



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 63

TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2016

(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. 55 (Including Question Nos 0933 to 0956)	08 June 2016
Q & A No. 56 (Including Question Nos 0957 to 0961)	09 June 2016
Q & A No. 57 (Including Question Nos 0962 to 0966)	14 June 2016
Q & A No. 58 (Including Question Nos 0967 to 0972)	15 June 2016
Q & A No. 59 (Including Question Nos 0973 to 0981)	16 June 2016
Q & A No. 60 (Including Question Nos 0982 to 0994)	05 July 2016
Q & A No. 61 (Including Question Nos 0995 to 0995)	06 July 2016
Q & A No. 62 (Including Question Nos 0996 to 1005)	07 July 2016
Q & A No. 63 (Including Question Nos 1006 to 1012)	26 July 2016

4 MAY 2016

(Paper No. 55)

*933 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—SWIMMING POOLS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) Do portable/ inflatable pools such as plastic wading pools capable of being filled with water to a depth greater than 300 millimetres now require a child proof fence?
- (2) If so, does this fence need to be at least 1200 millimetres high?
- (3) What are the penalties for not erecting such a fence?
- (4) Which agencies are responsible for enforcing this requirement?
- (5) What additional financial resources have been made available to these agencies by the Government to assist in enforcing this requirement?
- (6) How many breaches of this requirement have been recorded this calendar year?
- (7) In which local government areas have these occurred, and how many in each?
- (8) How many penalties have been recorded this calendar year?
- (9) Is such a fence required to be erected if the pool is located inside a dwelling?
- (10) Is such a fence required to be erected if the pool is located under a permanent fixture such as a carport or awning?

Answer—

Requirements and responsibilities for swimming pools, including related penalty arrangements, are established by the Swimming Pools Act 1992 and the Swimming Pools Regulation 2008.

Compliance functions are funded from general agency budgets.

The Office of Local Government does not collect the data requested.

*934 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—POPULATION—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

In the Minister's responses dated 22 December 2015 and 14 April 2016, to petitions presented in the Legislative Assembly the Minister noted that council mergers in the metropolitan areas should be based on the merged councils having a minimum population of around 150,000 people.

- (1) How was the 150,000 population figure for metropolitan-based councils determined?
 - (a) Who determined this figure?
 - (b) Is the analysis a public document?
- (2) Was meeting the 150,000 minimum population requirement a key requirement for meeting the "scale and capacity" criteria used by Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to determine the fitness of a council?
- (3) What is the date at which the councils are expected to meet this minimum population requirement?
- (4) If a non-merged metropolitan-based council met the 150,000 population minimum, and was found financially fit under IPART, would they be included in a merger proposal initiated by the Government?

Answer—

The decision to create new councils follows over four years of consultation with communities and councils as well as independent research and analysis.

Information on the outcomes of the merger proposal process, including Delegate reports, is available at www.strongercouncils.nsw.gov.au

Population projections are a matter for the Department of Planning and Environment.

*935 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—SAVINGS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) What is the total savings calculated by KPMG for the local government merger proposals listed on the council boundary review website?
 - (a) Over what period are these savings expected to be achieved?
- (2) What is the breakdown of cost-savings, in terms of staffing, maintenance and capital, and councillor fees as calculated by KPMG?
 - (a) In aggregate
 - (b) Metropolitan
 - (c) Regional
 - (d) For each proposal
- (3) In terms of staff savings what proportion did KPMG calculate comes from redundancy payments?
- (4) Do staff savings represent the greatest savings for forced council mergers?

Answer—

KPMG's analysis and modelling of the merger proposals is entirely contained within documents that have been made publicly available.

*936 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—STRONGER COMMUNITY FUND—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

~~W~~hat is the maximum amount that a council will be eligible to receive under the Stronger Communities Fund?

~~W~~hat is the minimum amount that a council will be eligible to receive under the Stronger Communities Fund?

~~O~~n what basis will the amount to be allocated to a council be assessed?

Is this ~~p~~rocess detailed in a public document, and if so what is the reference?

~~W~~ill this amount be allocated as a block grant, or over time?

~~W~~hat criteria will be used in assessing the eligibility of councils to receive money from the Fund?

Who ~~w~~ill assess this eligibility?

~~F~~or what purposes can money from the Fund not be used?

Answer—

The Stronger Communities Fund will provide \$10 million to a new council formed as a result of two councils, or parts of two councils, merging, or \$15 million to a new council formed as a result of three councils, or parts of three councils, merging. Allocations were announced on 12 May 2016.

The Office of Local Government will provide the funding to each new council as a single payment. Guidelines have been released to new councils, information is available at www.strongercouncils.nsw.gov.au

*937 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—MONEY FOR MERGERS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) What is the maximum amount that a newly merged council will be eligible to receive to meet the costs of merging?
- (2) What is the minimum amount that a newly merged council will be eligible to receive to meet the costs of merging?

- (3) On what basis will the amount to be allocated to a council be assessed?
 - (a) Is this process detailed in a public document, and if so what is the reference?
- (4) If a merger involves more than two councils, will the amount available increase?
- (5) Will this amount be allocated as a block grant, or over time?
 - (a) If allocated over time, what is the expected time period?
- (6) What criteria will be used in assessing the eligibility of councils to receive money?
 - (a) Who will assess this eligibility?
- (7) For what purposes can the money not be used?

Answer—

The New Council Implementation Fund will provide \$10 million for new councils formed in metropolitan Sydney or the Central Coast, and \$5 million for new councils formed in regional NSW.

The Office of Local Government will provide the funding to each new council as a single payment. Guidelines have been released to new councils, information is available at www.strongercouncils.nsw.gov.au

- *938 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—FURTHER FORCED MERGERS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

Will there be any further forced council mergers initiated by the Government?

Answer—

The process for examining and reporting on merger proposals is clearly set out in the Local Government Act 1993.

- *939 AGEING, DISABILITY SERVICES—AGEING STRATEGY—Ms Barham asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism—

- (1) Which peak bodies representing older people were invited to the roundtable held on 15 April 2016 at the Museum of Contemporary Arts that formed part of consultations to renew the Ageing Strategy?
- (2) Who were the more than 20 representatives invited to the roundtable and which organisations and/or businesses did they represent?
- (3) Who are the 'key partners' working with Family and Community Services in considering the findings of the Westwood Spice Evaluation of the NSW Ageing Strategy as mentioned in a draft 'Ageing Strategy Update Newsletter' dated September 2015?
- (4) In which newspapers and on which radio stations has the Government advertised the NSW Ageing Strategy Renewal online survey?
- (5) Will the results of the survey and broader consultation about the renewal of the Ageing Strategy be made public?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) to 2. Information on the roundtable for the NSW Ageing Strategy, held on 15 April 2016, including attendees from peak bodies, organisations and businesses in attendance, is available on the Department of Family and Community Services website at <http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies/nsw-ageing-strategy>.

3. Key partners include: Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Treasury, NSW Ministry of Health, Transport for NSW, Department of Planning and Environment, Department of Education, Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, Department of Police and Justice, Council on the Ageing NSW, NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing, Local Government NSW and Urban Taskforce.

4. The NSW Government has not advertised the online 'have your say' survey on the renewal of the

Ageing Strategy through radio or newspapers, but has used existing low cost channels and networks.

5. Yes, information on consultations for the renewed Ageing Strategy, including feedback gathered through the 'have your say' survey, will be available on the Family and Community Services website.

*940 AGEING, DISABILITY SERVICES—MUSIC FOR MEMORY—Ms Barham asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism—

- (1) Does the Government fund any Music for Memory programs to assist people living with chronic cognitive and physical impairments?
 - (a) If so, which programs does it fund?
 - (b) How much funding has been assigned to these programs?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised the NSW Department of Family and Community Services does not provide funding to Music for Memory programs.

*941 TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE—RIDESHARING AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY—Ms Barham asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure—

- (1) What work has the Government done with ridesharing companies to ensure they comply with their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and do not discriminate against people with a disability?
- (2) What compliance action has the Government taken in relation to a number of cases where a ridesharing driver has refused to accept a passenger with a guide dog?

Answer—

I am advised:

All ridesharing services are subject to the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. Any person who believes that they have been discriminated against by a ridesharing company can ask the Australian Human Rights Commission to investigate and resolve their complaint.

Under the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998, NSW Police may issue a fine for refusing a person with disability to be accompanied by an assistance animal in any public building or place or on public transport.

*942 TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE—WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TAXI—Ms Barham asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure—

- (1) With the legalisation of ridesharing, what is the Government doing to ensure that people who use wheelchairs have access to ridesharing services?
- (2) Considering that the number of wheelchair accessible taxis has declined in jurisdictions where ridesharing is legal, how will the Government ensure that the number of wheelchair accessible taxis will not decline in NSW?
- (3) Will the Government monitor the number of wheelchair accessible taxis annually?
 - (a) What action will the Government take if the number of wheelchair accessible taxis declines?
- (4) How many applications have been approved under the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi interest-free loans scheme since its inception?
 - (a) How many more applications will be possible each year under the \$5 million per annum expansion of the scheme?
- (5) Does the Government provide grants to taxi drivers to make vehicles wheelchair accessible?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

All ridesharing services are subject to anti-discrimination legislation. Rideshare services offering wheelchair access are required to comply with all Australian safety standards regarding the carriage of wheelchairs in a motor vehicle.

