crisis Accommodation Program to acquire one, 3-bedroom house in the Wollondilly Shire to provide accommodation to homeless young people.

- (2) (a) Average current rental subsidy of \$9,000 per annum is provided to Picton Youth Housing.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) New South Wales Department of Housing, Campbelltown Area Office, PO Box 104, Campbelltown 2560 Tel: 46 293 222.
- (d) The purpose of the New South Wales Department of Housing is to work in partnership with the community to supply and sustain safe, decent and affordable housing for people on low incomes, and to enable people in need to create environments where they live with dignity, find support and make sustainable futures.

In regard to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the department has had no specific involvement in the Wollondilly Shire or the Wollondilly project.

*1127 ATTORNEY GENERAL, ENVIRONMENT, EMERGENCY SERVICES—WOLLONDILLY SHIRE—Mr Ryan asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Attorney General—

For each of his departmental and agency responsibilities:

- (1) What services does his portfolio provide for young people in the Wollondilly Shire?
- (2) (a) How much funding does he give the Wollondilly project?
- (b) Does the project attract Federal or local government funding or private sponsorship?
- (c) Who is the designated point of contact for the service and what is the phone number and mailing address?
- (d) What is the primary objective of this project?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Bob Debus MP, Attorney-General, that the answers to the honourable member's questions are:

The Attorney General's Department provides a wide range of services to young people across the State. The services provided include community justice centres (CJCs), services for victims of crime (Tel: 9374 3005) and court services (including Children's Courts and the Children's Court Clinic). Young people in some parts of Wollondilly Shire are also eligible to access the Youth Drug Court pilot program based at Campbelltown Children's Court.

Funding figures specific to Wollondilly Shire are not available as the services are either provided on a statewide basis or cover areas both inside and outside the shire. These services are all State-funded.

CJCs can assist young people to resolve arguments and conflicts at home, work or school. CJCs have a special program for young people under 16 years of age, providing face to face or telephone dispute counselling to better prepare young people for mediation. The service is free of charge, confidential and impartial, and can be provided at several venues in Wollondilly. Young people are referred to CJCs from a range of local services in Wollondilly, including the Wollondilly Youth Services Network, Wollondilly/Camden Family Support and Youth Housing Programs. One CJC mediator works 3 days per week with the Youth Housing Program in the Wollondilly area and provides advice, assistance and referral for mediation. To contact CJCs call (free call) 1800 650 987.

The State Government has identified local councils as the most suitable leading agency to assist communities to develop their own crime prevention solutions for crime concerns. The Crime Prevention Division of the Attorney General's Department can assist and fund councils developing crime prevention policy and programs. Councils that successfully refer crime prevention plans for my endorsement as a Safer Community Compact are eligible to apply for a Safer Community Compact Grant to implement the initiatives included in the plan. Wollondilly Shire Council has the same access to the department's crime prevention initiatives and assistance as does any other local council in New South Wales. The Crime Prevention Division can be contacted on Tel: 9228 8307.

Members of the public can obtain information about these and other services on the Attorney General's Department website.

*1128 FAIR TRADING, CORRECTIVE SERVICES, SPORT AND RECREATION—WOLLONDILLY SHIRE—Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

For each of his departmental and agency responsibilities:

- (1) What services does his portfolio provide for young people in the Wollondilly Shire?
- (2)
 - (a) How much funding does he give the Wollondilly project?
 - (b) Does the project attract Federal or local government funding or private sponsorship?
 - (c) Who is the designated point of contact for the service and what is the phone number and mailing address?
 - (d) What is the primary objective of this project?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the Department of Fair Trading has identified young people throughout New South Wales as one of its major target audiences. Young people are avid consumers but are also vulnerable due to their inexperience in the marketplace. The department has targeted young people in Wollondilly Shire and elsewhere throughout New South Wales.

The department has introduced into high schools an innovative new teaching and information resource called *Money Stuff!* designed to arm young people with the tools to make informed decisions about a range of consumer topics. These include:

- what to look for when buying a car;
- the dangers of getting too deeply into debt;
- the ins and outs of everyday consumer purchases;
- how to select the mobile phone deal that best suits your needs; and
- the steps to take when moving into rental accommodation.

The information is presented through a dedicated Internet site, which provides young people with interactive challenges, based on real-life situations. The Internet site is complemented by classroom teaching resources, including teacher workbooks with lesson plans and activity sheets, and a video. The workbooks cover three subject areas, English, mathematics and commerce, and are designed to meet the learning outcomes of Years 10 and 11 students.

Money Stuff! was launched in August 2000 and to date has won three national awards for excellence in educational resources.

The State Government through the Department of Sport and Recreation also provides the following services for young people in the Wollondilly Shire:

Swimsafe

The department's Swimsafe learn to swim program has taught over 1½ million people to swim over the last 27 years. The Swimsafe program is being conducted for young people of the Wollondilly Shire this summer at:

- Picton Pool from 26 November 2001 to 23 January 2002; and
- Warragamba Pool from 2 to 11 January 2002.

Sport and Recreation Facility Development

Over the past 3 years the following sport and recreation facility development projects that will benefit young people in the Wollondilly Shire have received funding through the department's Capital Assistance program:

- Wollondilly Little Athletics Club received \$2,600 to install new discus and shot put pads and nets at Tahmoor Sportsground;
- Wollondilly Shire Council received \$5,000 to construct an awning for spectators at Willis Park, Oakdale;
- Douglas Park Recreation Reserve Management Trust received \$3,300 to construct a cricket pitch at Douglas Park Recreation Reserve;
- Wollondilly Shire Council received \$15,000 to construct a new playground at Telopea Park;
- Tahmoor District Cricket Club received \$2,651 to install a practice cricket net at Tahmoor Sportsground;
- The Oaks Horse and Pony Club received \$1,229 for the erection of horse yards at Dudley Chesham Oval, The Oaks;
- Rainbow Playhouse Preschool at Tahmoor Community Centre received \$1,925 to construct a permanent shade cover canopy over the fixed play equipment in the preschool's play yard; and
- Wollondilly Mobile Preschool received \$941 for the provision of a fixed sun protection shelter in an outdoor area used by local community groups at Bargo.

I am also advised by the Acting Commissioner of Corrective Services that the New South Wales Probation and Parole Service and Wollongong Periodic Detention Centre have arrangements with various community organisations servicing young people within Wollondilly Shire. Persons serving community service orders and periodic detention orders perform community service work for the following community organisations:

Railway Transport Museum, Thirlmere.
Estonian Hostel, Thirlmere.
Ebenezer Lodge, Bargo.
Wirrimibirra Wildlife Sanctuary, Bargo.
Bargo Dingo Sanctuary, Bargo.
St Vincent de Paul Society, Picton.
The Oaks Catholic Church, The Oaks.
Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Tahmoor.

The work involves ground maintenance, landscaping, vegetation regeneration, cleaning and maintenance of premises, and sorting of donated goods.

- (2) (a) I am unaware of a particular project known as the Wollondilly project.
- (b) Refer to (a).
- (c) Refer to (a).
- (d) Refer to (a).

*1129 POLICE—WOLLONDILLY SHIRE—Mr Ryan asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Police—

For each of his departmental and agency responsibilities:

- (1) What services does his portfolio provide for young people in the Wollondilly Shire?
- (2)
 - (a) How much funding does he give the Wollondilly project?
 - (b) Does the project attract Federal or local government funding or private sponsorship?
 - (c) Who is the designated point of contact for the service and what is the phone number and mailing address?
 - (d) What is the primary objective of this project?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Paul Whelan MP, Minister for Police, that the answers to the honourable member's questions are:

- (1) I am advised that police are actively involved in the organisation and conduct of social events, such as the Blue Light Discos. The Youth Liaison Officer (YLO) attached to Camden LAC also attends schools in the Wollondilly Shire to speak on youth-related policing issues and conducts four work experience sessions per year for high school students from Wollondilly schools.
- (2)
 - (a) to (d) The Premier's Department has been instrumental in forming the Wollondilly Community Drug Action Team – a government and community initiative to prevent drug abuse.

