

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage,
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

OFFICIAL



**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER
NATIONAL PARK CAMPSITES**

QUESTION:

On 22 October 2025, the Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC asked the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage, the following question:

My supplementary question for written answer is directed to the Minister for the Environment. Appreciating the role of supported camping services, why are commercial businesses able to book sites 365 days ahead and cancel just eight days prior to camping at no cost while ordinary campers cannot?

ANSWER:

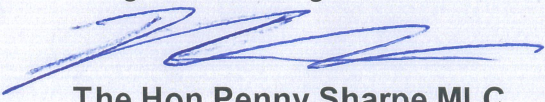
There are 381 businesses licensed under the Parks Eco Pass program to conduct activities like tours, outdoor education and equipment hire in NSW national parks, those activities sometimes include staying overnight in a campground.

These operators must be able to accept bookings up to one year in advance to participate in tourism industry sales and marketing channels. For this reason, NPWS allows them to reserve campsites up to 365 days before the date of stay.

Reservations by licensed operators are restricted in size, location and timing. They are closely monitored and if most are not confirmed as bookings, their reservations are restricted going forward. The operators pay the public camping fees plus an annual licence fee and a percentage of gross revenue from their licensed activity.

The supported camping trial will operate in line with this approach. It has been restricted to 23 campgrounds out of 365. The goal is to encourage more members of the public to try camping without having to buy equipment and learn how to use it upfront.

The public is able to book 180 days before date of stay. Historically, longer lead times have led to more ghost bookings. NPWS is currently reviewing the camping fees and booking system with the aim of a simplified and fair system that reduces ghost bookings.


The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC

Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage

23/10/25

The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC

Acting Minister for Education and Early Learning

Acting Minister for Western Sydney

Minister for Finance

Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement

Minister for Natural Resources

On 22 October 2025 the following question was asked in the Legislative Council:

QUESTION

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC:

My supplementary question for written answer is directed to the Minister for Finance. In relation to the correspondence from the Minister for Recovery in which she clearly says that her advocacy for support for flood-impacted small businesses has not been successful, will the Minister advise who is blocking that advocacy of the Minister for Recovery?

ANSWER

The Minns Labor Government is providing extensive support for recovery assistance with a range of measures for households, councils, farmers, small businesses and communities affected by the floods in the Northern Rivers. This work is led ably by the Minister for Recovery.

This includes grants of up to \$25,000 for eligible small businesses and not-for-profits to help with clean-up, repairs and restoring operations, as well as \$75,000 for primary producers, \$10,000 for rural landholders and \$25,000 for small businesses and not-for-profits for the 19 impacted LGAs, co-funded with the Commonwealth Government.

Over the next four years, \$4.2 billion of state and federal money will support disaster relief and recovery in NSW. Since the 2019-20 bushfires, disaster relief and recovery across NSW has increased by more than 1,000 per cent, compared to the six years prior to 2019-20.

The Minns Labor Government is also embarking on significant reforms to workers compensation laws which will benefit small businesses right across the state. These reforms would address a forecast 36% rise in premiums. Insurance premiums have been identified by Business NSW as the greatest cost faced by small businesses.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Courtney Houssos".

The Hon Courtney Houssos MLC

Acting Minister Education and Early Learning

Acting Minister Western Sydney

Minister for Finance

Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement

Minister for Natural Resources