The NSW Government will set the competency standards for all drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles in both the booked and unbooked point to point transport markets, and booking service providers will have an obligation to make sure that their drivers meet these standards.

The NSW Government is monitoring the viability of wheelchair accessible services given the higher capital and running costs associated with providing these services, as well as the effectiveness and adequacy of passenger subsidies and other incentives for the provision of wheelchair accessible services.

The Government will soon increase the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme cap from \$30 per trip to \$60 per trip. Driver incentive payments will rise from \$7.70 (plus GST) to \$15 (plus GST) and the cost of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) licences in metropolitan areas will be reduced to zero, in line with country areas. Transport for NSW will also cover the costs of a centralised WAT booking service, saving Sydney WAT operators \$2,130 per vehicle each year.

Since 30 August 2006, there have been 77 loans issued under the interest-free WAT loan program. The recent expansion of the loan scheme increases the maximum borrowing amount from \$30,000 to \$100,000 and extends the term over which the funds may be borrowed.

*943 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS IN RENT ARREARS—Ms Barham asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing—

- (1) What steps does Housing NSW take to support a public housing tenant who has fallen into rent arrears?
- (2) Does Housing NSW refer tenants in rent arrears to financial counselling services?
 - (a) If so, how many referrals were made in
 - (i) 2013/14?
 - (ii) 2014/15?
- (3) What early intervention supports and wrap-around services does Housing NSW offer tenants identified at risk of falling into rent arrears?
- (4) What was the total amount of rent arrears for NSW public housing tenants in:
 - (a) 2013/14?
 - (b) 2014/15?

Answer—

- (1) to 3. Information on the Department of Family and Community Services' policy to assist tenants in rent arrears, including financial support services, is available at www.facs.nsw.gov.au
4. Rent arrears across the public housing portfolio in 2013/14 and 2014/15 were less than one per cent of the total amount of rent that is payable.

*944 HERITAGE, PLANNING—BIODIVERSITY OFFICER POSITIONS—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

How many biodiversity officer positions does the Office of Environment and Heritage currently have across New South Wales?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

Relying on information supplied by the Office of Environment and Heritage, the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff delivering biodiversity outcomes is 2344 FTE (as at May 2016).

*945 ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE, PLANNING—PENALTY NOTICES—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

- (1) How many penalty notices have been issued for breaching the Native Vegetation Regulation 2013?
 - (a) Please provide a list of the number of penalty notices, the Local Land Service Region they occurred in and the date range?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) One.
 - (a) One, Riverina Local Land Services, April 2016.

*946 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—PENALTY NOTICES—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

- (1) How many penalty notices have been issued for breaching the Native Vegetation Regulation 2013?
 - (a) Please provide a list of the number of penalty notices, the Local Land Service Region they occurred in and the date range?

Answer—

- (1) This question is a matter for the Minister for the Environment.

*947 ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE, PLANNING—NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

- (1) Regarding the Far West Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
 - (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (2) Regarding the Western Rivers Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
 - (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (3) Regarding the Northern Plains Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
 - (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (4) Regarding the Southern Plains Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
 - (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (5) Regarding the Blue Mountains Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
 - (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (6) Regarding the Far South Coast Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
 - (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire? c.
How were the positions on the committee advertised?

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- (7) Regarding the South Coast Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
- (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (8) Regarding the Metro South-West Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
- (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (9) Regarding the Metro North-East Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
- (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (10) Regarding the Central Coast Hunter Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
- (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (11) Regarding the Lower North Coast Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
- (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (12) Regarding the North Coast Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
- (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (13) Regarding the Northern Rivers Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
- (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (14) Regarding the Northern Tablelands Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
- (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?
- (15) Regarding the Northern Plains Region National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee:
- (a) Who are the current members of the committee?
 - (b) When were the current members of the committee appointed and when do their terms expire?
 - (c) How were the positions on the committee advertised?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1)
- (a) The following people have been offered membership of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Far West Region Regional Advisory Committee (RAC): Mr Peter Beven, Ms Rosalind Cochrane Molesworth, Mr Michael Davis, Mr Nathan Floramo, Mrs Kathleen Gilby, Mrs Anne

Green, Mrs Diana Hoffman, Mrs Anne Kiely, Ms Dorothy Martin, Mr Michael McCulkin, Mrs Frances McKinnon OAM, Prof Simon Molesworth AO QC and Mr Arthur Vann

- (b) These people were offered membership by letters dated 7 June 2016 and their term would expire on 31 December 2018.
 - (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- (2)
- (a) The current members of the NPWS Western Rivers Region RAC are: Miss Amy Armstrong, Mr Michael Augee, Mrs Andrea Cashmere, Mr Adrian Davey, Mr Andrew Kennedy, Dr Anne Kerle, Ms Nerida Reid, Mrs Marie Russell AM, Ms Nella Smith, Mrs Kelly Tyson, Ms Susan Wakefield and Mr James Williams.
 - (b) These members were appointed on 4 February 2016 and their term expires on 31 October 2018.
 - (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- (3)
- (a) The following people have been offered membership of the NPWS Northern Plains Region RAC: Mr Lynton Auld, Mr Eric Fisher OAM, Ms Elizabeth Guest, Ms Janice Hosking, Ms Jane Judd, Mr Peter Shinton, Ms Maureen Sulter, Ms Elizabeth Taylor, Ms Joan Treweeke, Mr John Whitehead, Ms Sandy Findlay, Miss Elizabeth Munn, Mr Graham Sawtell and Mr Jason Wilson.
 - (b) Ten members were appointed on 9 February 2016 and an additional four people were offered membership by letters dated 7 June 2016. All terms expire on 30 September 2018.
 - (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- (4)
- (a) The current members of the NPWS Southern Ranges Region RAC (there is no NPWS Southern Plains Region RAC) are: Ms Janet Anderson, Dr Rosemary Black, Mr Wayne Brown, Mr Martin Chalk, Mr Paul Davies, Mr Euan Diver, Mr John Hood, Dr Francis Ingwersen, Mr Paul McLeod, Mr David Moore, Mr Ken Prendergast, Mr Ian Pulsford, Mr Edward Rowley, Mr Peter Southwell, Ms Jacqui Stol and Ms Dianne Thompson.
 - (b) These members were appointed on 13 January 2016 and their term expires on 31 October 2018.
 - (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- (5)
- (a) The following people have been offered membership of the NPWS Blue Mountains Region RAC: Mr Warwick Allan Armstrong, Ms Tracey Austin, Mrs Gemma Bennett, Mr Scott Bevins, Mrs Joanne Cox, Mr Lachlan Garland, Mrs Sharyn Halls, Ms Agness Knapik, Mr Robert John Lester, Mr Andrew Luke, Mr Andy MacQueen, Ms Fiona Meller, Ms Heidi Ploeg (Lawson), Mr Nick Rigby, Dr Robert John Ryan, Mr Ian Tucker, and Mrs Merle Williams.
 - (b) These people were offered membership by letters dated 3 June 2016 and their term would expire on 30 November 2018.
 - (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- (6)
- (a) The current members on the NPWS Far South Coast Region RAC are: Mr Rob Allan, Mr Brian Clarke, Mr Michael Darcy, Mr Rob de Fegely, Mr Chris Kowal, Mr Bruce Leaver, Mr Robert Litchfield, Mr Shane McAlister, Ms Paula Pollock, Mr Douglas Reckord, Mr Paul Stewart, Mrs Yvonne Thomson, Ms Iris White and Dr Paul Whittington.
 - (b) These members were appointed on 28 April 2016 and their term expires on 30 November 2018.