The Premier's Department has also been a strong supporter of the Macarthur Youth Commitment, a whole-of-community initiative to improve school retention rates and employment outcomes for Macarthur youth.

*1130 HEALTH—WOLLONDILLY SHIRE—Mr Ryan asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Health—

For each of his departmental and agency responsibilities:

- (1) What services does his portfolio provide for young people in the Wollondilly Shire?
- (2)
 - (a) How much funding does he give the Wollondilly project?
 - (b) Does the project attract Federal or local government funding or private sponsorship?
 - (c) Who is the designated point of contact for the service and what is the phone number and mailing address?
 - (d) What is the primary objective of this project?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Craig Knowles MP, Minister for Health, that the answers to the honourable member's questions are:

- (7) Health services are not allocated by Local Government Area. Health services available for young people in the Wollondilly Shire include a full range of child, youth and family services such as:
 - outpatient dietetics and a diabetes clinic;
 - physiotherapy;

- suicide prevention counselling;
- child development services and child health speech and pathology;
- preschool outreach program; and
- a variety of further counselling services and information and consultative groups (such as those provided through the Traxside Youth Health Service).

Information regarding these services can be sought through South Western Area Health Service on 4634 3000.

- (2) (a) to (d) NSW Health advises that the Premier's Department has been instrumental in forming the Wollondilly Community Drug Action Team - a government and community initiative to prevent drug abuse.

NSW Health advises that the Premier's Department has also been a strong supporter of the Macarthur Youth Commitment, a whole-of-community initiative to improve school retention rates and employment outcomes for Macarthur youth.

*1131 COMMUNITY SERVICES, AGEING, DISABILITY SERVICES, WOMEN—WOLLONDILLY SHIRE—Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth, and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Environment representing the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women—

For each of her departmental and agency responsibilities:

- (1) What services does her portfolio provide for young people in the Wollondilly Shire?
- (2) (a) How much funding does she give the Wollondilly project?
- (b) Does the project attract Federal or local government funding or private sponsorship?
- (c) Who is the designated point of contact for the service and what is the phone number and mailing address?
- (d) What is the primary objective of this project?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Community Services (DoCS) provides recurrent funding to:

! Wollondilly Community Development Committee Inc. for two projects - Wollondilly Youth Services Network and Youth Outreach Project.

These services are based at the organisation's Wollondilly Youth Services Network office in Tahmoor, and provide outreach services to other parts of Wollondilly.

! St Vincent de Paul Society – Wollondilly Youth for Picton Youth Housing project.

This project provides support to young people who are being accommodated in the organisation's medium-term supported housing service.

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care funds Wollondilly/Camden Family Support, who has just received a direct allocation of \$40,000 under the Disability Services Program, for flexible family support.

- (2) (a) In 2001-02, the following funding was provided through DoCS' Community Services Grants Program:

Wollondilly Community Development Committee Inc. - \$75,501 pa
St Vincent de Paul – Wollondilly Youth - \$49,556 pa

- (b) The Wollondilly Community Development Committee Inc. also receives Federal funding and was successful in obtaining funds of \$1,000 from Wollondilly Shire Council under Council's Grant Program for signage for the service.

St Vincent de Paul Society – Wollondilly Youth, Picton Youth Housing project attracts funding from the St Vincent de Paul Society, donations and funds raised through fundraising.

- (c) Wollondilly Community Development Committee Inc:

Ms Julie Muir
Coordinator
1 Emmett Street
PO Box 71
TAHMOOR NSW 2573
Telephone: (02) 4683 2776

St Vincent de Paul Society – Wollondilly Youth:

Ms Margaret Hogan
Coordinator
71 Menangle Street
PICTON NSW 2571
Telephone: (02) 4677 2186

- (d) The primary objectives of the DoCS' funded projects:

Wollondilly Youth Services Network and Youth Outreach Project projects provide needed youth services to young people in Wollondilly, and community development services focusing on issues affecting young people.

St Vincent de Paul Society – Wollondilly Youth, Picton Youth Housing provides semi-supported accommodation to young people in Wollondilly who are homeless and are having difficulties living with their families. This project helps prepare young people for independent living.

*1132 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—WOLLONDILLY SHIRE—Mr Ryan asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast representing the Minister for Education and Training—

For each of his departmental and agency responsibilities:

- (1) What services does his portfolio provide for young people in the Wollondilly Shire?
- (2)
 - (a) How much funding does he give the Wollondilly project?
 - (b) Does the project attract Federal or local government funding or private sponsorship?
 - (c) Who is the designated point of contact for the service and what is the phone number and mailing address?
 - (d) What is the primary objective of this project?

Answer—

The Minister for Education and Training has provided the following response:

- (1) The Department of Education and Training supports high quality education for 4,832 students attending 13 primary schools and one high school located in the Wollondilly Shire. There are also Environmental Education Centres at Camden Park and Wooglemai which are utilised by a large number of schools within Sydney's southwest.

The key priority for these schools is to provide students with the foundations for lifelong learning so that they become literate, numerate, well-educated citizens with the capabilities and confidence to make a positive contribution to our society. These schools provide a curriculum that meets students' needs and aspirations, is relevant to today's world, and is responsive to community expectations.

The schools have established close relationships with parents, local communities, businesses and industry. These are powerful partnerships that assist in the education of students. Initiatives include a joint agency program with the NSW Police Service, "Street Sweep" (focusing on attendance), bullying seminars and student representative leadership camps. Picton High School provides additional programs for students including the Full School Service Program, recreational basketball, cadet unit, Burnside Homework Centre and Aboriginal Studies Centre.

Primary schools compliment the curriculum with involvement in inter-school sport, debating, public speaking, choirs, dance groups, school bands and learn to swim programs.

Students from the Wollondilly Shire may also access a wide variety of courses through TAFE NSW - South Western Sydney Institute at its Campbelltown College.

In addition, a range of services is available to young people in the shire in the form of support for apprentices and trainees. These services are accessible through the Wollongong Industry Training Centre.

- (2) I am advised that the *Wollondilly Project* is a joint project between the local council, Rotary Club and NSW Department of Health. The Department of Education and Training is not aware of details about the project.

*1133 LOCAL GOVERNMENT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RURAL AFFAIRS—WOLLONDILLY SHIRE—
Mr Ryan asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

For each of his departmental and agency responsibilities:

- (1) What services does his portfolio provide for young people in the Wollondilly Shire?
- (2)
 - (a) How much funding does he give the Wollondilly project?
 - (b) Does the project attract Federal or local government funding or private sponsorship?
 - (c) Who is the designated point of contact for the service and what is the phone number and mailing address?
 - (d) What is the primary objective of this project?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) The Department of Local Government does not provide services directly to the community nor does it fund other organisations to provide services.
- (2)
 - (a) The Department of Local Government does not provide funding to any projects in Wollondilly, including the Wollondilly Youth Needs Analysis project.
 - (b) The Wollondilly Youth Needs Analysis project is jointly funded by Wollondilly Shire Council, Macarthur Health Service, Rotary Club of Picton and the University of Western Sydney.
 - (c) Mr Graham Taylor, General Manager, Wollondilly Shire Council is the council contact person for the project. Mr Taylor can be contacted by phone at 4677 1326 and the council address is PO Box 21 Picton NSW 2571.
 - (d) The objective of the project was to identify the needs of young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged, in the Wollondilly area and strategies to address these needs.

