

29 JUNE 2001

(GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4)

PORTFOLIO

URBAN AFFAIRS & PLANNING, ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS & HOUSING

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING HEARING

URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING

1. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p. 3)

In relation to a recent mailout to local residents by Landcom, regarding the redevelopment of the Prince Henry Hospital Site at Little Bay:

- (1) How many copies of the brochure that was included in the mailout, were produced?
- (2) How many copies of the brochure were mailed out to local residents?
- (3) What was the total cost of publishing and printing the brochures?
- (4) What was the cost of distributing the brochures?
- (5)
 - (a) Was the letter from the Premier that was also included in the mailout, produced by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning?
 - (b) If so, how much did it cost to produce and print the Premier's letter?

Answer:

- (1) 8,000.
- (2) Approximately 5,000 copies of the Landcom brochure were hand delivered to the local community. Nearly 3,000 further copies have been sent out by Landcom to various interested local residents, community groups and through Randwick City Council.
- (3) \$14,107.
- (4) No cost was incurred in the distribution of the Landcom brochure as the Landcom brochure package was hand delivered by Landcom staff.
- (5)
 - (a) No. The Premier's letter was produced by the Premier's Office.
 - (b) Not applicable.

2. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 9, bottom)

[In relation to Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2, 77.1.4, Implementation of Planning Policy Initiatives]

The Forest Agreements of north-east New South Wales state that by 1 January 2001 RACAC must establish a committee and seek funding to promote protection of conservation values on private lands within two regions in north-east New South Wales.

- (1) Has this occurred?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer:

- (1) The Committee has been formed. It first met on Wednesday 4 October 2000.
- (2) Refer to answer (1) above.

3. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 11, top)

What percentage of development applications on the New South Wales coast, for which the Minister is the consent authority, have been approved over the past 12 months?

Answer:

Since June 2000, there have been eight development applications in the existing coastal zone for which I am the consent authority. Of the eight applications directed to me, I refused three DAs and approved five DAs subject to conditions which protect the environment.

4. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP —

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 11, top)

[In relation to Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2, 77.1.2 Planning Policy Development]

Of the total number of SEPs made over the past 12 months:

- (1) How many did not involve consultation with industry owners?
- (2) How many involved general community consultation?

Answer:

- (1) All SEPPs involved consultation with the relevant stakeholder, where this was deemed appropriate.
- (2) Consultation was undertaken with the general community, as appropriate.

5. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 11, bottom)

Which draft SEPs have been varied in response to submissions from community groups and other organisations?

Answer:

Submissions from community groups and other organisations were assessed and draft SEPPs were varied where this was considered appropriate.

6. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 12, bottom)

How much does it cost to rent your ministerial office?

Answer:

Expenditure was undertaken within the allocations approved for the Ministerial Office. The Government Asset Management Committee oversees policy of government accommodation.

7. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 13, middle)

[In relation to Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2, 77.3, Development Assessment and Local Plan Assessment]

How many variations have been approved to the original consent for the Fox Studios at Moore Park?

Answer:

As at 13 July 2001, seven (7) Development Applications have been approved amending the original Masterplan Development Application consent.

HOUSING

8. Mr Lynn asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 16 top)

What action are you taking to protect the tenants of a Department of Housing estate in Casino, following the assault of a resident who complained about noise?

Answer:

Assault is a matter for the Police.

9. Mr Lynn asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 16, middle)

How many complaints against tenants did the department receive in 1999-2000?

Answer:

The Department of Housing receives complaints through a number of mechanisms ie:

- Client Feedback
- Ministerial letters
- General Inquiries.

There are no separate records kept in relation to complaints against tenants.

10. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 18 top)

- (1) In relation to the Asset Acquisition Program, was the full amount allocated for 1999-2000, expended?
- (2) If not, how was the remaining allocation spent?

Answer:

- (1) Funds for the Asset Acquisition Program were either fully expended in 1999-2000 or were carried over and expended in the following year.
- (2) Not applicable.

11. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 18 top)

- (1) In which suburbs was new public or community housing acquired or built in the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 financial years?
- (2) How many homes were added to the housing stock in each suburb for each of these two periods?

Answer:

- (1) and (2) Press releases on proposed new social housing by location are prepared at the time of the State Budget.

12. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 18 middle)

What commercial assets were sold by the Department of Housing in 1999-2000?

Answer:

This information is available through the Land and Property Information Office.

13. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 18 bottom)

- (1) In which suburbs did the department lease dwellings in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?
- (2) How many dwellings were leased in each of these suburbs?

Answer:

- (1) The Department leased dwellings in a range of suburbs in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong and in country locations where demand for social housing warrants expansion of housing opportunities.
- (2) Records on leasing are not available by suburb.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

14. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 29 top)

In relation to the Labor Caucus Backbench Aboriginal Affairs Committee:

- (1) What part of the budget funds were employed for travel and associated costs?
- (2) How much was spent on the Committee's travel and accommodation costs during 1999-2000?

Answer:

Nil.

15. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p, 30 top)

[In relation to Budget Paper No3, Vol 2 p 20-47]

How much has been spent to date on the review of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983?

Answer:

The Review of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (the Review) has been funded from the section of the Budget that appears in Budget Paper (No. 3) Volume 2, page 20-47.

Since 1998, a total of \$360,000.00 has been spent on the Review. This amount incorporates the production of the discussion paper, which involved, among other things: 7 consultation workshops across NSW, editing and publication costs, and the employment of 2 consultations on a temporary basis. A breakdown of the expenditure on the Review according to each financial year is as follows:

1998/99	\$170,000.00
1999/2000	\$121,000.00
2000/2001	\$69,000.00

The outcome of the Review will be the proposed amendment of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*.

It is anticipated that Cabinet will consider the proposed amendments to the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* shortly. Given this timetable, it is likely that the outcome of the Review will be presented to Parliament in the Spring session.

16. Mr Oldfield asked the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(Relevant area in Hansard: p. 31, bottom)

When did the federal government introduce a policy which prohibits the expenditure of federal housing funds on Aboriginal housing in the Sydney metropolitan area?

Answer:

The 1996/97 financial year was the first year that funds were targeted away from the Sydney metropolitan area.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p.20-1)

17. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) Has the Department received complaints about the presence of the Klu Klux Klan operating in the Chequerboard Hill Department of Housing area?
- (2) What capital works have been carried out in the Chequerboard Hill Department of Housing area in the following years: 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01?
- (3) What capital works are budgeted for the Chequerboard Hill Department of Housing area in 2001-02?
- (4) What recurrent works have been carried out in the Chequerboard Hill Department of Housing area in the following years: 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01?
- (5) What recurrent works are budgeted for the Chequerboard Hill Department of Housing area in 2001-02?
- (6) What funds have been supplied to the Chequerboard Hill Department of Housing area fore 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02?

Answer:

- (1) No complaints have been received by the Department concerning the presence of the Klu Klux Clan.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) Nil.
- (4) In the North Casino Housing estate, since the 1997/98 financial year, 24 properties have been restored to the Department's property standard. In addition, to this work many homes have received day to day maintenance and upgrading.
- (5) A further 18 properties are scheduled for restoration this financial year.

- (6) The Department has provided very minor levels of funding to the local Tenant Group to support tenant activities such as Reconciliation Days, Mediation, Tenant Training and Community Building.

18. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) (a) To date what action steps have been taken since 19 December 2000 to relieve tenants from a Department of Housing home (19 Albert Street, Corrimal) which is full of asbestos dust?
- (b) Please provide information in the following format:

Date	<i>Action Taken</i>	<i>Date Action was completed</i>

- (2) What was the result of taking the Corrimal Family to the Residential Tenancies Tribunal?
- (3) Has the Tribunal issued an order, if so what was it?
- (4) What, if any compensation has been offered to the family?

Answer:

- (1) The provisions on the Privacy Act do not, at least on first consideration, readily permit a reply.
- (2) Refer to (1).
- (3) Refer to (1).
- (4) Refer to (1).

19. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) How many Department of Housing tenants have been evicted from the following areas this year (ie 1 January 2001 to 31 May 2001):
- (a) Bonnyrigg,
 - (b) Mt Druitt,
 - (c) Whalan,
 - (d) Bidwill,
 - (e) Willmot,
 - (f) Lethbridge park,
 - (g) Colyton,
 - (h) Cabramatta,
 - (i) Fairfield,
 - (j) Yagoona?

- (2) Of those Department of Housing tenants evicted, how many were evicted for dealing drugs from departmental premises and from which of the above suburbs did the evicted tenant come from?

Answer:

- (1) Records of evictions are not kept by locality.
- (2) The Department of Housing cooperates with the police in taking action against drug dealing. Police evidence is usually required in order for a case to be brought before the Residential Tribunal.

20. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) How many official complaints have been received by the Department regarding unsavoury Department of Housing tenants in each region in 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000?
- (2) How many evictions of unsavoury tenants have been made by the Department in each region in 1995-96, 1996-97, 1998-99, 1999-2000?
- (3) How long does it take the Department to evict unsavoury tenants once complaints have been made in each region in 1995-96, 1996-97, 1998-99, 1999-2000?

Answer:

- (1) The Department of Housing receives complaints through a number of mechanisms ie:

- Client Feedback
- Ministerial letters
- General Inquiries.

There are no separate records kept in relation to complaints against tenants.

- (2) The decision to evict a tenant is a last resort. The decision is made independently by the Residential Tribunal.
- (3) There are processes that the Department needs to adhere to before carrying out an eviction. These are required by law and depending on that nature of the breach may take many weeks.

21. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

Within the Housing portfolio:

- (1) (a) How much money was spent on advertising in 2000-01?
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on advertising in 2001-02?
- (c) Can you please provide a list of each campaign and cost for (a) and (b)?
- (2) (a) How much was spent on consultants in 2000-01?
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on consultants in 2001-02?
- (c) Can you please provide a list of each consultant, project and cost for (a) and (b)?
- (3) (a) How much was spent on overseas trips in 2000-01 by officials?
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on overseas trips in 2001-02 by officials?

- (c) Can you please provide a list of each campaign and cost for (a) and (b)?
- (4) (a) How much was spent on interstate trips in 2000-01 by officials?
(b) What was the estimate of money to be spent on interstate trips in 2000-01 by officials?
(c) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost for (a) and (b)?
- (5) (a) What is the total cost of your overseas trips in 2000-01?
(b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on your overseas trips in 2001-02?
(c) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost for (a) and (b)?
(d) For each trip, can you please provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire and accompanying staff and officials?
- (6) (a) What is the total cost of your interstate trips in 2000-01?
(b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on your interstate trips in 2001-02?
(c) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost for (a) and (b)?
(d) For each trip, can you please provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire and accompanying staff and officials?

Within the Housing portfolio:

- (7) (a) How much money in total was spent on Olympic-related costs?
(b) Of this amount, how much was reimbursed by additional appropriations, or by assistance from Olympic agencies?
- (8) (a) How much money was spent on performance pay for public servants in 1999-2000 and 2000-01?
(b) Did you personally approve these bonus payments?
- (9) (a) How many times were matters referred for independent investigation to ICAC in 2000-01?
(b) Can you please provide a breakdown of these referrals?
- (10) (a) How much money was spent for entertainment purposes in 2000-01?
(b) What was the breakdown by cost and nature of these functions?
(c) What is the forecast to be spent in 2001-02?

In 2000-01:

- (11) (a) How much was spent on your ministerial expenses?
(b) Can you please provide a breakdown by expense, for example, hotel expenses, office refurbishments et cetera?
(c) What is the forecast amount to be spent in 2000-01?
- (12) (a) How many board appointments were made you, or by your Housing portfolio?

- (b) Of these appointments:
 - (i) How many were women?
 - (ii) How many people were from a non-English speaking background?
 - (iii) How many people were with a disability?
 - (iv) How many were Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders?
 - (v) How many were young people?
- (13) (a) Within the Housing portfolio in 2000-01 what fees and fines were increased and by how much?
(b) In 2001-02 what is the forecast for fees and fines to be increased and by how much?
- (14) (a) In 2000-01, within the Housing portfolio, how many media or public relations advisers were employed?
(b) What is the total cost of this?
(c) What is the forecast for 2001-02 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

Within the Housing portfolio in 2000-01:

- (15) (a) How much was spent on legal expenses?
(b) What was the breakdown for these expenses?
(c) How much did you spend on legal expenses?
- (16) (a) How much was spent on public opinion surveys?
(b) What was the breakdown for the cost of these surveys?
- (17) (a) How many Ministerial Staff are currently employed by you?
(b) What is the total salary cost of these staff?
- (18) (a) How much was spent on office fitouts and refurbishments?
(b) What is the estimated cost for 2001-02?
- (19) (a) How much was spent on the cost of leases in the Sydney CBD?
(b) What is the estimated cost for 2001-02?
- (20) (a) Was there any vacant or under-utilised office space?
(b) If so, how much did this cost?
- (21) (a) How much was spent on the salary packages for Senior Executive Service?
(b) What is the estimated cost for 2001-02?

- (22) (a) Did you seek or receive reimbursement, or did your Government agency pay or is in the process of paying for an 'out-of-pocket' expense incurred by you as outlined in Ministerial Memorandum No 99-24 in 2000-01?
- (b) If so, what was the breakdown of these expenses?
- (c) What is the forecast amount to be spent in 2001-02?
- (23) (a) Does your Ministerial Office have a discretionary allowance?
- (b) How was it expended during 2000-01?
- (c) What is the forecast for expenditure in 2001-02?
- (24) (a) What was the breakdown of expenditure for the day-to-day running of your Ministerial Office in 2000-01?
- (b) What was the forecast for expenditure in 2001-02?
- (25) (a) What is the breakdown of expenditure as authorised by your Chief of Staff and outlined in Ministerial Memorandum No 96-28 for 2000-01?
- (b) What is the forecast for expenditure in 2001-02?
- (26) What was the total cost of salaries for your Ministerial staff in 2000-01?
- (27) What was the total cost of Ministerial motor vehicle expenses in 2000-01?
- (28) For each agency in your portfolio what was spent in 2000-01 on media services?

Answer:

- (1) (a) The Department does not run advertising campaigns.
- (b) The exact cost will depend on the nature and scope of advertising identified for 2001-02.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (2) (a) Please refer to the Annual Report.
- (b) Please refer to the Annual Report.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (3) (a) Please refer to the Annual Report.
- (b) International travel by public servants is undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines. Expenditure in 2001-02 will depend on the particular issues requiring overseas travel.
- (c) The Department does not travel overseas to run campaigns.
- (4) (a) Interstate travel was taken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.
- (b) This will depend on the nature and scope of any travel undertaken in 2001-02.
- (c) Interstate travel was taken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.
- (5) (a) Official travel is undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.
- (b) This will depend on the nature and scope of any travel undertaken in 2001-02.

- (c) Costs incurred during official overseas travel were in accordance with appropriate guidelines.
- (d) Costs incurred during official overseas travel were in accordance with appropriate guidelines.
- (6) (a) Official travel is undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.
- (b) It is too early to provide an estimate at this stage of the financial year. However, expenditure will depend on the nature and scope of any travel in 2001-02.
- (c) Refer to (a).
- (d) Refer to (a).
- (7) (a) Money was spent to pre-book temporary accommodation. It is not possible to determine how much of this expenditure was Olympic related.
- (b) All expenditure was reimbursed by additional appropriations.
- (8) On 28th August 2000 Premiers Memorandum 2000-21 was issued indicating that performance pay was not to be made available to the Senior Executive Services. In August 2001 details of performance payments were published in the Sydney media relating to performance payments made in 2000.
- (9) (a) It is not appropriate to canvass issues that may be the subject of an ICAC investigation.
- (b) Refer to (9) (a).
- (10) (a) to (c) Expenditure was undertaken within the allocations to agencies.
- (11) (a) Expenditure was in accordance with the relevant approvals and guidelines.
- (b) Refer to (11) (a).
- (c) This will depend on the extent and nature of requirements.
- (12) (a) The Government provided a detailed response to Question (1312) in December 2000.
- (b) (i) Refer to previous answers in the notice paper regarding this issues.
- (ii) Refer to (b) (i).
- (iii) Refer to (b) (i).
- (iv) Not applicable.
- (v) Not applicable.
- (13) (a) and (b) Fees increases are originated within agencies on an annual or periodic basis and are referred to Parliament's Regulatory review Committee for consideration. Most increases fall within the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Fines are set under the relevant legislation and are usually subject to CPI adjustments.
- (14) (a) Staff numbers will vary from time to time depending on leave or peak periods.
- (b) See previous answer.
- (c) Staff numbers will vary from time to time depending on leave or peak periods.
- (15) (a) Expenditure on legal expenses followed appropriate review of the circumstances, the need for such expenditure and within appropriate guidelines.

- (b) Refer to (15) (a).
- (c) Refer to (15) (a).
- (16) (a) On 20 December 2000 Premier's Memorandum 2000-28 was issued indicating that under no circumstances should surveys of clients, other users of government services or citizens be used to elicit information of a political nature.
- (b) Refer to (16) (a).
- (17) (a) Ministerial staff are employed by the Director General of the Premier's Department in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Sector Management Act 1988*.
- (b) All costs were in accordance with the expenditure necessary to facilitate the effective functioning of the office and within allocations to Ministerial Offices.
- (18) (a) All expenditure was in accordance with guidelines and procedures for office fit-outs and refurbishment.
- (b) This will depend on the nature and extend of any changes to office fit-outs and refurbishment.
- (19) (a) Expenditure on lease of government office accommodation followed careful review of the particular circumstances and needs of agencies. The Government asset Management Committee oversights policy of government accommodation.
- (b) Costs have been reduced due to the above actions.
- (20) (a) The Government Asset Management Committee oversees all asset management in the NSW public sector. The GAMC ensures that all agencies adopt a strategic approval to property management.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (21) (a) Salary packages for the Senior Executive Service are set by the Statutory and Other Offices Tribunal. Current bands for each level are:

Level 8	\$258,000 to \$318,315
Level 7	\$218,615 to \$276,135
Level 6	\$181,960 to \$219,510
Level 5	\$158,840 to \$194,770
Level 4	\$145,350 to \$169,420
Level 3	\$132,410 to \$155,575
Level 2	\$118,675 to \$137,145
Level 1	\$109,225 to \$127,130
- (b) This will depend on the number of SES officers employed and their current point within the particular range.
- (22) (a) Ministerial memorandum 99-24 provided guidelines on the policy for reimbursement of expenses related to general expenses. The expenditure must relate to expenditure on official government business.
- (b) Refer to (22) (a).
- (c) Refer to (22) (a).