- (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- (7)
- (a) The current members of the NPWS South Coast Region RAC are: Mr William Bean, Ms Frances Bray, Dr Justin Clarke, Dr Steven Douglas, Ms Tanya Emes, Ms Genelle Gregory, Ms Patricia Lester, Dr Kevin Mills, Mr Robert Pallin, Miss Helen Pinch, Mrs Margaret Simoes, Ms Amelia Westhoff.
- (b) Ten members were appointed on 4 December 2015 and their term expires on 31 October 2019. Two members were appointed on 28 April 2016 and their term expires on 31 October 2018.
- (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- (8)
- (a) The current members of the NPWS Metropolitan South West Region RAC are: Mrs Sheelah Boleyn, Ms Glenda Chalker, Ms Sharyn Cullis, Ms Joanne Daly, Mr Brian Everingham, Mr Brendon Graham, Ms Christine Guthrie, Mr Christopher Ingrey, Ms Rhonda Lenardon, Dr Charles Morris, Ms Cita Murphy, Ms Marnie Sigal, Mr Brad Staggs, Mr Peter Stitt and Ms Alison Woodbury.
- (b) These members were appointed on 9 February 2016 and their term expires on 31 October 2018.
- (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- (9)
- (a) The current members of the NPWS Metropolitan North East Region RAC are: Mr Simon Balderstone AM, Mr Laurence Bimson, Mr Rob Brewster, Mr Trevor Brown, Ms Robin Buchanan, Mr Jason Coombs, Mr Grahame Douglas, Ms Brigid Dowsett, Prof Dennis Foley, Ms Carole Ford, Mrs Catherine Griffin, Dr Daniel Lunney, Dr Julie Old, Mr Stuart Sprott, Ms Rachel Sullivan and Mr Stephen Summerhayes.
- (b) These members were appointed on 9 May 2016 and their term expires on 31 October 2018.
- (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- (10)
- (a) The following people have been offered membership of the NPWS Central Coast Hunter Region RAC: Mr Steven Adams, Ms Kim Baillie, Mr Daryl Bower, Ms Cassie Bremner, Ms Kendal Caynes, Mr Michael Greentree, Ms Sharon Hodgetts, Mr Nicholas Jacomas, Mr Robert Kelly, Mr Blake Kuiper, Mr John Le Messurier, Mr Jeffrey Strickson, Dr Chris Tola, Ms Gina Vereker, Mrs Rosemary White and Mr Trevor Woolley.
- (b) These people were offered membership by letters dated 31 May 2016 and their term would expire on 30 November 2018.
- (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.
- (11)
- (a) The following people have been offered membership of the NPWS Lower North Coast Region RAC: Ms Margaret Brown, Mr John Clark OAM, Mr Jai Cooper, Ms Frances Corner, Mr Terrence Evans, Mrs Margaret Francis, Mr John Graham, Mr Bruce Harris, Ms Christine Jeziorowski, Ms Lesley Lane, Dr George McKay, Mr William Moller, Ms Alana Parkins OAM and Mr Andrew Smith.
- (b) These people were offered membership by letters dated 31 May 2016 and their term would expire on 31 December 2018.

- (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

(12)

- (a) The following people have been offered membership of the NPWS North Coast RAC: Mr Robert Cleary, Mr Allister Gee, Mr Robin Heath, Ms Kristine Hely, Mr Max Ingram, Mr Frank Kennedy, Mr Peter Lean, Mr Sean McArdle, Mr Roderick McKelvey, Mr Peter Morgan, Mr Barry Ramke, Mr Terrence Tibbett and Mr Clark Valler.
- (b) These people were offered membership by letters dated 31 May 2016 and their term would expire on 31 December 2018.
- (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

(13)

- (a) The current members of the NPWS Northern Rivers Region RAC are: Mr Trevor Bendall, Mr Rod Caldicott, Mr Blair Cochran, Ms Lois Cook, Ms Marie Gale, Dr Hedley Grantham, Ms Eleanor Hodgson OAM, Mr Rodney Holland, Mrs Melissa Ladkin, Ms Jeanette Olley, Dr Pascal Scherrer, Ms Debra Stokes, Mr Darren Taitoko, Ms Lorraine Vass, Mr Max Willoughby and Dr Charlie Zammit.
- (b) These members were appointed on 30 November 2015 and their term expires on 31 October 2019.
- (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

(14)

- (a) The following people have been offered membership of the NPWS Northern Tablelands RAC: Prof Jeremy Bruhl, Ms Rosemary Curtis, Ms Wendy Hawes, Dr John Hunter, Mr Bryan Johnston, Dr Mahri Koch, Mr Donald Noakes, Mr James Rainger, Mr Elton Squires, Mr Ben Vincent and Mr Stephen Warden.
- (b) These people were offered membership by letters dated 8 June 2016 and their term would expire on 31 August 2018.
- (c) Nominees for the committee were sought through advertisements in regional press and written invitations to local members and key stakeholders including the National Parks Association, the Nature Conservation Council, Local Government NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

(15) See answer to question 3.

*948 ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE, PLANNING—NSW BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS FUND—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

- (1) What is the status of the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Fund?
 - (a) If it is not yet operational, when is it expected to become operational?
- (2) How many proponents have satisfied their offset requirement through a monetary contribution into the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Fund?
 - (a) Please provide a list of proponents, the related project and the amount paid into the fund.
- (3) What projects has the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Fund funded?

Answer—

I am advised that a NSW Biodiversity Offsets Fund has not yet been established. It will be established under the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Act. A draft Biodiversity Conservation Bill was released on public exhibition on 3 May 2016.

Information about the proposed land management and conservation reforms is available at www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au.

*949 PLANNING—BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS POLICY—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Planning—

(1)

- (a) How many projects were entered into under the Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects between 1 October 2014 and 18 December 2014?
- (b) Please provide a detailed list including the project name, date, the offset obtained and the environmental area being offset.

Answer—

I am advised:

(1)

- (a) Projects are not entered into the Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects, rather biodiversity impact assessments and offsets are finalised under the policy. The details of all major projects determined between 1 October 2014 and 18 December 2014 are available on the Major Projects website at majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au.
- (b) Details of all offsets for major projects are available on the Major Projects website at majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au.

*950 ENVIRONMENT—BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS POLICY—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

(1)

- (a) How many projects were entered into under the Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects between 1 October 2014 and 18 December 2014?
- (b) Please provide a detailed list including the project name, date, the offset obtained and the environmental area being offset.

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

(1)

- (a) to b. This is the responsibility of the Minister for Planning.

*951 ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE, PLANNING—CLEARING OF Paddock TREES—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

- (1) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Central Tablelands Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016 in the Central Tablelands Local Land Services Region?
- (2) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Western Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016 in the Western Local Land Services Region?
- (3) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Murray Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?

- (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2015 and 1 June 2015 in the Murray Local Land Services Region?
- (4) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Riverina Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016 in the Riverina Local Land Services Region?
- (5) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the South East Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016 the South East Local Land Services Region?
- (6) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016 in the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Region?
- (7) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Central West Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016 in the Central West Local Land Services Region?
- (8) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the North West Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016 in the North West Local Land Services Region?
- (9) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016 in the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Region?
- (10) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the North Coast Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016 in the North Coast Local Land Services Region?
- (11) How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Hunter Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016?
 - (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 April 2016 in the Hunter Local Land Services Region?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

Based on data reports from 9 May 2016:

- (1) None.
 - (a) The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) actively promotes compliance by assisting landholders and others in the community to understand and meet their legislative obligations, and by focusing regulatory action on those who choose not to comply. OEH assesses risks using information about potential illegal clearing from OEH's statewide satellite monitoring program, public reports and on-ground surveillance.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (2) Five notifications.
 - (a) Refer to the response at 1a.
 - (b) There are five current notifications for 707 paddock trees for the period 20 November 2014 to 1 April 2016. OEH detects actual clearing via its annual statewide satellite monitoring program. Results of the satellite monitoring program are reported in the NSW Report on Native Vegetation, available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/reports.htm.
- (3) 45 notifications.
 - (a) Refer to the response at 1a.
 - (b) This question refers to a non-existent date range.
- (4) 42 notifications.
 - (a) Refer to the response at 1a.
 - (b) There are 42 current notifications for 6807 paddock trees for the period 20 November 2014 to 1 April 2016. OEH detects actual clearing via its annual statewide satellite monitoring program. Results of the satellite monitoring program are reported in the NSW Report on Native Vegetation, available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/reports.htm.
- (5) None.
 - (a) Refer to the response at 1a.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (6) None.
 - (a) Refer to the response at 1a.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (7) 93 notifications.
 - (a) Refer to the response at 1a.
 - (b) There are 93 current notifications for 11,723 paddock trees for the period 20 November 2014 to 1 April 2016. OEH detects actual clearing via its annual statewide satellite monitoring program. Results of the satellite monitoring program are reported in the NSW Report on Native Vegetation, available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/reports.htm.
- (8) 16 notifications.
 - (a) Refer to the response at 1a.
 - (b) There are 16 current notifications for 2355 paddock trees for the period 20 November 2014 to 1 April 2016. OEH detects actual clearing via its annual statewide satellite monitoring program. Results of the satellite monitoring program are reported in the NSW Report on Native Vegetation, available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/reports.htm.
- (9) None.
 - (a) Refer to the response at 1a.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (10) Four notifications.
 - (a) Refer to the response at 1a.
 - (b) There are four current notifications for 124 paddock trees for the period 20 November 2014 to 1 April 2016. OEH detects actual clearing via its annual statewide satellite monitoring program.

Results of the satellite monitoring program are reported in the NSW Report on Native Vegetation, available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/reports.htm.

(11) One notification.

(a) Refer to the response at 1a.

(b) There is one current notification for 20 paddock trees for the period 20 November 2014 to 1 April 2016. OEH detects actual clearing via its annual statewide satellite monitoring program. Results of the satellite monitoring program are reported in the NSW Report on Native Vegetation, available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/reports.htm.