17 OCTOBER 2001

(Paper No. 125)

*1134 FAIR TRADING—HENLEY HOMES—Mr Jobling asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) (a) Did Mr and Mrs Sama of 23 Charlie Yankos Street, Glenwood NSW 2768, lodge a complaint relating to Henley Homes directly to Mr Steve Jones' office in Parramatta on Thursday 4 October 2001?
 - (b) If so, was this complaint lodged after conversations took place between Mr Rocco Sama, John Zanelli and Steve Jones on Wednesday 3 October 2001?
- (2) (a) Were Mr and Mrs Rocco Sama told by John Zanelli not to lodge their complaint until he had spoken to Henley Properties?
 - (b) If so, why?
- (3) (a) Were Mr and Mrs Sama advised by Steve Newtown that the Department of Fair Trading is a mediator only?
 - (b) If so, why was this advice given when it has powers under the Act to license and discipline builders?
 - (c) If the department is supposed to mediate, why were they never contacted to be part of any mediation?
- (4) (a) Who is looking after Mr And Mrs Sama's complaint now?
 - (b) (i) Did that officer get in touch with Mr and Mrs Sama to let them know what was happening with it?
 - (ii) If not, why not?
- (5) (a) Were Mr and Mrs Sama informed of an inspection?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (6) (a) Were they interviewed prior to this inspection?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (7) Who ordered this inspection?
- (8) (a) Who was the inspector?
 - (b) What were his/her qualifications?
- (9) (a) Was the inspector's report limited to only one of Mr and Mrs Sama's letters to Henley, rather than their whole file and list of complaints?
 - (b) If so, why?
- (10) (a) Did the Department of Fair Trading make arrangements with Henley properties without prior contact with Mr and Mrs Sama?
 - (b) If so, why?
 - (c) Was this because of non-thorough investigations into consumer complaints?

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- (11) (a) Was Henley allowed to keep building homes which were possibly sub-standard and defective and in breach of the Building Codes of Australia?
- (b) If so, how was this possible?
- (12) (a) Is this continuing to happen today, even after hundreds of consumer complaints both in New South Wales and Victoria, as seen on past "A Current Affair" and "Today Tonight" programs?
- (b) If so, how?
- (13) Why wasn't Henley's license immediately revoked and/or fines imposed upon them?
- (14) Why should consumers be forced to pay full price for a faulty or defective product?
- (15) Why didn't the Department of Fair Trading enforce the Home Building Legislation Act in relation to Henley Properties?
- (16) (a) Has Mr and Mrs Sama's request for access to Henley Properties for a structural engineer's inspection received any response?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (17) Two weeks prior to the inspection by an inspector from the Department of Fair Trading, did Henley write to Mr and Mrs Sama advising them that all work was of an acceptable standard and that Mr and Mrs Sama should settle?
- (18) Did the inspector from the Department of Fair Trading find any faults during that inspection?
- (19) (a) Has Henley now acknowledged these faults?
- (b) Are they prepared to rectify them?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (2) (a) Yes.
- (b) I am advised by the Department of Fair Trading that at the time Mr Zanelli first spoke to Mr Sama, he was not aware of the full details of the case and considered that he may have been able to resolve the matter by way of a phone call to Henley Properties. After he had spoken to other departmental officers Mr Zanelli telephoned Mr Sama and advised him to lodge a complaint with the department.
- (3) (a) Mr Newton advises me that the answer is no.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Mr Newton advises me that he made reference to the department's mediation role, amongst its many roles, during the course of a lengthy telephone conversation with Mr Sama.
- (4) (a) At executive level, Mr and Mrs Sama's complaint is being oversighted by Ms Lyn Baker, Assistant Director-General, Property and Licensing. The complaint is also subject to compliance action, which is the responsibility of Mr Chris Hanlon, Director, Compliance and Standards.
- (b) (i) My advice is that Ms Baker has been in contact with Mr Sama.
- (ii) Not applicable.

-
- (5) (a) Ms Baker informs me that Mr Sama was informed that a strategy open to the department in dealing with building complaints is to undertake an inspection for compliance purposes.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (6) (a) No.
- (b) I understand the department already had in its possession considerable documentation from both parties and felt it appropriate at the time to conduct a preliminary visual inspection without first interviewing the Samas.
- (7) This preliminary visual inspection was approved by senior management.
- (8) (a) A departmental investigator from Building Investigations Branch undertook the inspection of the property. This Branch undertakes investigations into various aspects of non-compliance with fair trading legislation, in particular the Home Building Act. One of these aspects involves the investigation and detection of alleged defective and incomplete residential building and specialist work.
- (b) The investigator who undertook the inspection possesses specialised knowledge of the home building industry and his substantive position within the department is that of technical investigator.
- (9) (a) Prior to undertaking the inspection, the investigator had reviewed an extensive file of documents that Mr Sama had supplied to the department. Included in this file was a letter prepared by Mr Sama and previously sent by him. The letter appeared to detail the various points of concern that Mr Sama had raised with the contractor.
- (b) These were the items identified to the department by Mr Sama as being of concern.
- (10) (a) Yes.
- (b) The department made contact with Henley Properties for the specific purpose of gaining entry to the home. Henley still has possession of the property. Mr Sama does not have a key.
- (c) This question makes no sense.
- (11) (a) and (b) The Department of Fair Trading has been working to resolve a number of complaints about defective and incomplete building work undertaken by Henley. The honourable member is a little tardy in his concern, considering that my advice is that from a high of 161 complaints this has been reduced, as at 7 November 2001, to five current complaints which are being addressed by the department.

In the Supreme Court on 20 June 2001, the department obtained consent orders with Henley's agreement to:

- provide the Director-General with details of all unresolved complaints in New South Wales;
- advise the Director-General of all contracts where work has commenced but is not complete;
- advise the Director-General of all contracts that have been entered into but work has not yet commenced; and
- provide all necessary resources to resolve all outstanding complaints in a timely fashion.

Henley has also agreed to give the Director-General 14 days notice before entering into contracts for new building work in New South Wales, and not to begin any building work until it is able to ensure completion of the work in the time provided by the contract. The department is closely monitoring the situation.

(12) (a) See answer to (11) (a) and (b) above.

(b) Not applicable.

(13) See answer to (11) (a) and (b) above.

(14) No consumer in New South Wales should be expected to pay for a faulty or defective product.

It is for this very reason that the recent reforms to the Home Building Act were enacted and an extra 15 building compliance officers are being recruited. It is also why the Department of Fair Trading has been extensively involved over the past 12 months to resolve outstanding complaints against Henley and why Supreme Court orders were obtained.

(15) See answer to (11) (b) above.

(16) (a) This question should be addressed to Mr Sama.

(b) Not applicable.

(17) This question should be addressed to Mr Sama.

(18) Yes. Following the department's inspection of the house, these matters were raised with Henley which has agreed to address these matters.

(19) (a) and (b) See (18).

*1135 HEALTH—CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY—Mr Corbett asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Health—

What is the current status of the proposal to estimate the prevalence of self-reported chemical sensitivity in the New South Wales population?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Craig Knowles MP, Minister for Health, that the answer to the honourable member's question is:

Current international advice is that Multiple Chemical Sensitivity is a complex issue. NSW Health is still investigating the proposal.

*1136 HEALTH—CARERS LINE—Mr Corbett asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Health—

(1) How much money has been allocated by NSW Health to sponsor the service call Carers Line?

