

QUESTION ON NOTICE
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question No: 1

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC asked the Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts.

QUESTION

Could you comment on the methodology used by the Auditor General in relation to the Northside Storage Tunnel which led to his comment that the tunnel had a negative value after it was constructed?

ANSWER

The Auditor General made no independent calculation of the net present value of the Northside Storage Tunnel, and notes that the 1997 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Northside Storage Tunnel calculated a negative net present value for the project.

As some of the major benefits are not reflected in the net present value because of the difficulty of calculating financial values for them, it is likely that the calculated net present value represents an underestimate of the economic desirability of proceeding with the construction.

Benefits not quantified in the net present value include:

- reduction of sewerage overflows during wet weather;
- reduction of odours at the sewerage overflow points;
- improved amenity due to a reduction in visible pollution;
- reduction in the discharge to the environment of nutrient loads and in the potential for algal blooms; and
- provision of contingency function for the Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer in the event of a major failure.

The Audit Report states that Sydney Water has yet to undertake a post-implementation review of the project. The report also states that this review, once undertaken, may support a view held by Sydney Water management and its alliance partners that the cost of the tunnel represents 'value for money'.

The Hon Frank Sartor MP

Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)
and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts

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Question No: 2

The Hon Robyn Parker MLC asked the Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts.

QUESTION

- (a) How many consultants do you have for the Sydney Water Corporation?
- (b) Who are the consultants and what are their qualifications?
- (c) What was the expenditure on consultants and the exact consultant contract values?

ANSWER

- (a) – (c)

Expenditure on consultancies is reported in Annual Reports. All expenditure is in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.

It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on consultants in 2003-04.

The Hon Frank Sartor MP
Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for Science and Medical Research
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Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts

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Question No: 3

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC asked the Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts.

QUESTION

How much was spent by Sydney Water in 2002-03 on:

- (a) Security;
- (b) Safety; and
- (c) Property upgrades?

ANSWER

The 2002-2003 Budget Papers included an allocation of \$11.8 million for the category named *Security, Safety and Property Upgrades*. Capital Expenditure for this category during 2002-2003 was \$13.6 million.

The component terms of the *Security, Safety and Property Upgrades* category name do not designate subcategories of capital expenditure.

Hon Frank Sartor MP
Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for Science and Medical Research
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and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts

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Question No: 4

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC asked the Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts.

QUESTION

How much of the budget for security expenditure was paid to Australian Operational Security Service?

ANSWER

Sydney Water did not make payments to Australian Operational Security Service during 2002-2003.

Hon Frank Sartor MP
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Question No: 5

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC asked the Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts.

QUESTION

- (a) What level of qualifications is required for employees of security companies contracted by Sydney Water?
- (b) What level of qualifications is required for employees of security companies sub-contracted by Sydney Water?

ANSWER

Both contracted and sub-contracted security companies used by Sydney Water must be properly licensed under the *Securities Industries Act 1997*. The Act stipulates required levels of training for employees and requires that employees and employers have the appropriate NSW Police licences and that appropriate background checks have been performed and will be performed at appropriate intervals.

Hon Frank Sartor MP
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Minister for Science and Medical Research
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Question No: 6

The Hon Sylvia Hale MLC asked the Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts.

QUESTION

What is the scale of energy required during night-time matches at the Sydney Cricket Ground?

ANSWER

Based on usage on 23 January 2003 (day/night game), an average of 2.5 times more energy was used at the Sydney Cricket Ground than the day before the game and the day after the game. On this occasion 22,964 KW/h was required.

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