*952 ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE, PLANNING—PENALTIES ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT OPERATIONS AMENDMENT (ILLEGAL WASTE DISPOSAL) ACT 2013—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

- (1) To date, how many penalties have been issued under the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Act 2013?
- (2) To date, how many penalties have been issued under the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Act 2013 for knowingly supplying false or misleading information about waste?
- (3) To date, how many penalties have been issued under the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Act 2013 for repeat waste offenders?
- (4) To date, how many motor vehicles or vessels have been seized by the Environment Protection Authority under provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Act 2013?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

The Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Act 2013 made a number of amendments to the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act). For the most part, these amendments commenced on 1 October 2013. Regulatory action is therefore taken under the POEO Act, rather than the Amendment Act. In response to the above questions:

- (1) No penalties have been issued under the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Act 2013. However, three penalties have been issued under the POEO Act in relation to waste disposal since October 2013, when most amendments commenced.
- (2) Three penalties for knowingly supplying false or misleading information about waste have been issued under the POEO Act since October 2013.
- (3) No penalties for repeat waste offences have been issued under the POEO Act since October 2013.
- (4) No vehicles or vessels have been seized by the Environment Protection Authority since October 2013. The responses provided do not account for any matters which are currently under investigation or before the Courts for prosecution, about which the EPA is presently unable to comment.

*953 LANDS AND WATER, PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—NSW FARM TRESPASS POLICY—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

- (1) What action has the Department of Primary Industries taken in implementing the NSW Farm Trespass Policy?
 - (a) Has this involved provision of any video or recording equipment to any properties? If so, please provide a list of these properties.

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Farm Incursions Policy 2014 was considered at a joint NSW/Commonwealth Ministerial Roundtable on Farm Trespass held on 3 August 2015 and convened by the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Participants from the Roundtable have endorsed an industry-led action plan for implementation.

(a) No

*954 JUSTICE AND POLICE—NSW FARM TRESPASS POLICY—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing—

- (1) What actions has the NSW Police Force taken in implementing the Department of Primary Industries' NSW Farm Trespass Policy?
 - (2) How much money has the NSW Police Force spent on "compliance and enforcement operations" in implementing the Department of Primary Industries' NSW Farm Trespass Policy?
 - (3) Are any police resources dedicated to working on "compliance and enforcement operations" in implementing the Department of Primary Industries NSW Farm Trespass Policy?
- (a) If so, what are these resources?

Answer—

I am advised:

Rural Crime Investigators work with the Department of Primary Industries, Local Land Services, the RSPCA and other relevant agencies when investigating rural crime incidents, including livestock thefts, illegal hunting and farm trespass. Rural Crime Investigators also continue to provide crime prevention advice to producers as well as encouraging them to report incidents of criminal activity.

*955 ENVIRONMENT—FIREFIGHTING STAFF—Dr Faruqi asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

- (1) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Far West Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff did the National Parks and Wildlife Service Far West Region employ in:
 - (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (2) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Western Rivers Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Western Rivers Region in:
 - (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (3) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Northern Plains Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Northern Plains Region in:
 - (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (4) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Southern Plains Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Southern Plains Region in:
 - (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (5) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service

Blue Mountains Region?

- (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Blue Mountains Region in:
 - (i) 2014/2015
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (6) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Far South Coast Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Far South Coast Region in:
 - (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (7) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service South Coast Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service South Coast Region in:
 - (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (8) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Metro South-West Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Metro North-East Region in:
 - (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (9) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Metro North East Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Metro North-East Region in:
 - (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (10) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Lower North Coast Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Lower North Coast Region in:
 - (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (11) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Lower Central Coast Hunter Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Central Coast Hunter Region in:
 - (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (12) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service North Coast Region?
 - (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service North Coast Region in:

- (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (13) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Northern Rivers Region?
- (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Northern Rivers Region in:
- (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (14) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Northern Rivers Region?
- (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Northern Tablelands Region in:
- (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?
- (15) How many full time firefighting staff are currently based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Northern Plains Region?
- (a) How many full time firefighting staff were based in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Northern Plains Region in:
- (i) 2014/2015?
 - (ii) 2013/2014?
 - (iii) 2012/2013?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

Under the Enhanced Bushfire Management Program that has operated since 2011 under a six year \$76 million commitment, the National Parks and Wildlife Service has employed 94 full-time firefighters to help deliver on the NSW Government commitment to nearly double hazard reduction and improve bushfire response capabilities in parks and reserves.

These fulltime staff are part of more than 1,100 frontline firefighting staff and are deployed to various locations across the state in response to fire management need.

*956 TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE—NSW TRAINLINK—Mrs Houssos asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure—

- (1) Given that multiple regional train stations on the Mid North Coast will have staffing levels reduced or cut entirely, what efforts did the Department take prior to these decisions being made to:
- (a) ascertain passenger numbers boarding and alighting NSW TrainLink Services at these stations?
 - (b) identify the need for special assistance by passengers using these stations?
- (2) Will assistance with checking in luggage at some stations be carried out by staff on board the train?
- (a) If yes, what impact will this have on the NSW TrainLink timetable?

Answer—

I am advised:

NSW TrainLink is conducting a Business Review of its Travel Centres, Regional Booking Offices and Regional Station operations which is aimed at providing the right level of customer service for the activity at each location. NSW TrainLink undertook a detailed analysis of each location including passenger numbers, ticket sales and staffing arrangements.

On 2 May 2016, I announced that following feedback from staff, unions and customers, NSW TrainLink will continue to staff stations it had proposed to unattend. To meet the needs of local customers, local

staff will continue to sell tickets for NSW TrainLink regional train and coach services, and cover major train and coach arrivals and departures

5 MAY 2016

(Paper No. 56)

*957 TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE—SYDNEY-BRISBANE XPT SERVICE—Mr Veitch asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure—

- (1) Are there any plans for the Sydney-Brisbane express passenger train (XPT) service to be cut or decreased?
- (2) Will the current Sydney-Brisbane XPT level of service be maintained into the future?

Answer—

I am advised:

There are no plans to change current XPT service levels between Sydney and Brisbane at this time.

*958 ROADS, MARITIME AND FREIGHT—REVIEW OF ROAD WORKS AT INTERSECTION OF SNOWY MOUNTAINS HIGHWAY (B72) AND BATLOW ROAD—Mr Veitch asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Has Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) commenced a review of the recent road works completed at the Intersection of Snowy Mountains Highway (B72) and Batlow Road? If so:
 - (a) Who is conducting the review?
 - (b) What is the scope of the review?
 - (c) When will the review be completed?
 - (d) Will any suggested actions arising from the review be funded from RMS's normal operating budget or will special grant funds be provided?
- (2) What was the budgeted cost for the project and what is the final cost for the project?
- (3) Are there plans to address lighting and sight issues at the intersection arising from the recent works?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) Calibre Consulting.
 - (b) The scope of the review was to carry out a post completion audit on the Snowy Mountains Highway/Batlow Road project and present findings.
 - (c) The review was completed in April 2016.
 - (d) and 2. Any work required will be funded within Roads and Maritime Services' normal operating budget.
3. Lighting was installed at the intersection in February 2016. Work to address the sight issues raised is expected to be completed by the end of July 2016, weather permitting.

*959 ROADS, MARITIME AND FREIGHT—PRINCE ALFRED BRIDGE—Mr Veitch asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Regarding expenditure by Roads and Maritime and Services on Prince Alfred Bridge, Gundagai, please provide details of expenditure and initiatives in the following areas for each of the previous four financial years:
 - (a) Maintenance inspections;
 - (b) Safety improvements; and
 - (c) General maintenance.

Answer—

I am advised:

\$117,600 has been spent on the maintenance of the Prince Alfred Bridge between 2012/13 and 2015/16.

*960 TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE—XPT JOURNEYS—Mr Veitch asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure—

- (1) How many passenger journeys were taken from Sydney to Brisbane on the express passenger train (XPT) service for each year for the past four calendar years?
- (2) How many passenger journeys were taken from Brisbane to Sydney on the XPT service for each year for the past four calendar years?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Sydney to Brisbane XPT services provides customers with access to many locations along the NSW North Coast. Many passengers on the NSW Trains Sydney to Brisbane XPT service board and disembark from the train at stations between the Sydney area and Roma Street Station.

Journeys from Sydney to Brisbane:

2012 – 24,647

2013 – 21,323

2014 – 17,861

2015 – 19,159

Journeys from Brisbane to Sydney:

2012 – 12,458

2013 – 10,238

2014 – 7,875

2015 – 8,578

*961 LANDS AND WATER, PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—EXPENDITURE FOR FISHERIES RELATED OPERATIONS—Mr Veitch asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

- (1) Noting that this information is not available in the NSW Budget Papers, please detail total government expenditure for each of the following fisheries-related operations for each year for the past four financial years:
 - (a) Fish breeding and stocking;
 - (b) Maintenance or building of infrastructure such as boat ramps, jetties, cleaning tables and other recreational fishing facilities;
 - (c) Recreational fishing-related signage;
 - (d) Fishing education;
 - (e) Research and habitat protection;
 - (f) Enforcement and compliance with recreational fishing rules; and
 - (g) Recreational fishing-related staff.