(2) Is the Carers Line being piloted throughout New South Wales for 12 months from April 2001 to March 2002?

(3) (a) Has any evaluation been done as to the benefits of the service?

(b) If yes, what are the results of this evaluation?

(4) How many calls have been received by this service in each month since it began?

(5) In terms of people contacting the service, which hours of the day and days of the week are :

(a) the busiest,

(b) the slowest?

- (6) (a) Is any statistical information recorded at the completion of a call?
(b) If yes, what information is recorded?
- (7) How many counsellors are on hand during the hours of operation of this service?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Craig Knowles MP, Minister for Health, that the answers to the honourable member's questions are:

- (1) NSW Health has allocated a one-off grant of \$58,901 (excluding GST) to Carers NSW Inc., in conjunction with the Salvo Care Line, to offer after-hours telephone counselling and support to carers in New South Wales.
- (2) Carers Line is funded for 1 year only as a demonstration project.
- (3) (a) and (b) Carers Line is one of 25 demonstration projects now in progress across the State. It is expected that the evaluation will be completed in April 2002.
- (4) The number of calls per month to date is as follows:
- | | |
|-----------|----|
| April | 34 |
| May | 14 |
| June | 26 |
| July | 23 |
| August | 28 |
| September | 26 |
- (5) (a) The busiest day is Saturday.
The busiest time of day is from 8 pm to 12 midnight.
- (b) The quietest day is Friday.
The quietest time of day is from midnight to 4 am.
- (6) The following information is recorded on each call:
- Callers name (when given).
 - Time of day.
 - Length of call.
 - Client type.
 - Age bracket (when given).
 - Suburb (when given).
 - Reason for call.
 - Follow up required.
 - Follow up details.
- (7) Two counsellors are on hand during the hours of operation of the after-hours Carers Line, from 5 pm to 9 am every day.

*1137 COMMUNITY SERVICES, AGEING, DISABILITY SERVICES, WOMEN—NEW DEPARTMENT—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth, and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Environment representing the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) What is the current status of the merger between ADD, the Disability Service of DOCS and Home Care?
- (2) What is the correct name for this new department?

- (3) Will the new department be located in one or more locations?
- (4)
 - (a) Who are the current senior executives of this new department?
 - (b) What are their contact numbers?
- (5) What measures are being taken during the merger to prevent the possible conflict of interest between funder, monitoring and provider roles of this new department?
- (6) What advantages does the Minister envisage will result from this merger?

Answer—

- (1) On April 11 2001 the former Ageing and Disability Department, Disability Services from the Department of Community Services and the Home Care Service of New South Wales were merged into a new Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care to promote and provide programs and direct community-based support for people with a disability, older people and their families and carers. Home Care is a statutory authority that now reports to the Director-General of the new department.
- (2) The correct name is the New South Wales Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.
- (3) The department has a central office at Clarence Street. The Home Care Service retains its Head Office at Parramatta. There are, additionally, regional offices across the State. Work will commence shortly on a review of these regional arrangements.
- (4) (a) and (b) Current Senior Executives:
 - Director-General
Margaret Allison
Phone: (02) 9367 6836
 - Executive Director, Disability Services Directorate
Ethel McAlpine
Phone: (02) 9716 2581
 - A/g Executive Director, Strategic Policy, Planning & Funding Directorate
Janett Milligan
Phone: (02) 9367 6803
 - General Manager, Home Care Service of NSW
Mike Hetherington
Phone: (02) 9895 8905
- (5) The department has not altered or diminished the previously existing funder, monitoring and provider roles. The previous funder/provider split will be maintained through careful divisions within the accounting systems. The providers will continue to acquit against funds provided to them by the funder, just as was previously the case. They will also need to compete commercially for any further provision of funding for new service provision alongside any non-Government organisations which express interest.
- (6) The Government is bringing together previously disparate components of Government service provision to people who are ageing, people with a disability, and their carers, facilitating a much stronger focus on the needs of these members of the community.

*1138 FAIR TRADING—ECO HOUSING—Mr Corbett asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) What is the current status of the production of the fact sheet for consumers who are interested in eco-housing?
- (2) Who has contributed to the content of this fact sheet?
- (3) Upon completion, how will the fact sheet be publicised?

Answer—

- (1) As part of the implementation process associated with the NSW Government's reforms for the home building industry, the Department of Fair Trading is revising all its home building publications. The issue of eco-housing will be addressed as part of this process. It is anticipated that revised and new publications will be released in early 2002.
- (2) Input in relation to individual publications will be sought from relevant industry and community organisations as well as from Commonwealth and State Government agencies as appropriate.
- (3) Upon finalisation, the publications will be available from Fair Trading Centres, through the department's website at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au or by contacting the department on telephone 13 32 20.

18 OCTOBER 2001

(Paper No. 126)

*1139 TRANSPORT—HELICOPTER SUPPORT TENDER—Mr Gallacher asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

Regarding applications for Tender N99/1 for the Provision of Helicopter Support – Newcastle Port Corporation Marine Pilot Helicopter Transfer Project, can the Minister provide the following information. When considering the competing tenders:

- (1) What weight was given to the requirement in Schedule 1 of the Proforma Agreement, which formed part of the Invitation to Tender, that the *“contractor make available a back-up aircraft to cover when the contract aircraft is unavailable for maintenance or other reasons”*?
- (2) What weight was given to the requirement that the back-up aircraft *“... be available within FIVE (5) hours of a requirement for its use”*?
- (3) (a) Did the corporation believe, at the time the decision was made as to which tenderer would be successful, that the successful tenderer in fact had a back-up aircraft available within 5 hours?
(b) If it did have that belief, what was the basis of that belief?
- (4) (a) Did the successful tenderer offer any alternative proposal to the requirement to have a back-up aircraft available at 5 hours notice?
(b) If so:
 - (i) What alternative was proposed?
 - (ii) What weight was given to that requirement?
 - (iii) What was the impact on the price of the tender?

- (c) If the price did reflect that a back-up aircraft would not be available within 5 hours, what was the monetary value of failing to meet the requirement to have back-up aircraft available within 5 hours?
- (5) Which tenderers' aircraft were inspected to determine compliance with the requirements of the tender document?
- (6) Was the tenderer who submitted the lowest price selected?

Answer—

I am advised by Newcastle Port Corporation of the following:

- (1) The availability of a suitable back-up aircraft was one of several other equally weighted criteria reviewed for compliance with the tender requirements.
- (2) I am advised that appropriate risk management strategies were adopted in respect of this matter. Information in relation to this aspect was clearly established in the tender documentation.
- (3) (a) and (b) I am advised that the Newcastle Port Corporation is satisfied with the tender provisions relating to the contracting of marine pilot transfer by helicopter. I am advised that the contract provides for significant commercial penalties should the contractor fail to meet contractual requirements such as the obligation to satisfy the 5-hour availability requirement.
- (4) (a) I am advised that no alternatives were proposed by any bidder of the nature described in the honourable member's question.
- (b) and (c) Not applicable.
- (5) I am advised that the tender evaluation process was conducted in full accordance with all applicable public sector management guidelines.
- (6) I am advised that the lowest priced bid was not a conforming offer and was therefore not eligible for selection.

23 OCTOBER 2001

(Paper No. 127)

*1140 GAMING AND RACING—WESTPOINT NEWSAGENCY, BATHURST—Mr Gay asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast representing the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Hunter Development—

In relation to the review into the application by owners of the Westpoint Newsagency in Bathurst for a NSW Lotteries On Line terminal:

- (1) How long has it taken NSW Lotteries to determine the application by the owners of the Westpoint Newsagency?
- (2) When will NSW Lotteries make a clear decision on this application?