- (23) (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (24) (a) Expenditure for Ministerial Offices is determined by the Budget Committee of Cabinet Expenditure must be in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act*.
- (b) Expenditure for Ministerial Offices is determined by the Budget Committee of Cabinet. Expenditure must be in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance Act*.
- (25) (a) Approval of expenditure must be in accordance with delegations and in accordance with the *Public Finance Audit Act*.
- (b) This will depend on the nature and extent of any expenditure in 2001-02.
- (26) Expenditure was in accordance with the remuneration levels determined by the Director General of Premier's Department as the employer of ministerial staff.
- (27) Motor vehicle management is undertaken within policies administered by State Fleet Services and the Department of Public Works and Services.
- (28) As there is no definition of media services this question is difficult to answer. As was the case under the former Coalition Government all agencies undertake a range of monitoring activities and monitoring is undertaken within appropriate delegations.

22. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What is the Department's criteria for allocating capital works to the NSW regions in 1900-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02?
- (2) What is the Department's disability plan for Department of Housing properties, staff, and clients in 1999-2000, 2000-01, and 2001-02?
- (3) What areas has the Department targeted for savings in 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02?
- (4) (a) Does the Minister have access to a discretionary fund?
- (b) If so, how did you spend your discretionary fund in 1998-99 and 1999-00?
- (5) What standards do you have to comply with when spending the discretionary allowance?
- (6) Who was granted discretionary funds in the following years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01?

Answer:

- (1) Capital works are allocated on a needs basis.
- (2) The Department of Housing has developed its Disability Action Plan 2000/02 which outlines core strategies that are expected to improve the quality and accessibility to generic and specific housing support services by people with disabilities, their families and carers. These strategies refer to the areas of:
- Physical access,
 - Information and services,
 - Promotion of positive community attitudes,
 - Training of staff,

- Employment in the public sector,
- Complaint procedures,
- Service planning and delivery
- Data and reporting, and
- Joint planning initiatives with other Government departments.

The Disability Action Plan reflects the commitment of the Department of Housing to the NSW Government Disability Policy Framework that ensures the needs of people with disabilities are represented in all aspects of Government activity. In addition, the Disability Action Plan enshrines the Department of Housing's comprehensive commitment to the *Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, the *NSW Disability Services Act 1993*.

- (3) The Department always looks to reduce operating costs with emphasis on office accommodation and other account categories that do not impact on service levels.
- (4)
 - (a) No.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Not applicable.

23. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What steps are taken by Department of Housing staff when inspecting/surveying Department of Housing properties?
- (2) Are Department of Housing staff able to:
 - (a) inspect/survey all rooms and external areas of a Department of Housing property?
 - (b) inspect/examine garages and garden sheds on a Department of Housing property?
- (3) What documents are examined when approving an applicant for Department of Housing?
- (4) What documents are requested when approving an applicant for Department of Housing?
- (5) What documents are prospective Department of Housing tenants able to refuse to offer departmental staff?
- (6) Does the Department of Housing recheck documents when a potential Department of Housing tenant has reached wait turn and a property is offered and accepted by the tenant?

Answer:

- (1) Tenants are notified in writing. Identification is worn by Department of Housing staff. Appropriate data is collected to update records and for planning purposes.
- (2)
 - (a) Yes, when scheduled for inspection.
 - (b) In some instances tenants provide their own garden sheds and garages.
- (3) and (4) Housing Register Application Form and other relevant documentation.
- (5) None.
- (6) Yes, where this is necessary.

24. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) How many private security guards have been hired by the Department of Housing to patrol public housing regions?
- (2) Which suburbs have security guards on patrol?
- (3) How many security guards patrol each suburb?
- (4) What was the annual cost for the employment of security guards to patrol public housing suburbs in the years:
 - (a) 1995-96,
 - (b) 1996-97,
 - (c) 1997-98,
 - (d) 1998-99,
 - (e) 1999-2000,
 - (f) 2000-01?
- (5)
 - (a) Have there been any incidents of assaults on security guards?
 - (b) If so, what was the nature of the assault?
- (6) Have any security guards been able to provide evidence for a tenant eviction?

Answer:

- (1) Security guards do not patrol entire public housing regions.
- (2) Security guards are used from time to time to address particular problems.
- (3) See above.
- (4) The Department does not keep figures on employment of security guards.
- (5)
 - (a) Not that the Department is aware of.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (6) No figures are available.

25. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What was the average staffing number in each Department of Housing region serving Department of Housing clients in each of the following year:
 - (a) 1995-96,
 - (b) 1996-97,

- (c) 1997-98,
 - (d) 1998-99,
 - (e) 1999-2000,
 - (f) 2000-01,
 - (g) 2001-02?
- (2) (a) Has the Department allocated consultant services to measure tenant satisfaction in New South Wales at a State, Region and team level for 2001?
- (b) If so, who was awarded the tender?
- (c) How much is being paid for the service?
- (d) Will the results of the study be made public?
- (3) How much has been spent on consultant services to measure tenant satisfaction in New South Wales in each of the following years:
- (a) 1995-96,
 - (b) 1996-97,
 - (c) 1997-98,
 - (d) 1998-99,
 - (e) 1999-2000,
 - (f) 2000-01,
 - (g) 2001-02?

26. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) (a) Have any of the homes listed below been vacant over the last two years:
- (i) 9/5 Higginbottam Road, Gladesville,
 - (ii) 11 Richards Place, Orange (for 6 months)
 - (iii) 4 Richards Place, Orange,
 - (iv) 10 & 16 South Terrace, Orange,
 - (v) 23 Jilba Street, Orange,
 - (vi) 25 Nunkeri Place, Orange,
 - (vii) Cnr Neville Street and Bertrum Street, Yagoona,
 - (viii) 42 Gregory Street, Yagoona,
 - (ix) 20 Bertrum Street, Yagoona,

- (x) 14/23-24 Tempe Street, Greenacre,
- (xi) 5 Roach Avenue, Thornleigh,
- (xii) 2 Sutherland Street, Yagoona,
- (xiii) 22 Picnic Point Road, Picnic Point,
- (xiv) 1/184 Alfred Street, Naraweena,
- (xv) 4/9 Lascelles Road, Naraweena,
- (xvi) 36 & 37 Campbell Parade, Mona Vale,
- (xvii) 2 Stuart Avenue, Normanhurst,
- (xviii) 26 & 28 Alamein Road, Naraweena,
- (xix) 33 Ludwig Square Bidwill,
- (xx) 44 Bunya Crescent, Bidwall,
- (xxi) 33 Wrentmore Street, Fairfield,
- (xxii) Cnr Barracrough Way and Cowdrey Way, Bonnyrigg,
- (xxiii) 1 Blaxland Avenue, Singleton,
- (xxiv) 10, 12 & 15 Hume Close, Singleton Heights,
- (xxv) 5 Awatea Place, Lethbridge Park,
- (xxvi) 38 Myrtus Crescent Billwill,
- (xxvii) 79 Lyle Street, Gerraweene,
- (xxviii) Waycanda Avenue, Emitson,
- (xxix) 3 Joyner Street, Westmead,
- (xxx) 21/1 Balleny Place, Trigear,
- (xxxi) 15/7 Stapleton Street, Wentworthville,
- (xxxii) 22, 43 & 47 Roebuck Crescent, Willmont,
- (xxxiii) 22 Frederick Avenue, Granville,
- (xxxiv) 8/93 Brook Street, Musselbrook,
- (xxxv) 7 Fenwick Place, Westmead,
- (xxxvi) Cnr Patterson Street and Spurway, Ermington,
- (xxxvii) 50 Sandakan Crescent, Lethbridge Park,
- (xxxviii) 18 Tasman Avenue, Lethbridge Park,
- (xxxix) 6/40 & 11/40 McDougall Street, Milsons Point,
- (xl) 21 Perri Street, Dundas Valley,

- (xli) 5 & 35 Wayland Avenue, Lidcombe,
- (xlii) 7/373 Victoria Road, Rydalmere,
- (xliii) 21 Maling Avenue, Ermington,
- (xliv) 22 Reliance Crescent, Willmot,
- (xlv) 6 Waikanda Crescent, Whalan,
- (xlvi) 32 Trumper Street, Ermington,
- (xlvii) 3 Bridge Road, Westmead,
- (xlviii) 10 Stapleton Street, St Marys
- (xlix) 28 Filder Road, Ermington,
- (l) 110 Brussels Street, Granville,
- (li) Cnr Clyde Street and Brussels Street, Granville,
- (lii) 38 Wayland Avenue, Lidcombe,
- (liii) 6 Waikanda Crescent, Whalan,
- (liv) 44 Alfred Street, Bomaderry,
- (lv) Cnr of Gordon and Kendle Street, Rydalmere,
- (lvi) 1 Tasman Parade, Fairfield West,
- (lvii) Approx. 100 former navy homes purchased by the Department of Housing opposite the Albatrose Navel Base in Nowra,
- (lviii) 70 Kalandar Street, Nowra,
- (lix) 7 Ascalon Close, East Nowra,
- (lx) 255 Adensor Road, Adensor Park,
- (lxi) 176 Elizabeth Drive, Ascroft,
- (lxii) 17 Ellsworth Drive,
- (lxiii) 20 Cornor Pepler and Unwin Roads, Cabramatta West,
- (lxiv) 32 & 34 Atkins Road, Ermington,
- (lxv) Quarry Road, cnr of Davids Street and Yates Avenue, Dundas Valley,
- (lxvi) 15 Sirius Street, Dundas,
- (lxvii) 72 & 76 Perry Street, Dundas,
- (lxviii) 5 & 6 Callan Way, Wentworthville,
- (lxix) 4/241-243 Targo Road, Toongabbie,
- (lxx) 42 Koomooloo Crescent, Shalvey,

- (lxxi) 2 Anitra Place, Shalvey,
- (lxxii) 3 Moresby Street, East Nowra,
- (lxxiii) 57 Williamson Crescent, Warwick Farm,
- (lxxiv) 83-85 Laurence Hardgrave Drive, Warwick Farm,
- (lxxv) 21/2 Milner Crescent, Wollstoncraft,
- (lxxvi) 15/155, 27/155, 28/155 Spitt Road, Mosman,
- (lxxvii) 62 Holt Street, Ashcroft,
- (lxxviii) 5/2 Ivanhoe Place, North Ryde,
- (lxxix) 60/6 Cahille Place, Marrickville,
- (lxxx) 10 Cassey Street, Orange,
- (lxxxix) 16/15-21 Franklin Road, Orange?

(b) If so, how long was each house vacant?

(2) Were any of the homes vandalised whilst vacant?

(3) What was the cost of repairing the vandalised homes in order to house Department of Housing tenants?

(4) (a) If they have not been vacant, has the department received any complaints about the condition of the homes?

(b) If so, what was the nature of the complaints?

Answer:

(1) (a) 16,414 tenants vacated their properties during the period 30 June 1999 to 30 June 2000.

I am committed to ensuring that the vacancy period between tenancies in public housing is reduced, to maximise the use of scarce public housing resources and to minimise rent loss and vandalism.

(b) The length of the vacancy varies depending on the amount of work that needs to be carried out in order to bring the property back to standard and demand for housing in that location and of that type.

(2) This information is not available within current resources.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) (a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

27. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(1) What is your average turn-around time for cleaning up cockroach infestations in Department of Housing properties?

(2) What procedures do you follow when removing vermin?

- (3) How much has been spent over the past six years removing vermin from Department of Housing properties?

Answer:

- (1) No record is kept on average turn-around time for cleaning up cockroach infestations in Department of Housing properties.
- (2) Removal of vermin is carried out by licensed pest control operators.
- (3) Not applicable.

28. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) How long has the person on the longest waiting list been waiting?
- (2) (a) Does the Department keep records of how many households were placed in public housing by region for:
- (i) 1995-96,
 - (ii) 1996-97,
 - (iii) 1997-98,
 - (iv) 1998-99,
 - (v) 1999-2000,
 - (vi) 2000-01?
- (b) If so, how many households were placed in public housing by region for:
- (i) 1995-96,
 - (ii) 1996-97,
 - (iii) 1997-98,
 - (iv) 1998-99,
 - (v) 1999-2000,
 - (vi) 2000-01?
- (3) (a) Does the Department know how many households received rental assistance by region in 1999-2000?
- (b) If so, how many households receive rental assistance by region in 1999-2000?
- (4) What is the value of assistance for rental assistance by region?
- (5) What is the normal waiting time for Department of Housing by region?

Answer:

- (1) Waiting times can be misleading. In some cases people with long waiting times have refused appropriate offers of accommodation or have been backdated as they have not been in contact with the Department.

- (2) (a) Please refer to the Annual Report.
- (b) Please refer to the Annual Report.
- (3) (a) Please refer to the Annual Report.
- (b) Please refer to the Annual Report.
- (4) Please refer to the Annual Report.
- (5) The Department of Housing does not have 'normal' waiting times as waiting times can vary because of a number of factors including type of accommodation, the number of vacancies and the number of priority housing clients housed.

29. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

What was the total cost of water rates paid for by the Department of Housing for Department of Housing properties by region in the year 2000-01?

Answer:

Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 1619. Excess water charges are borne by the tenant.

30. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) How many departmental homes have been built and or adjusted to meet the complex needs of tenants with a disability in the following years:
 - (a) 1997-98,
 - (b) 1998-99,
 - (c) 1999-2000,
 - (d) 2000-01,
 - (e) 2001-02?
- (2) How much was budgeted for building or adjusting homes to meet the complex needs of tenants with a disability in:
 - (a) 1997-98,
 - (b) 1998-99,
 - (c) 1999-2000,
 - (d) 2000-01,
 - (e) 2001-02?

Answer:

- (1) 69% of the Department's stock is over 15 years of age. An active redevelopment program is replacing older public housing dwellings with new housing of an appropriate standard as quickly as possible. This includes housing adaptable for clients with a disability.

The capital works supply program includes a focus on providing new, high quality accommodation suitable for people with disabilities. Most pensioner accommodation is constructed according to State Environmental Planning Policy Number 5 (SEPP 5) which governs the provision of housing for older people and people with a disability.

- (2) The Department modifies the homes of tenants who are ageing or have a disability to improve physical access and/or improve the internal layout. Between July 2000 and June 2001 up to \$4 million was spent to modify and estimated 360 public dwellings.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3, Vol 2, p.20-8)

31. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) (a) Is there a memorandum of understanding between the NSW Police and the Department of Housing?
(b) If so, what policies and or standards are provided in the memorandum of understanding between the NSW Police and the Department of Housing?
- (2) What is the objective of the memorandum of understanding between the NSW Police and the Department of Housing?

Answer:

- (1) (a) Yes.
(b) Copies of the MOU are available from NSW Police and the Department of Housing.
- (2) A key objective is to ensure that officers from both agencies have a clear understanding of each agency's responsibilities and procedures as they relate to the maintenance of law and order in Department of Housing premises and the exchange of information.

32. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

During the period 1997-2000 the North Coast Community Housing Company expended an aggregate of \$6,466,702 (\$39,222 in 1997, \$1,201,722 in 1998, \$2,051,708 in 1999 and \$2,274,050 in 2000).

- (1) (a) What was the source of this money, was it from Government sources?
(b) If so, what accountability was in place to verify the correct allocations of this expenditure?

The Minister has stated the North Coast Community Housing Company is an independent incorporated organisation, which receives funds from the NSW Government.

- (2) (a) Is this true for all service providers that administer the 9,613 properties reported in the Department of Housing 1999-2000 Annual Report?
(b) If not what providers are not independent?
- (3) Do these "independently incorporated organisations" meet the requirements of the "*Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 1941*" and are they accordingly licensed as may be required by the said Act?
- (4) If these "independently incorporated organisations" are in need of licensing is it the normal practice of your department and or Government to fund such organisations?

- (5) (a) If these “independently incorporated organisations” are exempt from the provisions of the said Act due to an “Agency Agreement” are these organisations responsible to your department?
- (b) If not, then who are they responsible to?

Answer:

- (1) (a) North Coast Community Housing is an independently incorporated housing association reports on all sources of its funding. The Office of Community Housing has contributed to funding of North Coast Community Housing Company.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (2) (a) Housing Associations and cooperatives funded by the Office of Community Housing are required to be legally incorporated. The Office of Community Housing enters into a Funding Agreement with these bodies and they are required to submit quarterly returns.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (3) The NSW Department of Housing does not administer this Act and is unable to assess the operations of any business under this Act.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.

33. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What capital works have been carried out in each Department of Housing region in the following years:
- (a) 1997-98,
- (b) 1998-99,
- (c) 1999-2000,
- (d) 2000-01?
- (2) What capital works are budgeted in each Department of Housing region in 2001-02?
- (3) What recurrent works have been carried out in each Department of Housing region in the following years:
- (a) 1997-98,
- (b) 1998-99,
- (c) 1999-2000,
- (d) 2000-01?
- (4) What recurrent works are budgeted for in each Department of Housing region area in 2001-02?
- (5) What funds have been supplied in each Department of Housing region area for:
- (a) 1999-2000,
- (b) 2000-01,

(c) 2001-02?

Answer:

- (1) Please refer to the State budget papers.
- (2) Please refer to the State budget papers.
- (3) Please refer to the State budget papers.
- (4) This question is not sufficiently specific to provide a detailed response.
- (5) Capital funds are included in the State budget papers and commentary issued.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3, Vol 2, p.20-9)

34. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What was the maintenance expenditure against budget in each region in 1999-2000?
- (2)
 - (a) Were any regions over budget?
 - (b) If so, why?
- (4) What support does the Department of Housing give to people with mental disabilities or psychiatric illnesses that are placed into Department of Housing accommodation?
- (5) How much money was allocated in 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 to support those people who are in accommodation where they have difficulties in their relationships with neighbours or difficulties in living in the accommodation due to mental disabilities or psychiatric conditions?

Answer:

- (1) Responsive, maintenance includes urgent, priority or necessary repairs to dwellings, generally in response to tenant requests. Budgets take into account this definition in the context of the Residential Tenancies Act.
- (2)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) Regions were over budget in order to meet the requirements of the Residential Tenancies Act in undertaking urgent maintenance works. This included Regions adversely affected by storms such as the record Sydney hailstorm.
- (3) Where the Department identifies that client suffer from a mental illness, the Department negotiates supports with a range of government and non-government service providers. In many cases applicants for Department of Housing apply to the Department with these supports in place.
- (4) Not applicable. There is no separate allocation for managing difficulties between neighbours and negotiating support for clients. This is a core role of the Department's clients service teams.

35. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What will be the final cost of repairs due to fire damage to 500 Department homes in 1999-2000?
- (2) How many of the homes were subjected to arson whilst vacant?

- (3) (a) When will the 6 homes at the corner of Patterson and Spurway Streets, Ermington which have sat idle for 12 months be rectified?
- (b) If so, how much money has been budgeted to repair these homes and what is the completion date?
- (4) (a) How many homes have been damaged to date in 2000-01?
- (b) What is the cost of damage?

Answer:

- (1) The Department did not sustain fire damage to 500 properties in 1999-2000.
- (2) Information is not available.
- (3) (a) These are in the process of being upgraded.
- (b) These are being upgraded, not repaired.
- (4) (a) This information is not available.
- (b) This information is not available.

36. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What is the average annual maintenance and repair costs for Department of Housing properties in each region for:
- (a) 1995-96,
- (b) 1996-97,
- (c) 1997-98,
- (d) 1998-99,
- (e) 1999-2000,
- (f) 2000-01?
- (2) What pages in the Department's Annual Reports contains figures specifically regarding the total budget for maintenance and repairs by region for the years:
- (a) 1995-96,
- (b) 1996-97,
- (c) 1997-98,
- (d) 1998-99,
- (e) 1999-2000,
- (f) 2000-01?

Answer:

- (1) Average annual maintenance and repair costs are not available. These can be misleading because they do not include upgrading funds which are often used to replace items rather than repair them.
- (2) The Department publishes total maintenance and repairs expenditures. This can be found on:
 - (a) Pages 24 and 64.
 - (b) Pages 3 and 53.
 - (c) Pages 25, 56, 60 and 61.
 - (d) Pages 18, 28, 80 and 87.
 - (e) Pages 82 and 88.
 - (f) The Annual Report for this period has not been published.

37. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) In 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01, what suburbs has the department built new Department of Housing properties?
- (2) What was the cost of the new housing in each suburb?
- (3) How much is budgetted for each project?
- (4) How much has been spent on each project to date?
- (5)
 - (a) Is it completed?
 - (b) If not, when will it be completed?
- (6) How many units/houses are planned to be built in each project?
- (7) What is the budgeted cost of land acquisition in each project?
- (8) What has been spent on land acquisition in each project to date?
- (9) What was the cost of construction and fit-out in each project?
- (10) Will any of the dwellings have:
 - (a) carports?
 - (b) en-suite bathrooms?
 - (c) built-in cupboards?
 - (d) air-conditioning?
 - (e) landscaped gardens?
- (11) Will homes be constructed of brick/veneer, double brick or other materials?

Answer:

- (1) Capital works are report in the State Budget papers.

- (2) Capital works are report in the State Budget papers.
- (3) Capital works are report in the State Budget papers.
- (4) In order to obtain this information it will take time and resources which are better allocated elsewhere.
- (5) In order to obtain this information it will take time and resources which are better allocated elsewhere.
- (6) In order to obtain this information it will take time and resources which are better allocated elsewhere.
- (7) It is not viable to obtain this information for every project.
- (8) It is not viable to obtain this information for every project.
- (9) It is not viable to obtain this information for every project.
- (10) The Department's prime objective in procuring housing is that it is appropriate both for the area and for the tenant's needs. Given that this is government funded housing it also needs to be relatively economic to purchase and maintain.
- (11) Homes will be constructed from a variety of materials using a variety of construction systems.

38. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

As at year ending 31 March 2001:

- (1) What was the number of rebated public housing households occupying public housing?
- (2) How many households in public housing dwelling were:
 - (a) moderately overcrowded (eg. where one additional bedroom is required to satisfy the occupancy standard),
 - (b) highly overcrowded (eg. where two or more additional bedrooms are required to satisfy the occupancy standard),
 - (c) underutilised (eg. where there are two or more bedrooms additional to the number required in the dwelling to satisfy the occupancy standard)?

Answer:

- (1) As at 31 March 2001, the number of rebated public housing households occupying public housing was 116,442.
- (2) Please refer to the Productivity Commission Report produced each year at a national level.

39. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

Budget Paper No. 3, Vol 2, pg 20-9, states that 2,042 new dwellings will be available across public, community and Aboriginal Housing:

- (1) In what suburbs will these dwellings be built?
- (2) What is the cost of the 2,042 new dwellings?
- (3) What type of dwellings will be built?

- (4) Of the 2,042 new dwellings built, in what suburbs will the 1,022 newly constructed dwellings be located?
- (5) Will these newly constructed dwellings have any of the following:
 - (a) carports?
 - (b) en-suite bathrooms?
 - (c) built-in cupboards?
 - (d) air-conditioning?
 - (e) landscaped gardens?
 - (f) pool-like fencing?
- (6) Will homes be constructed of brick/veneer, double brick or other materials?

Answer:

- (1) Details have been provided to Treasury of all proposed projects, by LGA, (both construction and acquisition). Please refer to Treasury records for details of localities.
- (2) The budget for providing 2,042 new units of social housing in 2001/02 is \$242.9 million.
- (3) The capital works program for public, community and Aboriginal programs include acquisition of properties in some localities, redevelopment of sites already owned by the Department of Housing or the conversion of existing properties. In addition, headleasing is used in some instances.

The size and type of dwelling varies from project to project but may include general, public, Aboriginal public housing, community housing, Aboriginal community housing, aged accommodation or crisis accommodation. It may involve stand alone housing or multiple units dependent on priority needs in the locality.

- (4) Please refer to question 39(1).
- (5) Please refer to question 37(10).
- (6) Please refer to question 37(11).

40. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What is the total budget for the Regional Tenant Resource Services in 2001-02?
- (2) What funds have been allocated to improve the representational role of Public Tenant Councils in 2001-02?
- (3) What representational mechanisms have been implemented for Community and Aboriginal Housing tenants in 2001-02?
- (4) What is the department doing to encourage involvement of tenants with special needs, including people with a disability, older persons and people from non-English speaking backgrounds in 2001-02?
- (5) Will there be a biannual conference for tenants in 2001-02?
- (6) What groups have received funding from the Community Development and Resourcing Grants, how much funding did each group receive and from what NSW electorate does the group operate in?

Answer:

- (1) The budget allocation for Regional Tenant Resource Services in 2001/02 has increased over previous years' allocations. Additional funds have been provided to ensure that the RTRSs can upgrade their skills and resources to extend their services to all tenants and tenant groups in their region.
- (2) The 2001/02 Housing budget provides funds for Public Tenant Councils for the first time. The Funds will be used to help the Councils operate in a more professional way, and to enhance their ability to represent all tenants in their areas.
- (3) to (5) The Department's Tenant Participation program was reviewed in 2000/01. In line with the recommendations of that review, I announced a number of new initiatives for tenant participation, which are being implemented over 2000/01 and 2001/02. These initiatives include the introduction of better mechanisms to promote tenant participation in the community and Aboriginal housing sectors. Funding has been allocated for special projects to meet the needs of tenants from particular groups such as the disabled and people of non-English speaking background who in the past may not have had access to tenant participation activities. There will also be biennial conferences for tenants, with the first scheduled for 2001/02. Planning for the conference is underway. A committee which includes tenant representatives is advising the Department on the implementation of these initiatives.
- (6) The community Development and Resourcing Grants will be advertised within the next two months. Funds have been earmarked for allocation to each of the social housing sectors. The grants scheme is intended to provide small sums to groups assisting tenants, though larger amounts will be considered for projects which cover tenants in more than one region or more than one sector. As in past funding rounds, the funds will be allocated to ensure that tenants in all regions have equitable access to the grants.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3, Vol 2, p.20-40)

41. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) Why was the timber fence erected between public housing and private housing at Emma Close and Tarlington Reserve, Bonnyrigg?
- (2) Why paid for the fence?
- (3) How much did the fence cost?
- (4) When was the fence built?

Answer:

- (1) The Department of Housing did not erect the fence in question. The Department was approached by private owners in November 2000 to provide the fence between the private development at Emma and Louise Close Bonnyrigg and Tarlington Reserve as the private owners did not wish to view the Department's properties on the other side of the Reserve.

The private owner was advised that the Department would not provide fencing for a private housing development and the Reserve belonged to Fairfield Council.

- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p.20-42)

42. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What capital works have been carried out in the Bonnyrigg area in the following years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01?
- (2) What capital works are budgeted for the Bonnyrigg area in 2001-02?
- (3) What recurrent works have been carried out in the Bonnyrigg area in the following years: 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01?
- (4) What recurrent works are budgeted for the Bonnyrigg area in 2001-02?
- (5) What funds have been supplied to the Bonnyrigg area for 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02?

Answer:

- (1) The allocation of funds for capital works in previous years is included in State Budget papers for these years.
- (2) Refer to State Budget papers.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Records are not kept down to suburb level.

43. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

If a public housing tenant owned a new Mercedes valued in excess of \$100,000 would it disqualify them from public housing?

Answer:

Consumer durable such as cars and household items are excluded from the financial criteria for asset ownership and do not influence eligibility for public housing.

44. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

How many Department of Housing tenants have purchased their property from the department in the following years:

- (a) 1997-98,
- (b) 1998-99,
- (c) 1999-2000,
- (d) 2000-01,
- (e) 2001-02?

Answer:

- (a) 149
- (b) 163
- (c) 131
- (d) 154
- (e) Figures not available at this time.

45. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1)
 - (a) How many new units of public housing are going to be built in the Fairfield electorate?
 - (b) What type of housing will these be?
 - (c) What streets are they to be built in?
 - (d) How much will each new unit of housing cost?
 - (e) When will the new units be completed?
- (2)
 - (a) How many new units of public housing are going to be built in the Cabramatta electorate?
 - (b) What type of housing will these be?
 - (c) What streets are they to be built in?
 - (d) How much will each new unit of housing cost?
 - (e) When will the new units be completed?

Answer:

- (1) Please refer to State Budget Papers.
- (2) Please refer to State Budget Papers.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p.20ff)

46. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What were the fees paid to the Chairman and Directors of the Advisory Council to Landcom? Please specify how much was paid to each person.
- (2)
 - (a) What was the total salary paid to the CEO of Landcom in 1999-2000?
 - (b) What is his total salary for the current financial year?
- (3) Have any Landcom staff travelled overseas during the past financial year (2000-2001)? If so:
 - (a) Who were they?
 - (b) Where did they go?

- (c) How long was each trip?
- (d) When was each trip undertaken?
- (e) Was any private business or recreation incorporated into each trip?
- (f) What class did they travel?
- (g) What was the total cost of each trip?

Answer:

- (1) Chairman \$33,228 per annum plus statutory employer superannuation of 8%. Members \$19,656 per annum plus statutory employer superannuation of 8%.
- (2) (a) Total remuneration package 1999/2000 - \$183,941.14.
(b) Total remuneration package 2000/2001 - \$181,933.91.
- (3) No.

47. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) Have any staff of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning travelled overseas during the past financial year (2000-2001)? If so,
 - (a) Who were they?
 - (b) Where did they go?
 - (c) How long was each trip?
 - (d) When was each trip undertaken?
 - (e) Was any private business or recreation incorporated into each trip?
 - (f) What class did they travel?
 - (g) What was the total cost of each trip?

Answer:

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.

48. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) Have any staff of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority travelled overseas during the past financial year (2000-2001)? If so,
 - (a) Who were they?
 - (b) Where did they go?
 - (c) How long was each trip?
 - (d) When was each trip undertaken?

- (e) Was any private business or recreation incorporated into each trip?
- (f) What class did they travel?
- (g) What was the total cost of each trip?

Answer:

International travel by public servants is undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.

49. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) Has the Sydney Harbour Manager or any of his staff travelled overseas during the past financial year (2000/2001)? If so,
 - (a) Who were they?
 - (b) Where did they go?
 - (c) How long was each trip?
 - (d) When was each trip undertaken?
 - (e) Was any private business or recreation incorporated into each trip?
 - (f) What class did they travel?
 - (g) What was the total cost of each trip?

Answer:

No.

50. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to legal fees paid by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority]

- (1) What did the Authority spend on legal fees in 2000/01?
- (2) Which legal firms were engaged to provide these services?

Answer:

Expenditure on legal fees followed appropriate review of the circumstances, the need for such expenditure and within appropriate guidelines.

51. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) (a) Did the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority engage in consultants in 2000/01?
 - (b) If so:
 - (i) Which consultants were employed?

- (ii) What did they do?
- (iii) How much did each consultant cost?

(2) How much does the Authority anticipate spending on consultants in 2001/02?

Answer:

The cost and use of consultants is covered in the Annual Report.

52. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

What resources, including staff costs, were spent by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority on plans and discussions regarding the future of the Museum of Contemporary Art?

Answer:

The Museum of Contemporary Art is the responsibility of the Ministry for Arts.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p.20ff, and Budget Paper No 4, pp 118-119)

53. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to sites disposed of by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority]

- (1) (a) Please confirm the total value of sites disposed of by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority last financial year?
- (b) What is the street address of each of these sites?
- (2) (a) Does the Authority intend to dispose of any real estate or other assets this financial year?
- (b) If so, please identify these assets, and their anticipated sale price.

Answer:

A full report of asset sales is report in the Annual Report.

54. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to the Chairman of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority]

- (1) Has the Chairman travelled overseas on business related to his role as Chairman during the past financial year? If so:
 - (a) Who accompanied him?
 - (b) Where did they go?
 - (c) How long was it?
 - (d) Did the Chairman incorporate any private business or recreation into this trip?

- (e) What class did they travel?
- (f) What was the total cost of each trip?
- (2) (a) How many days a week does the Chairman spend in his role as Chairman?
- (b) What is the total amount of the fees that are currently paid to the Chairman?
- (c) Have the total payments to the Chairman increased since last financial year?
- (d) If so, how much have payments to the Chairman increased?
- (e) Why is he being paid more?
- (f) What is the nature and cost of the secretarial support given to the Chairman?
- (g) Does the Authority provide the Chairman with a mobile phone?
- (h) If so, how much did it cost the Authority last year?

Answer:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Performance of Board Members and their sitting fees are reported in the Annual Report.

55. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

Why has the total estimated cost of works on Darling Island increased \$10 million from an estimated \$1.8 million last year to \$11.3 million this financial year?

Answer:

The total cost of the project has not increased and was always \$11.3 million.

Unfortunately the amount that was recorded in the 2000/01 budget papers appears to be only the first two years of this five year project.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p.20-4)

56. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

The Budget Papers disclose that \$700,000 was spent by the South Sydney Development Corporation on 'strategic and operating expenses'. What do these expenses include?

Answer:

Strategic and operating expenses by the South Sydney Development Corporation includes:

- accelerating implementation of the Green Square Town Centre with a design competition to increase awareness of investment opportunities in the Town Centre while promoting design quality and innovation,
- development of a website,
- an investment prospectus detailing key economic and demographic characteristics to draw new investors,

- implementation of Stage One of the Alexandra Canal Cycle and Pedestrian Path, and
- additional project management costs associated with these key strategic projects.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p.20-6)

57. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to the relocation of the Heritage Office to the site of the Old King's School in Parramatta]

- (1) The 2000/01 Budget Paper No 3, Vol 2, page 22-6 indicates it was to relocate in 2001. Why has there been a delay in the relocation?
- (2) Last year's budget indicated that a \$2.4 million grant would complete the project (2000/01 Budget paper No 3, Vol 2, page 22-6). Yet this year another \$4 million has been allocated to the project (Budget Paper No 3, Vol 2, page 20-6). Why has there been an increase in relocation costs?

Answer:

- (1) I am advised that the relocation of the staff occupying the former King's School site has been delayed. However, this has allowed more detailed preparation of appropriate conservation advice and documentation to ensure that best practice outcomes are achieved for the adaptive reuse of this important Parramatta heritage place.
- (2) Last years budget indicated that \$2.4 million would be spent on the project in 2000/01. This did not represent the total project cost but the estimated 2000/01 component. The total cost will include Treasury funding of \$4.02 million. Due to the delay in the project, expenditure during 2000/01 totalled \$0.5 million. This expenditure brought the project up to the development application and tender stage. The project is running on budget.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p.20-5)

58. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

Why will \$500,000 less be spent on the Georges River Foreshore Improvement Program this year compared to last year?

Answer:

The expenditure patterns of the program will vary from year to year, but there has been no reduction in the overall funding for the program.

In my press release of 15 June 2001, I announced the successful projects for the Georges River Foreshore Improvement Program's 2000-2001 funding round in which this Government committed to spending up to \$2,008,045 this year for 12 projects across the catchment.

59. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

What land is being purchased with the \$1.5 million set aside to acquire land under the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme this year?

Answer:

Land located at Macauleys Headland at Coffs Harbour on the northern coast of NSW will be acquired under the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme. The land has an estimated value of \$2.5 million, however this is subject to confirmation by the Land and Environment Court. There are also a number of additional priority properties being considered pending further investigation by the Department.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p.22-4)

60. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to the Office of the Sydney Harbour Manager]

- (1) What were the expenses this year for the harbour manager and his office?
- (2) What are they estimated to be in the coming financial year?
- (3) Why weren't these expenses itemised in the Budget Papers, as they were last year?

Answer:

- (1) The current results for last year indicate an expenditure \$420,000.
- (2) Treasury has allocated \$104,000. The role of the Office of the Harbour Manager is subject to a review, but at this stage is only funded till November 2001.
- (3) The expenses for the Office of the Harbour Manager were listed previously as a separate item as it was a new initiative. As there were other new initiatives in 2001/02 with higher dollar values, the expenses for the Office of the Harbour Manager were not reported separately.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 at 20ff and cf 2000/01, Budget Paper 3, Vol 2 p.22-5)

61. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1)
 - (a) Is the Greenspace Program still operating?
 - (b) If so, how much has been provided for the Greenspace program in 2001/02?
- (2) Why is it not itemised in the Budget Papers?

Answer:

- (1)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) \$1 million.
- (2) the Greenspace program is one of a number of programs the Sydney Region Development Fund (SRDF) runs relating to improvements for open space with local councils and community groups as shown in the Budget Papers.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 at 20ff)

62. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to legal actions involving the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning during 2000/01]

- (1) How many court actions, on any matter, was DUAP a party to over the last financial year?
- (2)
 - (a) Was the Department or the Minister sued in 2000/01?
 - (b) If so, how many times?
 - (c) On what basis were the actions brought?
- (3)
 - (a) What was the total cost of external legal services, including counsel's fees in 2000/01?
 - (b) Is there any accounting of internal legal costs?
 - (c) If so, what was the total cost of all legal fees incurred in 2000/01?
- (4)
 - (a) Can you provide details of the total costs of the initial action and the appeal in *Meriton Apartments P/L v. Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning and Or?*
 - (b) What were Counsel's fees for Mr P McClelland QC and Mr A Galasso in this action?

Answer:

- (1) to (4) Expenditure on legal expenses followed appropriate review of the circumstances and the need for such expenditure.

63. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to the review of State Environmental Planning Policy No 1 (SEPP 1)]

- (1) How much is DUAP paying the University of NSW Faculty of the Built Environment, or others, for the review of SEPP 1?
- (2) Why isn't the Department undertaking this review itself?

Answer:

- (1) The cost of consultancies is contained in the Annual Report.
- (2) The Government announced the review in response to representations from communities and MPs. At the time, the Department did not have the resources to undertake the review itself. also, given the widespread community criticism about the too liberal use of SEPP 1 by some councils, it was important from a public perception viewpoint to have a completely independent review.

64. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to Consultants employed by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning]

- (1)
 - (a) What was the total amount spent by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning on consultants in 2000/01?

- (b) Who were the consultants?
- (c) What did they do?
- (2) How much does DUAP anticipate spending on consultants in 2001/02?

Answer:

- (1) (a) The costs of consultancies are contained in the Annual Report.
- (b) and (c) Consultants provide advice and services of a specialist nature including transport issues, threatened species, aboriginal heritage, major hazards risk assessment, ground water investigations and flood mitigation studies.
- (2) This information will be provided in the Annual Report.

65. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What was the total salary paid to the Director-General of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning in 1999-2000?
- (2) What is her total salary for the current financial year?

Answer:

These details are contained in the Annual Report.

66. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to the Operation of Landcom]

- (1) What dividend and tax equivalent payments did Landcom provide to the Government last financial year?
- (2) When is the proposed corporatisation of Landcom planned to take effect?
- (3) What will be the new structure of Landcom?
- (4) Who will be the shareholders?

Answer:

- (1) This information is in the Annual Report.
- (2) In the latter part of the 2001 calendar year, depending upon approval by Cabinet and the Legislative program.
- (3) A statutory State owned corporation under the provisions of the State Owned Corporations Act 1989.
- (4) In accordance with the State Owned Corporations Act 1989, the Treasurer and another Minister to be nominated by the Premier.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 at 20ff and cf 2000/01, Budget Paper No 3, Vol 2, p 22-25)

67. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to the Sydney Region Development Fund]

- (1) What was the value of land acquired through the Sydney Region Development Fund?
- (2) Why wasn't the value of land acquired through the Sydney Region Development Fund recorded in this year's Budget Papers when it was recorded in preceding years?

Answer:

- (1) Land Acquisition totalled \$5.9 million in 2000/2001.
- (2) The value of land acquired through the Sydney Region Development Fund is reported in the Budget Papers in Budget Paper No. 3, Vol 2, Section 20-12 under Asset Acquisition - Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p20-8)

68. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

Identify all types and amounts of Federal and State Government contributions from consolidated revenue to housing programs in the following years:

- (a) 1997/98,
- (b) 1998/99,
- (c) 1999/00,
- (d) 2000/01,
- (e) 2001/02.

Answer:

Please refer to State Budget papers.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p20-9)

69. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) (a) Does overseas ownership of property make a tenant ineligible for public housing in NSW?
- (b) If so, how many prospective tenants have been declined public housing because of overseas property ownership?

- (2) How many tenants have declared ownership of overseas properties who are currently housed in Department of Housing properties? (please provide information in the following table format)

NSW Suburb tenant lives	Number of overseas properties	Country of properties	Length of time tenant has been housed in Department property

- (3) (a) During the year 2000, how many tenants applied for leave to travel overseas?
 (b) During the year 2000, how many tenants applied for leave to travel interstate?

Answer:

- (1) (a) Applicants are ineligible for public housing if they own a property in which they can live.
 (b) Not applicable.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a) There are no aggregate records kept of tenants who applied for leave to travel overseas.
 (b) There are no aggregate records kept of tenants who applied for leave to travel interstate.

(Relevant area in the budget papers: Budget Paper No 3 Vol 2 p20-10)

70. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) In relation to the Department of Housing's property at 6/63 Ball Street Colyton, was Ms Fouady Markaboui signed on as the sole tenant?
- (2) On what date did Ms Fouady Markaboui become the tenant?
- (3) On what date did Ms Fouady Markaboui have her tenancy terminated?
- (4) (a) Does Ms Fouady Markaboui still reside at 6/63 Ball Street Colyton?
 (b) If not, why not?
- (5) What capital works were carried out on 6/63 Ball Street Colyton to make it accessible for Ms Fouady Markaboui's disability?
- (6) Did Ms Fouady Markaboui's tenancy agreement require her authorisation or consent to cancel her tenancy?

Answer:

- (1) The provisions on the Privacy Act do not, at least on first consideration, readily permit a reply.
- (2) Refer to (1) (a).
- (3) Refer to (1) (a).
- (4) (a) Refer to (1) (a).

(b) Refer to (1) (a).

(5) Refer to (1) (a).

(6) Refer to (1) (a).

71. Mr Harwin asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

(1) What was the value of the damage (including vandalism and fire damage) to public housing in 1999/2000 by region?

(2) What will be the cost in 2000/01 by region?

(3) How much of this was recovered by tenants?

(4) How many of the homes were vacant at the time of damage by region?

(5) What proportion of total damage in 1999/00 and 2000/01 was caused by:

(a) tenants; and

(b) other parties?

(6) What is the nature of this damage?

Answer:

(1) Refer to Annual Report.

(2) In 2000-01 \$214.1m was allocated to capital improvement for public, community and aboriginal housing. In addition to this \$118m was allocated to public housing for urgent and responsive maintenance.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) It is not always apparent when damage occurs whether it is done by the tenants, their guests or a third party.

(6) The nature of the damage varies.

72. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to p94, State Acquisition Program, Aboriginal Housing Office]

Can the Minister elaborate on the “Additional Housing” to be obtained for use by the Aboriginal Housing Office? (p94)

Answer:

A total of 43 houses will be acquired under the Aboriginal Housing Office Program, which provides rental housing for Aboriginal people owned by the Aboriginal Housing Office.

73. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to p20-8, Payments to Other Government Bodies Under the Control of the Minister]

The Budget Papers specify that \$59.1 million was obtained “from the sale of inappropriate public, community and Aboriginal Housing stock”. This is around 20% of the total State contribution.

- (1) How many individual properties were sold?
- (2) How many individuals and households are likely to be turned out of the sold housing stock?
- (3) Are a corresponding number of new dwellings being bought or built?
- (4) What will the \$59.1 million be used for specifically?
- (5) Did the sales take place in wealthy suburbs such as the Northern and Eastern suburbs where land values are high?
- (6) Would you agree that any sale of existing housing stock in wealthy suburbs will further increase the lengthy waiting period of up to 10 years in these suburbs?

Answer:

- (1) Refer to Table 8, NSW Budget Commentary on the Housing Assistance Plan.
- (2) The Department of Housing rehouses any existing tenant from properties earmarked for sale.
- (3) Please refer to State Budget papers.
- (4) The funds are used to buy or build new social housing and augment CSHA funds. Funds from asset sales of public housing are re-invested to contribute to the Supply and Asset Management Programs to meet priority needs and achieve value for money.
- (5) Sales occur across the State.
- (6) The Department provides information to clients on locations where their housing need can be met more quickly. All money from sales is reinvested in the housing stock to buy, build or lease new properties.

74. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to p20-43, Housing Policy and Assistance]

- (1) Looking at the issue of capital funding for the provision of new social housing stock, can the Minister outline any budget cuts or increases for the provision of new public housing, community housing and Aboriginal housing?
- (2) If there are any cuts, given the 100,000 on the waiting list, can the Minister explain why?

Answer:

- (1) There are no budget cuts. Budget measures are specified in the State Budget papers.
- (2) Not applicable.

75. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to p23, Social Justice Budget Statement]

Between July 1999 and June 2000, the Sydney City Council's Homeless Person's Information Centre - the largest central homeless person's referral service in New South Wales - received 25,023 calls from 35,362 persons seeking information and/or assistance for homelessness. According to the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program - SAAP - National Data Collection, for 1998-1999, over 35,000 people excluding children were turned away from services. The Social Justice Budget Statement specifies that an additional \$17.9 million will be provided under the Crisis Accommodation Program for homeless people and people in crisis.

- (1) Given that a large and growing number of people sleep in the streets every night in Sydney, how much of this money is specifically earmarked for homeless people?
- (2) How does the Government intend to deal with the continuing and growing problem of homelessness?

Answer:

- (1) All of it.
- (2) The Government has developed a coordinated strategy for preventing homelessness, responding quickly to those in immediate crisis and assisting the homeless to secure, long term accommodation. The heart of this response is a strong social housing system which includes public, community and Aboriginal housing as well as programs specifically for people who are homeless or in housing crisis. This housing assistance can be linked to support services when needed to help resolve some of the underlying problems that often contribute to homelessness or housing crisis such as family breakdown, domestic violence, unemployment and mental illness.

The Government is responding to the need for coordinated responses to homelessness through the Partnership Against Homelessness which brings together Government agencies responsible for funding or administering services for homeless people. The Partnership is overseeing a rolling program of service improvements and initiatives to improve the effectiveness of the Government's programs.

Following the Olympics, I established an Advisory Committee chaired by Ms Diane Beamer MP, Member for Mulgoa, to review the operation of Temporary Accommodation during the Olympics. The Committee made many valuable suggestions by improving services to homeless people which are presently being implemented by the Department of Housing.

76. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to p20-43, Housing Policy and Assistance, "Public Housing Asset Management"]

- (1) Does Public Housing Asset Management include both purchase of new stock and the maintenance of existing stock?
- (2) If the Public Housing Asset Management does include maintenance, will the Department of Housing be able to meet its statutory obligations to properly maintain all its housing stock as required under the Residential Tenancies Act?

Answer:

- (1) Yes, however separate funds are allocated to these programs.
- (2) The Department of housing is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Residential Tenancies Act to maintain properties in "a reasonable state of repair". Funds are allocated to do this from tenant rents.

77. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to p20-42, Housing Policy and Assistance]

- (1) Is there a decrease in the total number of properties as opposed to units available for social housing?
- (2) If so, why?

Answer:

- (1) The Department of Housing counts units rather than buildings because each unit usually houses one household while properties can house varying numbers of households and is therefore a less precise term.
- (2) Not applicable.

78. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to 77.1.3 Development Assessment and Local Plan Assessment]

The Budget states that \$7.7 million is spent on providing services to the development industry in New South Wales. Isn't the reality that most of the DUAP \$100 million budget is spent on servicing the development industry.

- (1) Why therefore is the total value of fees for services less than \$2 million?
- (2) Does the Government only believe in user pays for low income people?
- (3) Is the reason why the Government has failed to introduce an equitable system of development fees because it doesn't want to upset developers such as Harry Triguboff who are major ALP donors?

Answer:

The value of fees for service in relation to development applications received by the Department is dependent on the number of development applications lodged in any year and is spent on the assessment of those development applications. Fees are charged equitably in accordance with the Regulation to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

79. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to 77.1.2 Planning Policy development]

- (1) How much will be spent and what actions will be taken during 2001-02 to ensure that the red gum woodlands along the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Edwards River are assessed as part of a regional assessment to ensure that the red gum woodlands are managed ecologically sustainably and a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system is established in the region?
- (2)
 - (a) Did DUAP amend the Draft SEPP in relation to outdoor advertising in response to business concerns?
 - (b) If so, why?

Answer:

- (1) In 2001-2002, the Western Region Assessment program is focussed on the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion. The proposal for a regional assessment of River Red Gums in the South West Slopes is under consideration.

I am advised that preliminary planning of this process has begun. It is not possible to provide any cost details until this initial work is complete.

- (2) (a) Yes.
- (b) In recognition that advertising has legitimate role in society and to ensure that the SEPP is workable.

80. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to 77.1.2 Planning Policy development]

- (1) What is the Government's policy in relation to the nationally significant Aboriginal burial ground at Sandon Point?
- (2) When will the Government act to ensure that the cultural and environmental significance of the area is recognised and permanently protected?

Answer:

This matter is currently before the Land and Environment Court. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Minister to make any comment that could be construed as pre-empting or influencing the Court's decisions.

81. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

In a media release dated 26 June 2001, the Premier announced that the Government will introduce a Coastal Protection State Environmental Planning Policy which would give legal force to some key elements of the Coastal Policy.

- (1) Which elements of the coastal policy will be included in the SEPP?
- (2) When will the SEPP be made?
- (3) Pending the gazettal of the SEPP, how will developments which are contrary to the coastal policy be assessed?
- (4) Why isn't the Government enacting legislation to enforce the coastal policy?

Answer:

- (1) This is currently being investigated but may include such things as building height controls, public access to beaches and good design principles.
- (2) It is expected a final draft of the SEPP will be made by October 2001.
- (3) I have already stated that I will call in any developments which are located in highly sensitive coastal areas, or which are of a type or scale that may put at risk significant coastal values. I recently called in and refused proposal for two single dwelling houses on environmentally sensitive land at Stanwell Park.
- (4) The SEPP will give legal force to key elements of the Coastal Package.

82. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

[In relation to p94, State Acquisition Program, Aboriginal Housing Office]

- (1) Can the Minister elaborate on the “Additional Housing” to be obtained for use by the Aboriginal Housing Office?
- (2)
 - (a) How many people with disability are currently accommodated in Community Housing?
 - (b) What is the level of unmet demand for Community Housing among people with disability?
- (3)
 - (a) What was the total expenditure on modification on Aboriginal Housing to accommodate people with disability in 2000-01?
 - (b) What will it be in 2001-02?
- (4)
 - (a) What was the total expenditure on construction of accessible Aboriginal Housing for people with disability in 2000-01?
 - (b) What will it be in 2001-02?
- (5)
 - (a) What other initiatives were pursued in 2000-01 to improve access to Aboriginal Housing for people with disability?
 - (b) What initiatives are proposed in 2001-02?
- (6)
 - (a) How many people with disability are currently accommodated in Aboriginal Housing?
 - (b) What is the level of unmet demand for Aboriginal Housing among people with disability?
- (7)
 - (a) What measures are in place to improve participation levels by tenants with disability in Public Housing Tenant Participation Programs?
 - (b) What funds are available for this purpose?
- (8)
 - (a) What is the estimated rate of homelessness among people with disability, including people with psychiatric disability and acquired brain injury?
 - (b) What measures are in place to address homelessness among people with disability?
 - (c) How much was spent on these measures in 2001-02?
 - (d) How much will be spent on such measures in 2001-02?

Answer:

- (1) Refer to response to Question 72.
- (2)
 - (a) As the Office of Community Housing funds a range of community housing organisations, many of which are independently incorporated bodies, the Office of Community Housing does not readily have this information available. Significant resources would be required to survey the community organisations, cooperatives and other organisations to provide this information.
 - (b) This information is not readily available and would take significant additional time and resources to collect. It is not incumbent upon a person with a disability to disclose this information.
- (3)
 - (a) This information is not readily available and would take significant additional time and resources to collect.
 - (b) Sufficient funds will be allocated to meet the needs for modification of Aboriginal Housing Office housing for people with a disability in 2001/2002.
- (4)
 - (a) The NSW Standards for Building and Buying Aboriginal Housing require a proportion of dwellings constructed in each Aboriginal community to be in accord with the Australian Standard Class C AS

4299, which allows for adaptations to housing if needed. All houses constructed are to allow easy access for people with a disability.

- (b) Refer to response to Question 82 (4) (a).
- (5) (a) The Aboriginal Housing Office developed a comprehensive Disability Action Plan in 2000/01 which outlines a range of initiatives for Aboriginal people with a disability.
(b) Continued implementation of the Disability Action Plan.
- (6) (a) Not all people with a disability accommodated in Aboriginal Housing choose to declare a disability.
(b) It is not possible to give an accurate figure. Refer to (6) (a).
- (7) (a) Following an evaluation of the former Tenant and Community Initiatives Program, a number of new initiatives were announced to promote tenant participation in all social housing sectors. Included in these measures were a number of steps to increase participation by groups with special needs, such as tenants with a disability. Funds have been allocated for one or more Special Needs Projects to assist particular groups of tenants to participate more fully. Funds have also been allocated for the first time to Public Tenant Councils and similar organisations to help them better represent all of the public housing tenants in their areas. These activities will be developed in 2001-02.
(b) All of the funds available for improved tenant participation are expected to contribute to assisting participation by tenants with a disability.
- (8) (a) It is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of the rate of homelessness among people with a disability. The 1998/99 Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Data Collection indicates that approximately 6.5% of NSW SAAP clients required disability related support services.
(b) The Government has developed a coordinated strategy for preventing homelessness, responding quickly to those in immediate crisis and assisting the homeless to secure, long term accommodation. The heart of this response is a strong social housing system which includes public, community and Aboriginal housing as well as programs specifically for people who are homeless or in housing crisis. This housing assistance can be linked to support services when needed to help resolve some of the underlying problems that often contribute to homelessness or housing crisis such as family breakdown, domestic violence, unemployment and mental illness.

The Government is responding to the need for coordinated responses to homelessness through the Partnership Against Homelessness which brings together Government agencies responsible for funding or administering services for homeless people. The Partnership is overseeing a rolling program of service improvements and initiatives to improve the effectiveness of the Government's programs. Assisting people with a disability who are homeless is a key part of this response.

(c) All of the funding available for assisting homeless people in 2000/01 was expected to contribute to assisting that group of homeless people with a disability.
(d) All of the funding available for assisting homeless people in 2001/02 is expected to contribute to assisting that group of homeless people with a disability. Homeless people with a disability have access to all of the initiatives targeted to homeless people.

83. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) How many assessments of development proposals are carried out by the Department statewide?
- (2) How many result in the advice that an EIS is required?

- (3) What responsibility does the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning when giving advice to local government or community organisations in relation to the need for an EIS or determination of Designated Development?

Answer:

- (1) During the past financial year, the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning issued an estimated 213 requirements for the preparation of EIS, under both Part 4 and Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, being for both local and State significant development and infrastructure projects. The Department undertook approximately 26 assessment reports for State significant and infrastructure development projects where the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning is the consent or approving authority.
- (2) See answer to Question (1).
- (3) The Department's advice is based on the statutory provisions in the EPA Act and Regulations. For Part 4 development, schedule 3 of the Regulations specifies the range and circumstances of development where an EIS is required. For Part 5 the requirement for an EIS is based on a test of environmental significance by the proponent agency. The Department has published Guidelines - 'Is an EIS Required' to guide the decision making process in that regard.

84. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Urban Affairs, Planning, Aboriginal Affairs and Housing, the Hon Dr Andrew Refshauge, MP—

- (1) What funds are available for the development and implementation of programs for Aboriginal Community Development?
- (2) What funds are available to assist Aboriginal people in protecting areas of cultural heritage and what opportunities are being funded for Aboriginal people to obtain employment in cultural development?
- (3) Can you report on the success of the projections for last year in relation to the provision of Aboriginal housing and what are the figures for next year?

Answer:

- (1) Funds are available from the Aboriginal Housing Office for Community and Organisational Development. This program area provides funding for such things as the development of Community Environmental Health Plans, Business Plans, Asset Management Plans and Needs Analysis.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Aboriginal Housing Office projected that 130 houses would be commenced under the Aboriginal Housing program in 2000/01. This target was exceeded, with 140 units commenced within the allocated budget.

Please refer to Budget papers for figures for 2001/02.