Please separate expenditure details into (1) funding sourced from the Recreational Fishing Trusts and (2) funding sourced from the Department of Primary Industries recurrent or capital works budget.

Answer—

Budget information on current projects funded by the NSW Government using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts is detailed in the Recreational Fishing Trusts Investment Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18, which is publicly available.

Additional budget information from the Recreational Fishing Trust projects is provided in the NSW Trade and Investment Annual Reports, which are publicly available.

With regard to budget and expenditure information from the DPI recurrent or capital works budget relating to recreational fisheries operations, this information is not disaggregated according to the different fisheries sectors.

10 MAY 2016

(Paper No. 57)

***962 HEALTH—REGISTERED NURSES IN NSW GOVERNMENT NURSING HOMES—**Ms Barham asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Which of the following residential aged care facilities owned by the Government are required to have a registered nurse on duty at all times as per section 104 of the Public Health Act 2010:
 - (a) Kimbarra Lodge Hostel
 - (b) Garrawarra Centre
 - (c) Wallsend Aged Care Facility
 - (d) Leeton Hospital
 - (e) Hillcrest Nursing Home (Gloucester)
 - (f) Corowa District Hospital
 - (g) Portland Tabulam Health Centre
 - (h) Murrumburrah Harden District Hospital
 - (i) Holbrook District Hospital?
- (2) Will the Government continue to staff these residential aged care facilities with registered nurses at all times?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

The NSW Government response to the recommendations made by the Legislative Council Inquiry into registered nurses in NSW nursing homes is publicly available at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/listofcommittees/Pages/committees.aspx.

***963 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—PUBLIC HOUSING MAINTENANCE REQUESTS—**Ms Barham asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing—

- (1) How many maintenance requests regarding mould were lodged by public housing tenants with companies contracted to conduct maintenance work in the 2014/15 financial year?
- (2) How many public housing tenants had to be moved from their homes because of mould in the 2014/15 financial year?

Answer—

I refer to my response to Question on Notice LC 800.

***964 LANDS AND WATER—WATER ACCESS LICENCES—**Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

- (1) How many Water Access Licences (WALs) have been registered with Land and Property Information (LPI), since the LPI was called upon to maintain a registry of WALs on behalf of the Minister administering the Water Management Act 2000?
 - (a) How many are current?
- (2) If the titling and registry functions of the LPI are privatised, will the WALs registry continue to be maintained by the LPI?
 - (a) If not, will the WALs registry be maintained by the newly privatised titling and registry business

or under a different arrangement?

Answer—

(1) 37,700

(a) 33,924

(2) DPI Water has no intention of changing the current arrangement it has with LPI.

*965 FINANCE, SERVICES AND PROPERTY—WATER ACCESS LICENCES—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water representing the Minister for Finance, Services and Property—

(1) How many Water Access Licences (WALs) have been registered with Land and Property Information (LPI), since the LPI was called upon to maintain a registry of WALs on behalf of the Minister administering the Water Management Act 2000?

(a) How many are current?

(2) If the titling and registry functions of the LPI are privatised, will the WALs registry continue to be maintained by the LPI?

(a) If not, will the WALs registry be maintained by the newly privatised titling and registry business or under a different arrangement?

Answer—

(1) 37,700 Water Access Licences have been registered with LPI.

(a) 33,924 of those are current.

(2) Titling and Registry Services will continue to maintain the Water Access Licence Register on behalf of the Minister administering the Water Management Act 2000.

(a) See above.

*966 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—FLORA RESERVES—Mr Shoebridge asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

(1) How many Flora Reserves have been created within State Forests in New South Wales?

(2) How many have had their status as Flora Reserves revoked?

(3) How many former Flora Reserves have been logged?

(a) Please provide details of names, locations and dates logged, where applicable.

Answer—

(1) and 2. This information is published in the NSW Government Gazette.

3. No flora reserves have been revoked for the purposes of commercial timber harvesting by Forestry Corporation of NSW.

11 MAY 2016

(Paper No. 58)

*967 ENVIRONMENT—KOALA CONSERVATION—Ms Sharpe asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

(1) How much money has been spent on koala conservation since the 2008 Koala Recovery Plan expired in 2013?

(2) What has guided Government investment in koala conservation since the 2008 Koala Recovery Plan expired?

(3) Why did the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) choose not to conduct a formal review of the 2008 Koala Recovery Plan?

- (4) How does OEH measure success in implementing the objectives of SEPP 44 and the National Koala Conservation Strategy?
- (5) Has OEH undertaken an updated assessment of koala distribution and population status since the 2010 estimates that informed the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) nomination?
 - (a) If so, where are the statistics?
 - (b) Was this done for selected populations as well as across New South Wales?
 - (i) If so, where are the results?
- (6) Has OEH developed a standard methodology for koala survey and analytic techniques? What evidence was this methodology based on?
- (7) Has OEH identified priority koala populations for management? If so, what data is this prioritisation based on?
- (8) Has OEH ranked threats to koalas to prioritise recovery efforts and evaluated how best to ameliorate them and the effectiveness of mitigation measures?
- (9) What proportion of local government areas (LGAs) listed on Schedule 1 of SEPP 44 now have an approved Koala Plan of Management?
- (10) What amendments have been made to SEPP 44 in the 21 years that it has been in existence?
- ~~Has~~ OEH assessed the economic and non-biological values of koalas? If so, what are the results?
- ~~How~~ does the recording system for groups involved in koala care operate?
- ~~What~~ are the trends of koalas coming into care, including absolute numbers and the reason for injury?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has spent approximately \$1.5 million from 1 July 2013 on koala conservation. This includes funding from the Australian Government Biodiversity Fund and the Environmental Trust, including a grant to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Nearly \$900,000 has been allocated in 2015/16.
The NSW Government has also provided \$2.5 million to facilitate the addition of 12,000 hectares to the NSW forest reserve system to protect the last known far south coast koala population.
- (2) The koala is funded as an iconic species in the Saving our Species program. The recovery plan guides investment in koala conservation, including mapping and collaboration with councils to develop plans of management for koalas.
Investment by the Environmental Trust is in accordance with the trusts funding guidelines.
The EPA invested in koala mapping programs to provide a clear understanding of koala identification and management needs in native forestry areas on both public and private land.
- (3) OEH has revised and publicly exhibited its approach to recovery plans and threatened species conservation through the Saving our Species program, which includes the koala as an iconic species.
- (4) SEPP 44 is a matter for the Minister for Planning.
The National Koala Conservation Strategy is a matter for the Commonwealth Government.
- (5) This information is contained in a published paper to which OEH contributed, available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ddi.12400/full>.
- (6) Survey methods for koalas vary depending on the nature of the area or population being surveyed and the purpose of the data being collected.
- (7) Through the Saving our Species program, OEH is identifying important koala populations for management based on expert opinion, survey results, Wildlife Atlas records and data from councils, among other sources.
- (8) Through the Saving our Species program, OEH is identifying important koala populations for management based on expert opinion, survey results, Wildlife Atlas records and data from councils, among other sources. This is supported by threat analysis.

- (9) This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.
- (10) This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.
- (11) The Saving our Species program assesses species based on ecology, habitat and distribution, threats and what is known about the species. Koalas are managed as iconic species as they are highly valued by the community for their ecological value and for their social, cultural and economic value.
- (12) All groups and licensed individual fauna rehabilitators in NSW are required to comply with the reporting requirements of their licence. This includes minimum standards for injured, sick and orphaned protected fauna that require each group to maintain a system that records information including.
 - encounter details
 - species data
 - care providers
 - fate details.

Copies of records must be submitted to OEHS in September each year.

13. Between 2011 and 2013 approximately 1896 koalas were reported by fauna rehabilitation groups as needing rescue and assessment. The most frequently reported encounters over this period were disease related problems (18.2 per cent), koalas located in an unsuitable environments such as backyards (17 per cent), or collision related (17 per cent).

*968 PLANNING—SEPP 44—Ms Sharpe asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Planning—

- (1) Which Local Government Areas (LGAs) listed on Schedule 1 of SEPP 44 now have an approved Koala Plan of Management?
- (2) What amendments have been made to SEPP 44 in the 21 years that it has been in existence?

Answer—

I am advised:

A Koala Plan of Management is in place across all or parts of the following LGAs listed in Schedule 1 of SEPP 44: Armidale-Dumaresq; Byron; Campbelltown; Clarence Valley; Greater Taree; Gunnedah; Kempsey; Lismore; Nambucca; Oberon; Port Macquarie Hastings; Port Stephens; and Richmond Valley.

Two amendments have been made to SEPP 44:

- (1) On 10 February 1995, two councils (Hunters Hill and Shellharbour) were removed from Schedule 1 and four were added (Campbelltown, Wauchope, Warren and Wentworth).
- (2) On 20 April 2000, Coffs Harbour Council was removed from Schedule 1.