Answer—

The Minister for Gaming and Racing has provided the following response:

- (1) NSW Lotteries received and considered several applications from the owners of the Westpoint Newsagency, Bathurst, for an on-line NSW Lotteries agency.

The most recent review of Bathurst and the environs was scheduled to be completed by the end of March this year. Owing to a number of factors this review has only recently been completed. Before the review could be completed:

- extensive consultation was undertaken with existing NSW Lotteries agent and detailed consideration of the variety of important issues raised by the interested parties; and
- a 10-week delay by the applicants in providing business turnover and other information sought by NSW Lotteries as part of the review.

(2) NSW Lotteries has made a decision on the application. The owners of the newsagency have accepted an offer of appointment as an agent to sell instant lottery tickets.

*1141 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—GOVERNMENT APPRENTICESHIPS—Ms Rhiannon asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast—

How many apprentices were employed by the NSW Government, including any authority, agency or instrumentality of the NSW Government, during the year 2000?

Answer—

I am advised by the Director General of the Premier's Department that by March 2001 the Government's Public Sector Traineeship Strategy, also known as the 2000 by 2000 Strategy, has resulted in over 5,300 traineeships with public sector agencies.

*1142 PREMIER—ICAC'S NEW PREMISES—Ms Rhiannon asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) (a) Is the Redfern building, presently leased by the Independent Commission Against Corruption, regarded as no longer being functional for the purpose of ICAC?
(b) If so, what aspect of the premises have been found to not meet the needs of that organisation and have been the reason for ICAC to relocate?
- (2) (a) Where is ICAC moving to?
(b) When will this take place?
- (3) (a) What renovations will have to be made to the new premises so that they are functional for ICAC?
(b) How much will this cost?
- (4) Will the new premises have the capacity for:
 - (a) public hearing rooms?
 - (b) private hearing rooms?
 - (c) rooms with electronic recording?
 - (d) cells to hold witnesses that are in custody?
 - (e) security provisions for witnesses and staff?
- (5) What procedures of accountability and strategic planning has ICAC undertaken in relation to the relocation of its offices?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Bob Carr MP, Premier, that the answers to the honourable member's questions are:

I have been advised by the ICAC that:

- (1) (a) Yes.
 - (b) Assessments of ICAC's accommodation needs over the past 18 months have identified a number of functional shortcomings, spatial inefficiencies, building problems including poor disability access, as well as problems arising from ICAC's relative isolation from peer and public sector agencies. The decision to relocate was made after a DPWS comparison of the costs of refurbishment and relocation established that it would cost at least \$400,000 more to refurbish than relocate.
- (2) (a) 133 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.
 - (b) It is planned to relocate the ICAC by the end of 2001.
- (3) (a) One of the considerations in selecting the new premises was that it had been recently fitted out and the ICAC was able to purchase this fitout for approximately one-fifth of the original value. Minimal modifications will be required to meet the ICAC's technical, operational and security requirements.
 - (b) The current estimated cost of the modifications is approximately \$400,000 and should be compared to the cost of refurbishing the current premises, estimated by DPWS to be \$1.8 million.
- (4) (a) Yes.
 - (b) Yes.
 - (c) Yes.
 - (d) Custody arrangements will be negotiated with the NSW Police Service and the Department of Corrective Services as necessary.
 - (e) Yes.
- (5) The relocation of the ICAC has followed a year of internal planning, including the preparation of a comprehensive Facility Plan for the Department of Public Works and Services. All requirements of applicable public sector accommodation policies have been met.

*1143 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—CARS IN SYDNEY CBD—Mr Richard Jones asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

- (1) How many cars enter the Central Business District (CBD) each day?
- (2) How many of the cars:
 - (a) are destined for the CBD?
 - (b) pass through the CBD?
- (3) What is the average number of people in these cars?
- (4) How many cars entered the CBD each day 10 years ago?

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- (5) How many of those cars:
- (a) were destined for the CBD?
 - (b) passed through the CBD?
- (6) What was the average number of people in those cars?
- (7) (a) Did the Minister defer the construction of the Central Sydney Light Rail in 1998?
- (b) If so, has there been an increase in the number of cars entering the CBD since that deferral?
- (8) When is the construction of the Cross City Road Tunnel expected to be finished?
- (9) How many cars are expected to be entering the CBD when the tunnel opens?

Answer—

- (1) Information not available.
- (2) (a) Information not available.
- (b) Information not available.
- (3) Information not available.
- (4) Information not available.
- (5) Information not available.
- (6) Information not available.
- (7) (a) Consideration of a light rail extension through the CBD was deferred until after construction of the Cross City Tunnel.
- (b) Information not available.
- (8) 2004.
- (9) Information not available.

24 OCTOBER 2001

(Paper No. 128)

*1144 HEALTH—CORRECTIONS HEALTH SERVICE—PROGRAMS FOR INMATES—Ms Rhiannon asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Does Professor Robert Astley Finlay-Jones have any connection with programs for sex offenders in New South Wales gaols?
- (2) Does Professor Finlay-Jones have any connection with the High Risk Management Unit?
- (3) Does Professor Finlay-Jones have any connection with the Violence Prevention Unit?
- (4) (a) Has Professor Finlay-Jones conducted any medical or drug trials on inmates in New South Wales correctional centres?

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- (b) If so:
 - (i) Who approved this activity?
 - (ii) To whom were the results of the trial reported?
 - (5) What role has Professor Finlay-Jones played in the rehabilitation of prisoners in New South Wales gaols?
 - (6) In each of his activities with New South Wales correctional centres:
 - (a) To whom did Professor Finlay-Jones report?
 - (b) Who authorised his activities?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Craig Knowles MP, Minister for Health, that the answers to the honourable member's questions are:

- (1) to (3) These programs are conducted by the Department of Corrective Services. The questions should therefore be referred to the Minister for Corrective Services.
- (4) No approval was given by the Corrections Health Service's Research and Ethics Committee.
- (5) This question should be referred to the Minister for Corrective Services.
- (6) In his clinical work with inmates under the care of Corrections Health Services he reported to Professor Carolyn Quadrio, Director Mental Health.

*1145 MINERAL RESOURCES—LAKE COWAL GOLD MINE PROJECT—Ms Rhiannon asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries—

- (1) Is it legal for exploration drilling to be conducted while the native title notification period is still current?
- (2) (a) Is exploration drilling presently occurring at the Lake Cowal Gold Project?
 - (b) If so, and if it is not permissible:
 - (i) Why has Homestake Mining Company at the Lake Cowal Gold Project been allowed to continue with its operations?
 - (ii) Are there any plans to prosecute Homestake Mining Company?
- (3) Is cyanide leach mining being permitted at the Lake Cowal Gold Project in an area that is listed on the National Estate and on the Directory of Important Wetlands?
- (4) Have the Mooka Traditional Owners Council of the Wiradjuri nation sent a letter to the Department of Mineral Resources stating that the traditional owners of the Lake Cowal region do not want this gold mine project to proceed?
- (5) (a) Did the consultation process, conducted by Homestake, consist of only one small community meeting held at Condobolin which was arranged by the local Wiradjuri community itself and attended by local traditional owners?
 - (b) If so, who at that time did not agree with the mining plans?
- (6) Will culturally appropriate consultation be conducted with all communities who will be impacted by the Lake Cowal Gold Project?