I have recently directed the Department of Planning and Environment to update SEPP 44 to reflect the NSW Koala Recovery Plan.

*969 ENVIRONMENT—MANGROVE MOUNTAIN LANDFILL SITE—Ms Sharpe asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning—

- (1) What percentage of the waste mound at the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site is covered by a leachate barrier system?
- (2) What material is the lining of the leachate barrier system made of?
 - (a) Does this material meet the relevant standards?
- (3) What steps have been undertaken at the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site to ensure that leachate does not impact on surrounding ground and surface water sources?
- (4) The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Guidelines for Solid Waste Landfills require that a leachate monitoring program must be established which provides data on the composition, height levels and volume of leachate produced by each landfill cell and details of any irregular discharges or overflows of leachate from the site. Is such a system in place for the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site?

- (5) What are the documented breaches of the Mangrove Mountain site associated with Environmental Licence 11395?
- (6) What actions have the EPA or Department of Environment and Planning undertaken in relation to any breaches of the Environmental Licence 11395?
- (7) Has the EPA issued any fines for breaches under Environmental Licence 11395?
- (8) How many water monitoring points are currently in place at the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site?
- (9) Are the results obtained from the water monitoring at the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site publicly available?
- (10) Are there any records related to the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site's stormwater monitoring program held by the EPA?
 - (a) Are these publicly available?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (11) Are any records of the site's stormwater retention ponds being emptied and/or testing of the water removed from these stormwater retention ponds publicly available?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) What percentage of the waste mound at the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site is covered by a leachate barrier system?

Consistent with a number of 'inert waste' landfills at the time, the 1998 development consent and associated 1997 Landfill Environmental Management Plan for this landfill did not require a leachate barrier system, apart from compacted clay over exposed rock. The EPA does not hold detailed construction records for the majority of the area. The most recently filled area, constructed in 2009, was subject to rigorous quality assurance checks and the lining consisted of a composite layer of compacted clay, geotextile and HDPE plastic.

- (1) What material is the lining of the leachate barrier system made of?

Clay, compacted clay, geotextile and/or HDPE plastic

- (1) Does this material meet the relevant standards?

The EPA does not hold detailed lining construction records for the area landfilled prior to 2009. The most recently filled area, constructed in 2009, was subject to rigorous quality assurance checks and meets the relevant standards. The lining consists of a composite layer of compacted clay, geotextile and HDPE plastic.

- (1) What steps have been undertaken at the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site to ensure that leachate does not impact on surrounding ground and surface water sources?

Leachate collection systems have been installed and connected to existing cells as the landfill has been constructed. Groundwater monitoring bores are in place and groundwater monitoring is ongoing. The results of surface water monitoring undertaken by the EPA downstream from the landfill and on-site groundwater monitoring have not shown any evidence of contamination by leachate.

- (1) The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Guidelines for Solid Waste Landfills require that a leachate monitoring program must be established which provides data on the composition, height levels and volume of leachate produced by each landfill cell and details of any irregular discharges or overflows of leachate from the site. Is such a system in place for the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site?

A leachate monitoring program as described is not presently in place as the Mangrove Mountain landfill site has not been operational for two years. A leachate monitoring program will be put in place for when the landfill resumes operation. Groundwater monitoring bores are in place and groundwater monitoring is ongoing. The results of surface water monitoring undertaken by the EPA downstream from the landfill and on-site groundwater monitoring have not shown any evidence of contamination by leachate.

- (1) What are the documented breaches of the Mangrove Mountain site associated with Environmental Licence 11395?

There have been 19 reports of non-compliance on annual returns since the licence was issued in 2001. Five of these are related to insufficient water in monitoring bores to allow sampling, a circumstance beyond the control of the licensee. Other breaches on the annual returns by year were:

2012 - Failure to monitor wet weather discharge

2009 - Failure to undertake noise monitoring Monitoring not undertaken at required frequency Not all pollutants sampled Water balance report not provided in the required timeframe

2005 - Not all pollutants sampled Late submission of groundwater monitoring report

2004 - Failure to store treated drums in a bunded area Inadequate bunding of waste oils Failure to use specified daily cover

2003 - Monitoring not undertaken for all pollutants

2002 - Limited sampling due to delay in commencing operations Unauthorised access to cell.

During an announced inspection of the landfill in 2010 EPA officers identified licence breaches including a lack of sediment and erosion controls, drainage and surface water management, management of active tip face, management of sediment and leachate ponds and general housekeeping issues.

During an unannounced inspection of the landfill in 2009 EPA officers observed sediment laden water being discharged into an adjacent unnamed creek.

The EPA in conjunction with OEH special investigators is currently investigating an allegation of sediment being washed into a nearby unnamed creek in August 2015. This investigation is ongoing.

(1) What actions have the EPA or Department of Environment and Planning undertaken in relation to any breaches of the Environmental Licence 11395?

The following responses have been taken in relation to breaches of the licence:

- An EPA investigation is ongoing in relation to the alleged sediment being washed into a nearby creek in August 2015.
- No regulatory action was taken in response to the failure to monitor during wet weather in 2012, however ongoing review of this licence requirement was flagged by the EPA.
- An official caution was issued in 2011 for failure to comply with a licence condition in late 2010.
- An official caution was issued for pollution of waters and failure to comply with licence conditions in 2009.
- A pollution reduction program was extended to allow further time to undertake a review of water balance information in 2009.
- A warning letter was issued to the licensee for failure to apply daily cover in 2008.
- A warning letter was issued for failing to sample all pollutants and for late submission of a report in 2005.
- An advisory letter and pollution reduction program was placed on the licence for the construction of a bunding and spill management area in 2004.
- A warning letter was issued for failure to monitor all pollutants in 2003.

Should the EPA's current investigation identify that offences have occurred, appropriate regulatory action will be determined in accordance with the EPA's compliance policy.

(1) Has the EPA issued any fines for breaches under Environmental Licence 11395?

No

(1) How many water monitoring points are currently in place at the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site?

One wet weather discharge water quality monitoring point. Five ground water quality monitoring bores with a shallow and deep monitoring point in each bore.

(1) Are the results obtained from the water monitoring at the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site publicly available?

Yes, under s320 of the POEO Act the EPA can provide monitoring data to any person that requests it in writing. In 2014 the EPA provided the 2001 to 2013 annual returns, which include all groundwater monitoring data, to the Central Coast Greens after a written request.

(1) Are there any records related to the Mangrove Mountain Landfill site's stormwater monitoring program held by the EPA?

No, consistent with many landfills, a stormwater monitoring program has never been a requirement on the licence for the premises.

Are these publicly available?

There are no records held by the EPA

(1) If not, why not?

There are no records held by the EPA.

(1) Are any records of the site's stormwater retention ponds being emptied and/or testing of the water removed from these stormwater retention ponds publicly available?

No

(1) If not, why not?

There are no records held by the EPA

*970 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—SWIMMING POOL COMPLIANCE OFFICERS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

(1) Which councils have proposed to employ swimming pool compliance officers to enforce the new Government regulations relating to pools?

(2) Will the Government encourage councils to employ such compliance officers to help save the lives of babies and young children?

(a) If not, why not?

(3) Will the Government provide financial assistance to councils to employ such compliance officers to help save the lives of babies and young children?

(a) If not, why not?

(b) If so, what level of assistance will be provided?

Answer—

The Office of Local Government does not collect this information. All local councils employ officers who can carry out compliance inspections of swimming pool barriers in their local government areas.

The Government is actively encouraging NSW local councils to ensure that adequate numbers of appropriately-qualified and experienced staff are in place to meet the increased demand for compliance inspections of swimming pool barriers in their local government areas. Ultimately, however, local councils' general managers are responsible for staffing levels in their local councils.

NSW swimming pool laws outline arrangements for recovering costs incurred by local authorities in conducting compliance inspections of swimming pool barriers.

*971 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT—Mr Shoebridge asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

(1) Is the Minister aware of statements made to ABC's Background Briefing that the fishing industry paid the Department of Primary Industries to employ dedicated Fisheries Officers concentrated on illegal fishing?

(a) If so, what steps are being taken to investigate claims that compliance officers are accepting payments from industries for their regulation of their industry?

(2) Can the Minister advise of all industry payments the Department of Primary Industries received from the fishing industry to cover enforcement and compliance officers, and/or any equipment for enforcement and compliance officers in:

(a) 2011/12?

(b) 2012/13?

(c) 2013/14?

(d) 2014/15?

(e) 2015 to date?

(3) Can the Minister provide enforcement and compliance data for Fisheries Officers within the Department of Primary Industries, particularising enforcement actions taken against any members of an industry which made such contributions in:

- (a) 2011/12?
 - (b) 2012/13?
 - (c) 2013/14?
 - (d) 2014/15?
 - (e) 2015 to date?
- (4) What policies and procedures are in place to ensure that the any perception of bias that arises in such circumstances is adequately managed?

Answer—

- (1) No fisheries officers are currently directly employed using industry funding. There have been industry-specific (dedicated) fisheries officers in the past for both the lobster and abalone fisheries but no such arrangements have been in place since 2012.
- (a) No investigations are required as compliance officers have not accepted any payments to regulate the fishing industry. Management charges are made direct to the Department of Primary Industries in accordance with the Fisheries Management Act. Any allocations for compliance activities are then drawn down from the Commercial Fishing Trust to the Fisheries Compliance Unit's operational budget.
- (2)
- (a) 2011/12 - \$261,943
 - (b) 2012/13 - \$80,442
 - (c) 2013/14 - \$365,809
 - (d) 2014/15 - \$366,678
 - (e) 2015/16 - \$337,983
- (3)
- (a) In the 2011/12 period, 86 verbal & written cautions and 42 penalty notices were issued and 26 prosecutions were undertaken.
 - (b) In the 2012/13 period, 146 verbal & written cautions and 40 penalty notices were issued and 205 prosecutions were undertaken.
 - (c) In the 2013/14 period, 190 verbal & written cautions and 37 penalty notices were issued and 294 prosecutions were undertaken.
 - (d) In the 2014/15 period, 135 verbal & written cautions and 42 penalty notices were issued and 20 prosecutions were undertaken.
 - (e) In the period 2015 to date, 56 verbal & written cautions and 22 penalty notices were issued and 2 prosecutions have been initiated. A further 13 matters are pending resolution.
- (4) The Department of Primary Industries has extensive policies and procedures relating to staff performance, ethics and conduct, conflict of interest, fraud and corruption prevention and complaints handling. Fisheries Compliance has an Enforcement Policy and Procedure, freely available on the department's website, which identifies how enforcement will be managed. All actions taken by Fisheries Compliance relating to managing perception of bias are in accordance with these policies and procedures.

*972 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—THE GREATER GLIDER—Mr Shoebridge asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

- (1) What prescriptions exist to protect the Greater Glider *Petauroides volans* from logging operations within the Eurobodalla Shire?
- (2) When were these prescriptions adopted?
 - (a) On how many occasions have they been applied?
- (3) Does the Forestry Corporation conduct pre-logging surveys for the presence of Greater Gliders in areas of the South Coast other than in Eurobodalla Shire?
- (4) What measures are undertaken if Greater Gliders are located in or near forest to be logged in South Coast forests other than in the Eurobodalla Shire?

Answer—

- (1) The following conditions exist under the Threatened Species Licence:
 - High conservation value old growth forest, Riparian Habitat, Ridge and Headwater Habitat, Rare non-commercial forest types and Informal reserves under FMZ 1, 2 and 3A are all protected.
 - Hollow-bearing trees, Recruitment Trees and Eucalypt Feed Trees are retained, which are suitable den and feed trees.
 - Additional hollow-bearing trees are retained in compartments with a high Greater Glider density.
- (1) When the Southern IFOA commenced in May 2002.
 - (a) Each of these conditions have been applied to every approved harvest plan since May 2002.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The same or similar conditions are applied in all coastal IFOAs.

12 MAY 2016

(Paper No. 59)

*973 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—DOLPHIN MARINE MAGIC—Mr Pearson asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

With respect to the death of the dolphin calf Ji-Ling at Dolphin Marine Magic:

- (1) Was dolphin calf Ji-Ling found to have swallowed leaf debris and a metal object, causing a stomach ulcer?
 - (a) Was the metal object a watch, a coin or item of jewellery?
- (2) Did a non-veterinary qualified staff member attempt to remove the debris by reaching their hand into the dolphin calf's stomach?
- (3) Did the dolphin calf suffer a heart attack and die during the procedure to remove the metal and debris from his stomach?
- (4) Was there a veterinarian with cetacean expertise on site at the time the procedure was performed, and if so, what were their qualifications?
- (5) Did the Department of Primary Industries investigate the death of Ji-Ling and if so, did the department find a breach of Clause 3.4.1 of the Standards for Exhibiting Bottle-nosed Dolphins?

Answer—

- (1) The park has advised the Department that that the dolphin calf Ji-Ling had swallowed leaves and a small metal object.
 - (a) No.
- (2) Yes, under the presence and supervision of a veterinarian.
- (3) The dolphin died during the procedure.
- (4) Yes. The procedure was performed under the presence and supervision of a veterinarian with experience in marine mammals. .
- (5)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) No.

*974 ARTS—COMMUNITY RADIO—Ms Barham asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing—

- (1) Can the Minister please provide details of any funding and support that the Government provides to community radio stations?
- (2) Has the Government made any representations to the Commonwealth regarding the funding allocation for community radio stations, and in particular the delivery of digital community radio?

- (a) If not, and noting the funding shortfall of \$1.4 million per annum in the 2016-17 Federal Budget, will the Minister commit to make representations to the Commonwealth for reinstatement of adequate funding?
- (3) Has the Government undertaken or commissioned any analysis of:
 - (a) the benefits of community radio stations to local communities and/or to the arts and media sectors in New South Wales?
 - (b) trends and issues in the availability and capacity of community radio services?

Answer—

The Federal Government has responsibility for funding, regulation and licensing of community radio.

In NSW, under the Community Building Partnership Program in 2014 and 2015, over \$106,000 was awarded to community radio stations.

*975 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—TERMINATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING TENANCIES—Ms Barham asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing—

- (1) How much did Housing NSW and/or the Land and Housing Corporation spend on actions to terminate public housing tenancies through the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) in:
 - (a) 2011/12?
 - (b) 2012/13?
 - (c) 2013/14?
 - (d) 2014/15?

Answer—

- (1) FACS pays a set administration fee when lodging an application with the NCAT for a range of orders.

*976 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—ABORIGINAL HOUSING OFFICE DWELLINGS—Ms Barham asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing—

- (1) In relation to the Minister's response to question on notice - 0799 Aboriginal Housing Office Dwellings, 23 February 2016, could the Minister advise on which pages of the FACS 2014-15 Annual Report is specific information on:
 - (a) The breakdown of Commonwealth and State Government funding allocated to the Aboriginal Housing Office for new supply?
 - (b) The average building cost per square meter of dwellings constructed?
 - (c) The average cost of dwellings constructed?
 - (d) The average cost of dwellings bought?
 - (e) The locations where these dwellings were completed and/or acquired?
 - (f) The locations where dwelling construction commenced?
 - (g) Any variations in average cost of dwellings constructed by region?

Answer—

General information on Aboriginal Housing Office dwellings is provided in the FACS Annual Report.

*977 HEALTH—HOUSING FOR HEALTH—Ms Barham asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Health—

In relation to the Housing for Health program:

- (1) How much funding was allocated to Housing for Health in:

- (a) 2014/15?
- (b) 2015/16?
- (2) What projects were funded in:
 - (a) 2014/15?
 - (b) 2015/16?
- (3) Where are these projects located?
- (4) What is the correct link for the 'background information on Housing for Health'? (The link provided in the response to question '0798 Health Housing for Health' does not work).

Answer—

I am advised by the Minister for Health:

(1)-(4)

Since 1997, NSW Health has delivered 111 Housing for Health projects across NSW, surveying over 3,500 houses and fixing close to 100,000 items directly related to improving safety and health.

Information on Housing for Health is regularly updated on the NSW Health website

Data for the 2015 calendar year will be available shortly at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/hpr/Pages/201502-environment.aspx.

Further background on Housing for Health is available at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/aboriginal/Pages/housing-for-health.aspx>

*978 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—LOCAL GOVERNMENT MERGERS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

What action will the Government take to ensure that funding that was obtained by local councils prior to them being forcibly merged for infrastructure and local facilities through Section 94 Contributions, Section 94A Contributions, and Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs), is not used for developments in other locations in the newly merged council area?

Answer—

The Administrator of each new council has the functions of the Council and can make the decisions needed to ensure that councils' business continues unhindered.

*979 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—LOCAL GOVERNMENT MERGERS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

What action is the Government proposing to take in relation to councils that have been deemed 'unfit' but have not been forcibly merged?

Answer—

Councils assessed as "not fit" because they did not meet financial criteria will have the opportunity to revise their Fit for the Future proposals and resubmit them for assessment.

*980 PLANNING—LOCAL GOVERNMENT MERGERS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Planning—

What action will the Government take to ensure that funding that was obtained by local councils prior to them being forcibly merged for infrastructure and local facilities through Section 94 Contributions,

Section 94A Contributions, and Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs), is not used for developments in other locations in the newly merged council area?

Answer—

I am advised

Any funds collected under either section 94 or section 94A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 by a former council or a new council must be held and spent in accordance with the Contributions Plan that authorised the contribution. Similarly, any developer's obligation for infrastructure or monetary contributions are to be applied by a council consistent with the Planning Agreement.

These obligations are protected for new councils through proclamations made under the Local Government Act 1993.