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- (7) Have the Japan-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement and China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement authority bodies from Japan and China been notified that the Lake Cowal Gold Mine Project poses risks to migratory birds?
 - (8) Has a Species Impact Statement been done for any Japan-Australia Migratory Birds and China-Australia Migratory Birds that might be affected by the Lake Cowal Gold Project?
 - (9) Will a cyanide spill from the Lake Cowal Gold Project not effect the Lachlan waterway, the Great Cumbungi and the Murrumbidgee River and other nearby waterways?
 - (10) Has aerial footage from previous floods in the vicinity of the Lake Cowal Gold Project been examined to determine the potential risk of the proposed mine to surrounding waterways?
 - (11) Has a Review of Environmental Factors been done for each drill hole proposed in the current application for an exploration licence by Homestake?
 - (12) Will the proposed drilling, some up to hundreds of metres below the surface, adversely impact on the Lake Cowal wetland?
 - (13) Has there been a thorough assessment to determine if management of the Lake Cowal Gold Project conforms to New South Wales wetlands management policy 1996?
 - (14) Has there been a reassessment of leaching risks from rehabilitation of tailings storage and mine waste emplacements at sites where the ecosystem includes deep-rooted tree species?
 - (15) Was a precondition of approval of the development, for both Lake Cowal Gold Project proposals, that any discharge of contaminated water from storage areas into Lake Cowal is unacceptable?
 - (16) What measures are in place to ensure that there are no discharges of potentially saline and/or silt laden water from the storage ponds of the Lake Cowal Gold Project?

Answer—

- (1) Exploration drilling is permissible on freehold land within an exploration licence area where native title has been extinguished.
- (2) Exploration drilling is occurring on freehold land at the Cowal project.
- (3) There is currently no mining taking place at the Cowal project.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) New owners Homestake have only just commenced consultation with the Wiradjuri elders. I am advised North Limited had previously jointly arranged a meeting with the Wiradjuri people at Condobolin to discuss the project.
- (6) Culturally appropriate consultation is necessary.
- (7) This is a matter for the Commonwealth Government.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) A Cyanide Management Plan is one of the development consent conditions. The plan must be prepared in consultation with the Department of Mineral Resources, the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Land and Water Conservation, to the satisfaction of the Director-General of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.
- (10) Yes as part of the environmental impact assessment process.

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- (11) A review of environmental factors has been prepared for all exploration activities likely to impact on the environment.
- (12) No.
- (13) and (14) Yes, as part of the environmental impact assessment and the Commission of Inquiry process.
- (15) Yes.
- (16) Conditions exist in the development consent.

*1146 HEALTH—INTERAGENCY MUNCHAUSENS SYNDROME BY PROXY GROUP—Mr Corbett asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) (a) Does the Interagency Munchausens Syndrome by Proxy Group still exist?
- (b) If so:
- (i) How often does the group convene?
- (ii) Who is on the group?
- (iii) What portfolio do they represent?
- (2) (a) Has the group published any research or reports?
- (b) If so, what are the titles of these publications and where can they be obtained?
- (3) What was the outcome of the discussions held between NSW Health and the Cabinet Office about the group's achievements, outstanding tasks and how they should be addressed, which the Minister referred to in a letter to me dated 17 April 2001?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Craig Knowles MP, Minister for Health, that the answers to the honourable member's questions are:

- (1) No. It has completed its purpose.
- (2) No.
- (3) Recommendations of the working party's report were incorporated into the child protection guidelines. The Centre for Mental Health has agreed to develop NSW Health guidelines for the clinical assessment and management of Munchausens Syndrome by Proxy.

*1147 MINERAL RESOURCES—MINING LEASES—Mr Gay asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries—

- (1) Is the Department of Mineral Resources able to force holders of exploration or mining leases to release rental payments to property owners when the companies involved refuse to meet their obligations under those leases?
- (2) How many times does the Department of Mineral Resources remind lease holders of their obligations to the affected land owners before either withholding bond payments or taking further action?
- (3) (a) Is the Minister aware of any current instances where companies holding such leases are refusing to meet their obligations to property owners?

- (b) If so, what action does the Minister intend to take to ensure that the affected property owners receive the monies owed to them?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) In a limited number of mining leases granted under earlier legislation, rent is payable for the term of the lease. Rent is primarily a matter between the two parties. I am aware of one instance where there has been a dispute between the leaseholder and landowners over the payment of rent. The Department of Mineral Resources reminds lease holders as appropriate, in order to secure compliance with all of their obligations to landowners.

25 OCTOBER 2001

(Paper No. 129)

*1148 ROADS—BRIDGECLIMB LEASE—Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

- (1) (a) Has a lease agreement been entered into between BridgeClimb and the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority?
- (b) If so:
- (i) Was it published in *The Australian Financial Review* on 23 October 2001?
- (ii) Does the lease include terms for \$60 million over 20 years?
- (iii) Will the Minister table a copy of the lease?
- (2) (a) Does BridgeClimb have an estimated annual turnover of \$50 million after 2 years of operation?
- (b) Does the lease agreement provide for revenue or profit sharing between BridgeClimb and the authority?
- (c) If not, did the authority propose such revenue or profit sharing agreements during the negotiations prior to finalising the lease agreement?
- (3) Will the Government, in future, ensure that it gets a reasonable percentage return of profits from government assets leased to the private sector?

Answer—

- (1) (a) The RTA and BridgeClimb have signed a Master Agreement which commenced operation on 1 October 1998. The Master Agreement grants BridgeClimb a licence to operate climbs of the Sydney Harbour Bridge for a period of 10 years with an option to extend the term for a further period of 10 years. Included in the Master Agreement were terms for the lease of the premises at No. 1 and No. 5 Cumberland Street, The Rocks, which are leased at commercial rates.
- (b) (i) Details of the leases and/or Master Agreement were not published in the *Financial Review* on 23 October 2001.
- (ii) The Master Agreement provides for BridgeClimb to pay to the RTA licence fees for the use of certain areas of the Sydney Harbour Bridge plus royalties based upon BridgeClimb revenue. The agreement provides for an escalating percentage to be paid to the RTA as BridgeClimb revenue increases.
- (iii) The Minister does not intend to table a copy of the Master Agreement as the terms of the agreement are “Commercial-in-Confidence”.
- (2) (a) BridgeClimb has been operating for 3 years as at 1 October 2001 and the annual turnover is below \$50 million.

- (b) See (1) (b) (ii) above.
 - (c) Not applicable.
- (3) Careful consideration is given by the Government to the commercial aspect of any leases of Government assets to the private sector and this practice will continue in future years.

*1149 URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING—PROPOSED WASTE FACILITY AT BOTANY—Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—

In relation to the proposed construction of a waste processing facility at the Botany site of Orica Pty Ltd, can the Minister give the Botany community an assurance that the result of government deliberations will be maximisation of public health and safety?

Answer—

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Planning has provided the following response:

Yes.

*1150 HEALTH—MENADUE REPORT—Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Health—

- (a) Is the government action plan in response to the Menadue report available publicly?
- (b) If not:
 - (i) Why not?
 - (ii) Will the Minister table a copy in this House?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Craig Knowles MP, Minister for Health, that the answer to the honourable member's question is:

- (a) I announced the Government's response and commitment to the reports of the NSW Health Council, chaired by Mr John Menadue, and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Smaller Towns, chaired by the Right Honourable Ian Sinclair, on 8 March 2000.

I responded to questions without notice concerning the Health Council report on 5 April 2000 and 1 June 2000.

There are around 1,500 health professionals participating in 11 clinical implementation groups considering a range of issues such as acute care, chronic care, intensive care, emergency services, mental health, services in the greater metropolitan area, funding models, services in rural areas, consumer and community participation, information management and teaching and research.

A summary of the Government's commitments is available on the NSW Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au/policy/gap. The site contains information on "About working as a Team", NSW Government Action Plan, Activities in NSW, Implementation Groups, and Publications.

- (b) Not applicable.

1151 TREASURER—RETURNS ON GOVERNMENT LEASES—Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

*1152 FISHERIES—ABORIGINAL FISHERS—Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries—

- (1) (a) In early October, did the Minister have a conversation on talkback radio, 2BA Radio Bega, with a caller David Nye, an Aboriginal fisher, who rang in his capacity as Chairman of the South Coast Indigenous Fishermen's Association?
- (b) If so, did the Minister suggest to Mr Nye that he should relocate elsewhere in New South Wales with cash compensation raised from the recreational fishing licence fee?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of Aboriginal cultural difficulties in relocating?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Yes
- (b) No.
- (2) The Government is appreciative of Indigenous cultural issues.

*1153 TRANSPORT—INNER WEST TRAMLIN—Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

- (1) (a) Has the Department of Transport inquired into the feasibility of extending the existing inner western suburbs tramline from Lilyfield to Leichhardt and Ashfield?
- (b) If so, is it:
 - (i) financially feasible for the tramline to be extended to Leichhardt?
 - (ii) technically feasible for the tramline to be extended to Leichhardt?
- (2) What would the Minister consider to be the major obstacles in extending the tramline to:
 - (a) Leichhardt?
 - (b) Ashfield?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) (i) Not at present.
- (ii) While technically possible, there are many other factors, including financial and patronage factors to be considered as well.
- (2) (a) The major issues to be considered include future patronage and financial issues. In addition, I am advised that because most options would involve some degree of on-street running, and mostly on streets currently serviced by frequent bus services, there are significant operational and traffic management issues which would also need to be resolved.
- (b) Again, the major issues to be considered include future patronage and financial issues. There are also potential safety and operational issues relating to the sharing of part of the route with freight trains which would need to be resolved.

*1154 FISHERIES—PORT STEPHENS AQUACULTURE FARM—Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries—

- (1) Has the full commercial development of the Pisces Marine Natural Water Net Aquaculture farm, off the coast of Port Stephen, been approved before a management plan has been drafted?
- (2) Was the trial program for this development for a 5-hectare fish farm?
- (3) Is it appropriate, under current regulatory and legislative requirements, that approval has been given to a 35-hectare fish farm?
- (4) What are the environmental effects of this development, particularly on native fish species?

Answer—

- (1) It is a condition of the approved development application to develop a management plan before the commencement of full commercial operations.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The environmental impact statement states that significant environmental impacts are unlikely to occur.

*1155 ROADS—SALE OF LAND TO HORNSBY COUNCIL—Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

- (1) Is the RTA trying to sell 1.642 hectares of surplus land, from the M2, at 45 Somerset Street, Epping, to Hornsby Council for \$5.5 million?
- (2) Did the RTA purchase 6 parcels of land from Hornsby Council for \$933,786 to complete the M2?
- (3) Does the RTA consider that the public interest of Hornsby Council residents may be affected in purchasing public land from the council at a low price and then selling it at high prices?
- (4) Will the sale of 1.642 hectares of land at 45 Somerset Street, Epping, lead to a huge reduction in public land available for recreational purposes?
- (5) What are some key aspects of the RTA's management of public lands?

Answer—

All acquisitions and disposals of public land are carried out in accordance with statutory obligations and State Government policy, including the property referred to in this question.

*1156 TRANSPORT—CHARTER VESSEL INDUSTRY—Miss Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

What is the date and nature of each meeting with participants in the charter vessel industry facilitating consultation with them in connection with charter vessel access to Circular Quay?

Answer—

From 1995 the charter vessel industry was involved in discussions in relation to the creation of Sydney's new charter vessel base at Darling Harbour wharves 9 and 10, now known as King Street Wharf. More particularly, over the past year the Waterways Authority met with representatives of the charter vessel industry on 16 occasions detailed below:

Date	Meeting with	Purpose
13 October 2000	Blue Line Cruises	Charter Vessel Issues
13 October 2000	Matilda Cruises	Charter Vessel Issues
3 November 2000	Charter Vessel Association	Implementation of the charter vessel base at King Street
4 December 2000	Captain Cook Cruises	Implementation of charter vessel strategy
11 December 2000	Blue Line Cruises	Charter Vessel Issues
18 January 2001	Captain Cook Cruises and Charter Vessel Association	Sharing of Circular Quay wharves
27 February 2001	Charter Vessel Association	Implementation of charter vessel base at King Street
2 March 2001	Blue Line Cruises	Charter vessel issues
2 March 2001	Matilda Cruises	Charter vessel issues
4 April 2001	Blue Line Cruises	Charter vessel issues
14 May 2001	Blue Line Cruises	Charter vessel issues
4 June 2001	Captain Cook Cruises	Sharing of Circular Quay wharves
18 July 2001	Blue Line Cruises	Charter vessel issues
24 August 2001	Charter Vessel Association	Announcement of process for sharing of Circular Quay wharves
7 September 2001	Charter Vessel Association	Consultation on Expressions of Interest call for Circular Quay
27 September 2001	Charter Vessel Association	Consultation on Expressions of Interest call for Circular Quay

These meetings included discussions of the Government's charter vessel strategy which involved establishing a permanent charter vessel base at King Street and promoting equitable use of the current charter vessel-related wharves in Sydney Cove by the charter vessel industry.

1157 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION—COMPLIANCE OFFICERS—Mr Colless to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Land and Water Conservation—

*1158 POLICE—DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION STAFF—Mr Colless asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Police—

- (1) How many Police Service training positions at the Goulburn Police Academy are currently occupied by Department of Land and Water Conservation water and vegetation compliance officers?
- (2) How many Police Service training positions at the Goulburn Police Academy are proposed to be occupied by Department of Land and Water Conservation water and vegetation compliance officers over the next 12 months?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Michael Costa MLC, Minister for Police, that the answers to the honourable member's questions are:

- (1) and (2) Nil.

1158 FORESTRY—NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES—Mr Cohen to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth, and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Environment representing the Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney—

*1160 PREMIER—LUCAS HEIGHTS NUCLEAR REACTOR—Ms Rhiannon asked the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) In light of the events of 11 September in New York, has the NSW Government reassessed emergency response plans to take into account the possibility of a passenger jet crash attack on Lucas Heights?
- (2) Does the Government propose to take steps to implement, or work with the Commonwealth Government to implement, the US Federal Aviation Administration warning that civilian pilots should avoid the airspace above, or in the proximity to, nuclear power plants?
- (3) Does the Government propose to take steps to implement, or work with the Commonwealth Government to implement, the instruction to the US Air Force to intercept and, as a last resort, shoot down planes which violate the airspace above, or in the proximity to, nuclear power plants?
- (4) Can the Government guarantee that it has sufficient numbers of radiation suits for all fire fighters, police, SES and ambulance officers who would be involved in responding to any accident or attack on the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor?

Answer—

I have been advised by the Hon Bob Carr MP, Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship, that the answers to the honourable member's questions are:

- (1) Comprehensive emergency management arrangements are in place for responding to any emergency at the Commonwealth's ANSTO facility at Lucas Heights. These arrangements are regularly tested and reviewed by the emergency services to ensure that a high level of preparedness is maintained.
- (2) The National Security Arrangements for responding to an act of terrorism have been developed over a number of years under the auspices of the Standing Advisory Committee on Commonwealth/State Cooperation for Protection Against Violence – SAC.PAV. They are embodied in the National Anti Terrorist Plan (NATP). Response elements are regularly tested and there is a high level of capability. In the interests of security I will not divulge any specific details of the NATP.
- (3) The comments in (2) above apply.
- (4) As the primary agency responsible for responding to any hazardous material incident in New South Wales, the NSW Fire Brigades is well trained and equipped to deal with any chemical, biological or radiological emergency (CBR). Brigade personnel have access to a range of radiation detection equipment including dosimeters and carry more than 5,000 fully encapsulated protective suits on 500 fire engines.

Stocks of potassium iodide tablets, owned by the Commonwealth Government, are held in two separate locations by the NSW Ambulance Service and are available to provide protection to those who might be exposed to radiation. In the lead-up to the Sydney Olympic Games, emergency services agencies and the defence forces underwent extensive training in all of the elements of CBR incident response and recovery.

*1161 URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING—MAROOTA SAND MINING—Ms Rhiannon asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for Industrial Relations, Assistant Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier on Public Sector Management, and Minister Assisting the Premier for the Central Coast representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—

- (1) Has Dixon Sands made a development application to locate a new sandmine within 250 metres of a public school at Maroota?
- (2)
 - (a) Are there any restrictions on locating an industry such as sand mining, that results in high levels of dust, within 250 metres of a school?
 - (b) If there are no restrictions, will the Minister undertake to determine if a sand mining operation, which produces high amounts of dust, should be located close to where young children spend many hours each day?
- (3) Have dust levels measured behind the Maroota Public School exceeded EPA comfort guidelines at least 3 months out of 12 in 2000?
- (4)
 - (a) Was a meeting called on 12 May 2001 to address the Maroota community's concerns about the future of sand extraction in the area, just after the release of DUAP's *Plan First Community Consultation Strategy Document*?
 - (b)
 - (i) Was DUAP invited to send representatives to this meeting?
 - (ii) If so, did any DUAP representative attend?
- (5)
 - (a) Have Maroota community members suggested to DUAP that a consultative committee, made up of representatives of all local and State government authorities associated with this region and members of the community, be established in order to oversee all sand extraction developments at Maroota with a view to assessing the cumulative impacts of this extractive industry on community health and the local environment?
 - (b) If so, does the Minister support the participation of DUAP representatives on such a consultative committee?

Answer—

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Planning has provided the following response:

- (1) A development application has been lodged, however I am advised that the proposal is not situated within 250 metres of the school.
- (2)
 - (a) Yes. The Baulkham Hills Shire Council Development Control Plan for Extractive Industries (DCP 500) establishes a minimum setback from Maroota Public School of 250 metres.
 - (b) The project will be assessed on its merits including the potential impact on children at Maroota Public School and taking fully into account all submissions received from the community.
- (3) I am advised that the EPA has indicated that measurements show EPA amenity criteria for dust were **not exceeded** in 2000 behind Maroota Public School.
- (4)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b)
 - (i) Yes.
 - (ii) No.
- (5)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) I have requested DUAP to liaise with Baulkham Hills Shire Council to ensure the most appropriate mechanism to maximise early community involvement.

- 1162 ENVIRONMENT—MAROOTA SAND MINING—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth, and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Environment representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

13 NOVEMBER 2001

(Paper No. 130)

Questions—Nil.

14 NOVEMBER 2001

(Paper No. 131)

Questions—Nil.

15 NOVEMBER 2001

(Paper No. 132)

- 1163 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—REVENUE FROM PARKING FEES—Mr Gay to ask the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for Rural Affairs—
- 1164 FAIR TRADING—MR AND MRS PAUL VOGEL—BUILDING INSURANCE—Mr Gallacher to ask the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

27 NOVEMBER 2001

(Paper No. 133)

- 1165 FORESTRY—PINE CREEK STATE FOREST—Ms Rhiannon to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth, and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Environment representing the Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) What were the total costs of running the Pine Creek State Forest (in the Coffs Harbour-Urunga area) for the last financial year?
- (2) What were the returns to State Forests for the last financial year from the logging undertaken in the Pine Creek State Forest?

- 1166 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—SALE OF PROPERTIES—Mrs Forsythe to ask the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) By address, what surplus Department of Education and Training properties have been sold in:
 - (a) 1999-2000,
 - (b) 2000-01, and
 - (c) since 1 July 2001?
- (2) For how much was each property sold?

- (3) For each property:
- (a) What amount did the Department of Education and Training, the school or TAFE (where appropriate) retain?
 - (b) What amount was returned to Consolidated Revenue?
- (4) Which properties are on sale currently?

1167 EDUCATION—CALLALA PUBLIC SCHOOL—SCHOOL COUNSELLOR—Mrs Forsythe to ask the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Education and Training—

- (a) Does Callala Public School have a school counsellor allocated to it?
- (b) If so:
 - (i) On how many days a week is the counsellor allocated to the school?
 - (ii) On how many term weeks this year has the counsellor missed out attending the school?
 - (iii) How many students at the school have been referred to the counsellor to date this year?
 - (iv) How many of the children referred have actually been seen by the counsellor?

1168 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—RICHMOND TAFE CLOSURE OF COURSES—Mrs Forsythe to ask the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Education and Training—

- (a) Is there a proposal to end certain courses at Richmond TAFE in relation to animal studies?
- (b) If so:
 - (i) What courses will be abolished?
 - (ii) When will these courses cease?
 - (iii) When was the decision taken to end the teaching of these courses?
 - (iv) How many students are currently enrolled in these courses?
 - (v) Are new enrolments being taken in these courses for the term commencing in 2002?
 - (vi) For students studying these courses and who have not completed their studies, what will be their options for completion of their studies?
 - (vii) Is Orange TAFE the nearest TAFE to Richmond offering these courses?
 - (viii) What other TAFE colleges offer these studies?
 - (ix) Are any new courses proposed to be introduced at Richmond if these courses are terminated?
 - (x) Who was consulted about these changes?

1169 DISABILITY SERVICES—MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY—Mr Corbett to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth, and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Environment representing the Minister for Community Services, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women—

- (a) Would a person suffering from the condition known as multiple chemical sensitivity be covered under the *NSW Disability Act 1993*, part 5 (1) definition for target groups?
- (b) If not, why not?

1170 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY—Mr Gay to ask the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) (a) Is the Wingecarribee Shire Council charging a 6% environmental levy?
(b) If so, under what legal basis?
- (2) (a) Has the Department of Local Government or the council been advised by the New South Wales Ombudsman to take further legal advice in relation to the validity of this levy?
(b) If so:
 - (i) Was legal advice sought?
 - (ii) What was the advice?
- (c) If not, why was the Ombudsman's advice ignored?
- (3) What other councils impose a similar levy on their ratepayers?
- (4) (a) Is the Minister aware of significant community concern about the actions of the Council in this regard?
(b) If so, what does the Minister plan to do about those concerns?

1171 TRANSPORT—TAXI TRANSPORT SUBSIDY SCHEME—Mr Gay to ask the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries representing the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

- (1) What are the current criteria for determining “severe and permanent disability” in relation to the New South Wales Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme?
- (2) Are doctors issued with a set of guidelines to follow in assessing eligibility for a subsidy under this scheme, or is the assessment left to individual medical practitioners?
- (3) How does the criteria for eligibility vary between New South Wales and Victoria?
- (4) (a) Are you aware of significant concerns from war widows in relation to this issue?
(b) If so, what do you plan to do to address these concerns?

1172 HEALTH—SIDS—Mr Corbett to ask the Treasurer, Minister for State Development, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) How is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) defined?
- (2) What are the known causes of SIDS?
- (3) How much money in this year's budget has been allocated to researching SIDS?
- (4) What support is given to those parents whose children die of SIDS?

John Evans
Clerk of the Parliaments