*981 INNOVATION AND BETTER REGULATION—ILLEGAL DUMPING OF ASBESTOS BY CLARENCE VALLEY COUNCIL—Mr Shoebridge asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation—

Safe Work NSW has recently investigated, and confirmed the occurrence of possibly illegally dumped asbestos waste by Clarence Valley Council, immediately adjacent to a residential area and next door to the South Grafton High School. Council is proposing to excavate that site to construct a works depot.

- (1) What actions is the Minister taking to ensure that Clarence Valley Council is taking appropriate steps to inform the community, honestly and transparently, about the occurrence of asbestos waste adjacent to residential area and next door to the South Grafton High School?
- (2) Given this asbestos pollution has been brought to the Minister's attention, what steps has the Minister taken to address the potential health risks that students, teachers and workers, at both the school and the borrow site, may have been exposed to?
- (3) Given the asbestos dumping has been confirmed by Safe Work NSW, and that neighbours have never been informed, what regulatory action will be taken against those responsible?

Answer—

- (1) SafeWork NSW, Local Government and EPA are all agencies of the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA), which effectively coordinates the safe management of asbestos at all stages of the asbestos lifecycle and across the policy areas of workplace health and safety, public health and environment protection. SafeWork NSW attended the perimeter of the site in December 2015 and provided advice to Clarence Valley Council on site security and recommended the Council update its Asbestos Register.

SafeWork NSW has not undertaken an investigation of the site, nor has it obtained any soil or other samples from the site or engaged any entity to conduct an examination of the site or to collect or analyse soil or other samples from the site.

- (1) SafeWork NSW issued an Inspection Report to Clarence Valley Council with agreed actions to ensure that workers/persons are notified that the stockpile site is an unauthorised site and that no workers/persons are permitted to access the site.

SafeWork NSW recommended the Council develop robust safe systems of work for workers when planned remediation works commence, and to update its Asbestos Register to reflect there is the potential for asbestos contaminants at the stockpile site.

SafeWork NSW has advised Clarence Valley Council regarding health monitoring for workers under Clauses 435-444 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011, and for registration on the National Asbestos Exposure Register to record the details of workers or members of the community who think they may have been exposed to asbestos. Council responded and advised that it conducts regular health monitoring with their staff with the aid of the Lung Bus.

- (1) Clarence Valley Council has complied with the agreed actions listed in the SafeWork NSW Inspection Report.

SafeWork NSW is continuing to liaise with Clarence Valley Council to provide advice about asbestos management at the site. The site is not currently a workplace.

Safework NSW have been informed that no work will be conducted at the site until late in 2016.

SafeWork NSW will be involved in monitoring any remediation work that occurs.

31 MAY 2016

(Paper No. 60)

- 982 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL—Mr Primrose to ask the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—
- 983 PLANNING—SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL—Mr Primrose to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Planning—
- 984 PLANNING—PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT COMMISSION IN SUTHERLAND—Mr Primrose to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Planning—
- 985 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—ROOKWOOD GENERAL CEMETERIES RESERVE TRUST—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- 986 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—APIARY INDUSTRY EXTENSION OFFICERS—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- 987 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—CROWN CEMETERIES UNIT—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- 988 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—CROWN LANDS STAFF—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- 989 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—ROOKWOOD GENERAL CEMETERIES RESERVE TRUST—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- 990 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—ROOKWOOD GENERAL CEMETERIES RESERVE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- 991 TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE—OPAL CARDS—Dr Faruqi to ask the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure—
- 992 TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE—RMS REGISTRIES—Dr Faruqi to ask the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure—
- 993 ARTS—PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY MEMORY PROJECT—Mr Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing—
- 994 LANDS AND WATER—CONDAMINE-BALONNE IRRIGATION—Mr Buckingham to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

1 JUNE 2016

(Paper No. 61)

- 995 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION—Mr Primrose to ask the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

2 JUNE 2016

(Paper No. 62)

- 996 EMERGENCY SERVICES—HAZARD REDUCTION BURN SOUTH DURRAS—Ms Sharpe to ask the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Veterans Affairs—
- 997 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing—
- 998 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing—
- 999 MENTAL HEALTH—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water representing the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault—
- 1000 MENTAL HEALTH—MENTAL HEALTH UNDER THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water representing the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault—
- 1001 LANDS AND WATER, PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—BELONGIL BEACH ROCK WALL—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- 1002 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—FISHERMANS REACH SHELLFISH HARVEST AREA—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- 1003 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—MACLEAY RIVER SHELLFISH COMMITTEE—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- 1004 LANDS AND WATER—JACK EVANS BOAT HARBOUR—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- 1005 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—COBAKI-TERRANORA BROADWATER FISHERIES—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

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- 1006 HEALTH—NSW GOVERNMENT NURSING HOMES—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Health—
- (1) What are the names and addresses of Government owned residential aged care facilities?
 - (2) How many direct care staff are employed at each facility?
 - (3) For each facility, how many of the following members of staff are currently employed:
 - (a) registered nurses?
 - (b) enrolled nurses?
 - (c) assistants in nursing?
 - (d) personal care workers?
- 1007 HEALTH—NSW GOVERNMENT NURSING HOMES—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Health—
- (1) Which of the Government owned residential aged care facilities are licenced as a 'nursing home' under the Public Health Act 2010?
- 1008 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES OFFICE, ORANGE—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- (1) How many equivalent full time positions were there at the Orange office of the Department of Primary Industries for the following financial years:
 - (a) 2010-11
 - (b) 2011-12
 - (c) 2012-13
 - (d) 2013-14
 - (e) 2014-15
 - (f) 2015-16.
 - (2) What was the employee related expenses for the Orange office for the financial years:
 - (a) 2010-11
 - (b) 2011-12
 - (c) 2012-13
 - (d) 2013-14
 - (e) 2014-15
 - (f) 2015-16.
 - (3) How many positions were employed at a SES 1 or SO 1 remuneration level or above at the Orange DPI office for the financial years:
 - (a) 2010-11
 - (b) 2011-12
 - (c) 2012-13
 - (d) 2013-14
 - (e) 2014-15
 - (f) 2015-16.
- 1009 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES STAFF, MLC BUILDING FOR LANDS—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—
- (1) How many Department of Primary Industries (DPI) equivalent full time positions were there at the MLC building office, Sydney for the following financial years:
 - (a) 2010-11

- (b) 2011-12
 - (c) 2012-13
 - (d) 2013-14
 - (e) 2014-15
 - (f) 2015-16.
- (2) What was the DPI employee related expenses for the MLC building office for the financial years:
- (a) 2010-11
 - (b) 2011-12
 - (c) 2012-13
 - (d) 2013-14
 - (e) 2014-15
 - (f) 2015-16.
- (3) How many DPI positions were employed at a SES 1 or SO 1 remuneration level or above at the MLC Building Office for the financial years:
- (a) 2010-11
 - (b) 2011-12
 - (c) 2012-13
 - (d) 2013-14
 - (e) 2014-15
 - (f) 2015-16.
- (4) What is the total annual rent paid by DPI for occupying levels of the MLC building for the following financial years
- (a) 2010-11
 - (b) 2011-12
 - (c) 2012-13
 - (d) 2013-14
 - (e) 2014-15
 - (f) 2015-16.

1010 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—CROWN LANDS OFFICES—Mr Veitch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water—

- (1) How many equivalent full time positions were there for the financial years 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 at the following Crown Lands offices?
- (a) Nowra
 - (b) Taree
 - (c) Goulburn
 - (d) Albury
 - (e) Wagga Wagga
 - (f) Hay
 - (g) Broken Hill
 - (h) Moree
 - (i) Armidale
 - (j) Newcastle
 - (k) Newington
 - (l) Maitland
 - (m) Coffs Harbour
 - (n) Grafton
 - (o) Tamworth
 - (p) Orange
 - (q) Dubbo

- (r) Queens Square
 - (s) Parramatta.
- (2) What was the employee related expenses for each office listed in question 1 for the financial years:
- (a) 2010-11
 - (b) 2011-12
 - (c) 2012-13
 - (d) 2013-14
 - (e) 2014-15
 - (f) 2015-16.
- (3) What are the current opening times for each of the offices listed in question 1 when the public can visit to ask questions related to crown land tenures or crown land management issues in general?
- 1011 PLANNING—IRON GATES—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Planning—
- (1) Can the Minister please advise of the outcome of the investigation that was being undertaken by the Office of Environment and Heritage into the alleged illegal clearing of native vegetation on the Iron Gates site in 2014, which was referred to in answer to question 0266 of Session 55-2 and question 0819 of session 56-1?
- (2) What further action is the Government taking in relation to the alleged illegal clearing of native vegetation on the Iron Gates site following the investigation? If no further action is to be taken, on what basis was this decision made?
- 1012 PLANNING—IRON GATES—Ms Barham to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism representing the Minister for Planning—
- (1) In relation to consideration of the Draft Master Plan for the Iron Gates Residential Release, Evans Head, what consideration is the Government giving to the fact that remediation orders made by the Land and Environment Court in 1997 relating to the Iron Gates site have not been complied with?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments