

*'Monday 24 June 2002'*

*(General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2)*

**Portfolio**

*'Mineral Resources and Fisheries'*

**QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING HEARING**

*'Mineral Resources Portfolio'*

1. **Mr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 9)*

What are the specific numbers of staff in the environmental group involved in overseeing compliance with mining development conditions?

**Answer:**

**19.**

2. **Mr Gay asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 13)*

Are you able to provide details where those projects remediating derelict mines are and what has been done to have those payments withheld?

**Answer:**

*Due to external facts such as bushfires rehabilitation works was delayed at the Yerranderie mining field, Woodsreef mine, CSA excised areas and the Conrad mine.*

*The Department of Mineral Resources has continued fund rehabilitation at these mines.*

*'Fisheries Portfolio'*

3. **Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 17)*

- (1) How many staff would be allocated to the water reform issue?
- (2) How many staff would be allocated to aquaculture, now and estimated?

**Answers:**

- (1) *A large number of staff within NSW Fisheries spend at least part of their time on water reform issues. However, 8.5 staff are focused on water reform in particular.*

(2) 53.

4. **Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 18)*

Can you advise how much the operations of FRACAC have cost in terms of administering it so far?

**Answer:**

**Refer to question 43 (3).**

5. **Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 19)*

Could the Minister please describe what computer systems are being put in place with the current ongoing program and particularly the \$0.6 million that has been allocated for next year?

**Answers:**

**The budget allocation for computer systems provides for the replacement of IT equipment, e.g. computers, modems, file servers, hubs and switches. It also provides for the upgrading of the Local and Wide Area Networks.**

6. **Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 22)*

How much has been spent on creating recreational fishing areas since the issues paper was released for comment?

**Answer:**

***\$18 million was committed to the buy back of commercial fishing businesses to create recreational fishing havens in the 2001/2002 financial year.***

7. **Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 22)*

How much has been spent on the creation of aquatic reserves since the consultation paper was released for comment?

**Answer:**

***Aquatic reserves are a small component of our overall marine protected areas program. There is no cost centre in NSW Fisheries specific to aquatic reserves.***

8. **Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 22)*

How much has been spent on the grey nurse shark recovery program, including research?

**Answer:**

*The Government has committed \$1 million in recurrent funding for the threatened species program. The grey nurse shark initiative is a component of the overall threatened species program. There is no cost centre in NSW Fisheries specific to the grey nurse shark initiative.*

9. **Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 22)*

What is your funding commitment for the grey nurse shark recovery program this year?

**Answer:**

**The Government has committed \$1 million in recurrent funding for the threatened species program. The grey nurse shark initiative is a component of the overall threatened species program. There is no cost centre in NSW Fisheries specific to the grey nurse shark initiative.**

10. **Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 22)*

Can you give a breakdown of how many compliance officers are funded from both the general recreational fishing licence fee and from consolidated revenue?

**Answer:**

**Recreational fishing licence fee: 15**

**Other: 86**

11. **Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 23)*

Can you advise how many Fishcare volunteers are now on the coast and how many relate to the inland waters as of recent times?

**Answer:**

**As at 1 July 2002:**

**Inland: 68**

**Coastal: 140**

**12. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 25)*

- (1) Could you advise the Committee of the type and number of projects so far that have been put in place ensuring that in light of the Department's indigenous fishing strategy working paper, Aboriginal groups receive appropriate levels of involvement, training and support in relation to such aquaculture projects?
- (2) How many are under way?

**Answer:**

***(1) and (2) The working paper was not a policy document – it was a working paper. However, a draft Indigenous Fisheries Strategy was released for community consultation on 3 July 2002. The NSW Government has allocated \$1.6 million to implement the Strategy in its first two years.***

**13. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*(Relevant area in Hansard: page 25)*

How many people in the employ of the Department identify as being of Aboriginal descent?

**Answer:**

***Staff at NSW Fisheries are not required to disclose their Aboriginality.***

#### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

**14. Mr Gay asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

- (1)
  - (a) Does your Ministerial Office receive media monitoring services?
  - (b) If so, what was the annual cost in 2001-02?
  - (c) If the media monitoring services are sourced from other cost centres, which budgets are they allocated to and what is the annual cost?
  - (d) How many different suppliers do you have contracts with, either directly, or indirectly through media monitoring services sourced from other cost centres?
  - (e) Please list all suppliers.
- (2)
  - (a) Does any agency in your portfolio receive media monitoring services?
  - (b) If so, what was the annual cost in 2001-02, by agency?
  - (c) If the media monitoring services are sourced from other cost centres, which budgets are they allocated to and what is the annual cost?
  - (d) How many different suppliers do agencies in your portfolio have contracts with, either directly, or indirectly through media monitoring services sourced from other cost centres?
  - (e) Please list all suppliers.

- (3) (a) In 2001-02, how much was spent on your Ministerial Office? Please provide a breakdown by expense.
- (b) What is the forecast amount to be spent in 2002-03 and what is the forecast number of staff?
- (4) (a) What is the total cost of your overseas trips in 2001-02?
- (b) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?
- (c) For each trip, please provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.
- (5) (a) What is the estimate of money to be spent on your overseas trips in 2002-03?
- (b) Can you please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?
- (c) For each trip, 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 2001-02?
- (b) Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost and for each trip a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials.
- (7) (a) What is the estimate of money to be spent on your interstate trips in 2002-03?
- (b) Can you provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?
- (c) For each trip, can you provide a breakdown in airfare costs, hotel costs, car hire, and accompanying staff and officials?
- (8) (a) How many staff were employed as at 30 May 1999, 30 May 2000, 30 May 2001 in your Ministerial Office?
- (b) What was the annual salary cost of those staff in each of those years?
- (9) (a) Does your office contract consultants?
- (b) If so, what consultancies have been commissioned in 2001/2002, and at what cost?
- (c) What consultancy services will be commissioned from July 1 2002 - March 2003 and at what estimated cost?
- (10) (a) Were any legal costs incurred by your office in 2001-02.
- (b) If so, what was the cost and nature of each instance of legal advice?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) **Yes.**
- (b) **All costs incurred were appropriate to the needs identified.**
- (c) **All expenditure is from the appropriate cost centres.**
- (d) **Please refer to answer for (c)**
- (e) **Please refer to answer for (c)**
- (2) (a) **Any decision to access media monitoring is determined by the agencies concerned and the need for monitoring of issues.**
- (b) **All costs were in accordance with identified needs.**

(c) *All expenditure is from the appropriate cost centres.*

(d) and (e) *The appropriate cost centres are utilised.*

- (3) (a) *The Government has released the costs of Ministerial expenditure to the Opposition under an FOI application.*
- (b) *It is too early in the financial year to predict expenditure. Staff numbers will approximate those released under the FOI application.*
- (4) *Official travel is undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.*  
*Costs incurred during official overseas travel were in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.*
- (5) *This will depend on the nature and scope of any travel undertaken in 2002-03.*  
*Costs incurred during official overseas travel will be in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.*
- (6) *Official travel was undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines and in a cost effective manner.*
- (7) *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 2002-03.*
- (8) *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.*  
*All costs were in accordance with the expenditure necessary to facilitate the effective functioning of the office and within allocations to Ministerial Offices.*
- (9) *Expenditure on consultancies is reported in Annual Reports. All expenditure is in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.*  
*It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on consultants in 2002-03.*
- (10) *All legal costs were incurred after an assessment of the need to obtain external legal assistance. Legal professional privilege will be maintained in relation to advice and costs.*

**15. Mr Gay asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (1) (a) What was the total cost of public relations activities?  
(b) What is the forecast cost for 2002-03?
- (2) How much was spent on public opinion surveys?
- (3) (a) How much money was spent on advertising? *Please provide a list of each campaign and cost.*  
(b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on advertising in 2002-03? *Please provide a list of each campaign and cost.*
- (4) (a) How much was spent on consultants? *Please provide a list of each agency and cost.*  
(b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on consultants in 2002-03? *Please provide a list of each agency and cost.*
- (5) How much was spent on legal expenses?

**Answers:**

- (1) *Public authorities conduct a range of extension activities aimed at communicating to the public a range of regulatory, advisory, research and general information.*

*The question posed is too broad to identify an actual cost.*

- (2) *The Premier issued Memorandum 2000-28 which specifically directed government agencies not to use surveys of government clients or NSW citizens to elicit questions on political issues.*

- (3) *Details of total government advertising were published in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper on Monday 29 July 2002 in an article by Paola Totaro, State Political Editor.*

*All requests relating to advertising must be approved by a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Government Advertising.*

- (4) *The cost of consultants is reflected in the annual report.*

*Expenditure depends on the need for consultancy services throughout the year.*

- (5) *Expenditure on legal expenses followed appropriate review of the circumstances, the need for such expenditure and within appropriate guidelines.*

*In the case of core work for public sector agencies the Crown Solicitor meets these costs.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (6) (a) How much was spent on overseas trips in 2001-02 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost.*
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on overseas trips in 2002-03 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost.*
- (7) (a) How much was spent on inter-state trips in 2001-02 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?*
- (b) What is the estimate of money to be spent on interstate trips in 2002-03 by officials? *Please provide a list of each trip, purpose and cost?*

**Answers:**

- (6) *Details regarding all official overseas travel is included in the annual report and is in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.*

*Expenditure depends on the particular issues requiring overseas travel.*

- (7) *Interstate travel by portfolio agencies was undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines.*

*Expenditure depends on the particular issues requiring travel.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (8) (a) How much was spent on office fitouts and refurbishments?
- (b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?
- (9) (a) How much was spent on the cost of leases in the Sydney CBD?
- (b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?
- (10) (a) Was there any vacant or under-utilised office space?

- (b) What is the cost of such unused office space?

**Answers:**

- (8) *All office accommodation fit-outs and refurbishments were undertaken in accordance with OH&S requirements and appropriate guidelines.*

*It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on accommodation and fit-outs in 2002-03.*

- (9) *The Government Asset Management Committee (GAMC) monitors the leasing of the majority of government office space. Costs are kept to a minimum by virtue of the whole of government approach taken to leasing.*
- (10) *The Government Asset Management Committee (GAMC) oversees the leasing of the majority of government office space. It monitors lease negotiations to maximise occupancy and avoid vacancies.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (11) (a) How much money was spent on performance pay for public servants in:
- (i) 2000-01?
- (ii) 2001-02?
- (b) Did you personally approve these bonus payments?
- (12) (a) How much was spent on the salary packages for the Senior Executive Service?
- (b) What is the estimated cost for 2002-03?

**Answers:**

- (11) *On 28 August 2001 Premier's Memorandum 2000-21 was issued indicating that performance pay was not to be made available to members of the Chief and Senior Executive Services.*

*Approvals for performance payments prior to 28 August 2001 as well as all other remuneration to members of the Senior Executive Service were made by the respective Chief Executive Officers*

- (12) *Upon election, the Government inherited a Chief and Senior Executive Service of 1,434 positions. The Government reduced the number of Senior Executive Service positions in accordance with a commitment to do so. As at April 2002 there were 1,003. This is a reduction of 431.*

*Remuneration for the Senior Executive Service (SES) is determined by the Independent Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal (SOORT). It is not possible to predict so early in the financial year the likely expenditure on SES remuneration. However, expenditure will be in accordance with any determinations by SOORT.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (13) (a) Have any Departments or agencies been fined by a court or statutory or regulatory authority between July 1 2001 and June 30, 2002?
- (b) If so, detail each fine and amount, and the reason for each fine?
- (14) How many times were matters referred for independent investigation to ICAC? *Please provide a breakdown of these referrals?*



**Answers:**

- (13) *Any penalties imposed by a court or statutory authority are on the record of that court or statutory authority.*
- (14) *Section 11 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 requires the principal officer of an agency to report any matter the officer suspects on reasonable grounds concerns or may concern corruption.*

*Disclosure of information may identify issues under investigation and therefore impede these investigations.*

For each of your portfolio agencies in 2001-02:

- (15) (a) What fees were increased, and by how much?
- (b) What fees are expected to be increased in 2002-03?

**Answer:**

- (15) *As was the case in the former Greiner/Fahey Government's any increases in fees are measured and take into account the specific fee, movements in the CPI and other related factors.*

**16. Mr Gay asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

- (1) (a) In 2001-02, how many board appointments were made you, or by your portfolio agencies?
- (b) Of these appointments:
- (i) How many were women?
- (ii) How many were of people from a non-English speaking background?
- (iii) How many were of people with a disability?
- (iv) How many were Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders?
- (v) How many were young people?

**Answers:**

- (1) (a) *The Government made a total of 1754 appointments to boards and committees in 2001/02.*
- (b) (i) *Approximately 694 were female.*
- (ii) *Due to the self-identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for people from a non-English speaking background.*
- (iii) *Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for people with a disability.*
- (iv) *Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders.*
- (v) *Due to the self identifying nature of the nomination form no reliable figures are available for young people.*

*'Fisheries Portfolio'***17. Dr Chesterfield-Evans asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

- (1) How much has been spent on the creation of Aquatic Reserves since the Aquatic Reserves Consultation paper was released for comment in early 2001?
- (2) What is the figure that has been spent (or total cost) in the development of the Grey Nurse Shark Recovery Plan (including preliminary research)?

**Answers:**

- (1) *Refer to question 7.*
- (2) *Refer to questions 8 and 9.*

**18. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—***In relation to the 'Saltwater interception scheme'*

- (1) Please provide a list of projects in the Government's interception salt water scheme.
- (2)
  - (a) How much money has already been allocated to the saline aquaculture plant at Wakool?
  - (b) How much money remains to be allocated to the above project?
  - (c) Over what period is it to be allocated?

**Answers:**

*(1) and (2) The NSW Government has provided more than \$1 million towards this two year project.*

*Wakool is an aquaculture research facility in far western NSW that is undertaking a project on the growth of black tiger prawns, snapper, silver perch and mullocky, using ponds built in part of Murray Irrigation Ltd's saltwater interception and evaporation scheme.*

**19. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—***In relation to the 'Fisheries officers'*

Please provide details of the numbers of Fisheries officers and inspectors employed by NSW Fisheries by location:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| - Cronulla Fisheries Centre       | - <b>Southern Regional Office</b>          |
| - Wollstonecraft Fisheries Centre | - Batemans Bay                             |
| - Port Stephens                   | - Illawarra District ((Lake Illawarra)     |
| - Crows Nest Fisheries Centre     | - Hawkesbury District (Brooklyn)           |
| - Grafton Fisheries Centre        | - Merimbula – Fisheries Investigation Unit |
| - Dutton Trout Hatchery           | - Far South Coast District (Eden)          |
| - Narrandera Fisheries Centre     | - Montague District (Narooma)              |
| - Gaden Trout Hatchery            | - Shoalhaven District (Nowra)              |

- **Northern Regional Office**
- Richmond District (Ballina)
- Newcastle
- Coffs Harbour
- Hunter District (Swansea Heads)
- Aquatic Animal Health (c/- NSW Agriculture)
- 16 Jindalee Road, Port Macquarie
- Nambucca Heads
- Manning District (Taree)
- Tea Gardens
- Tweed Heads
- The Entrance
- Clarence District (Macleay)
- Wallis Lake District (Tuncurry)
- Northern Regional Fisheries Investigation Unit
- Sydney North District (Wollstonecraft)
- Sydney South District (Sans Souci)
- **Western Regional Office**
- Hume District (Albury)
- Monaro District (Cooma)
- Central Tableland District (Bathurst)
- Riverina District (Deniliquin)
- Far West District (Broken Hill)
- New England District (Inverell)
- Lower Murray District (Buronga)
- Jindabyne (sub agency of Monaro)
- Peel District (Tamworth)
- Macquarie District (Wellington)
- Tumut (subdistrict of Yass)
- Yass

**Answer:**

*There are 101 fisheries officers in NSW, 23 area located in inland NSW and 78 area located on the coast.*

**20. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Trust Fund expenditure'*

re: S.238A – General provisions relating to consultation on expenditure from trust funds

- (1) Please provide the draft expenditure budgets provided to advisory councils with respect to proposed expenditure from each of the trust funds (in accordance with S. 238A Fisheries Management Act).
- (2) Please provide the finalised expenditure budgets with respect to each of the trust funds and a copy of the reasons the Minister rejected any Advisory Council recommendations (with reference to S. 238A (b) and (c)).
- (3) Please provide a list of all projects funded and the amounts allocated to each project from:
  - (a) the Recreational Saltwater Trust Funds,
  - (b) the Recreational Freshwater Trust Funds, and
  - (c) the location of each of the above projects funded by the Trusts.

**Answers:**

- (1) *Expenditure from the trust fund has been annually detailed in the NSW Fisheries Annual Report since the funds were established.*

- (2) *See answer 1 in relation to expenditure. I have never rejected any Advisory Council recommendation pursuant to s. 238A (c).*
- (3) *I refer you to the annual reports of NSW Fisheries for 2000/01; 1999/2000; 1998/99. I also refer you to my answers in the Legislative Council on 11 April, 20 March and 12 March this year, and 20 September 2001.*

**21. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Prosecutions and infringements'*

- (1) Please provide the numbers of:
- (a) written cautions, and
  - (b) infringement notices issued during 2001-2002.
- (2) How many Fisheries officers are:
- (a) fully funded from the General Recreational Fishing Licence fee trusts Funds, and
  - (b) partly funded from the General Recreational Fishing Licence Fee Trust Funds.

**Answers:**

- (1) *Full year figures are not yet available.*
- (2) *Refer to question 10.*

**22. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'General Recreational Fishing Licence Fee'*

- (1) How much revenue received from the general recreational fishing licence fee in the first year following its introduction (23 March 2001 – 23 March 2002)?
- (2) Please provide a breakdown by the type of licence sold:
- (a) 3 year,
  - (b) 1 year,
  - (c) 1 month, and
  - (d) 3 days.
- (3) How many licences were purchased from gold licence agents?
- (4) How much revenue has been received from the recreational fishing fee from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002?
- (5) Please provide a breakdown by the type of licence sold:
- (a) 3 year,
  - (b) 1 year,
  - (c) 1 month, and
  - (d) 3 days.

**Answers:**

- (1) *The amount of money collected from the recreational fishing fee from 1 March 2001 to 28 February 2002 is \$9,198,537. This figure excludes agents commission and fees, and outstanding monies.*
- (2) (a) 35,483.  
 (b) 242,389.  
 (c) 70,340.  
 (d) 141,382.
- (3) 272,007 (from 1 March 2001 to 28 February 2002).
- (4) and (5) *Final revenue figures for this period are not yet available.*

**23. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Imports'*

Please provide in summary form, an analysis of the types of fish and fish products which make up this State's imports of fish and fish products.

**Answer:**

*This information is best obtained from the Australian Bureau of Resource Economics.*

**24. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Penalty notices'*

What is the reason that the number of penalty notices is projected to increase from 412 in 1997-98 to 900 in 2002-03?

**Answer:**

*More penalty notices are expected to be issued.*

**25. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Solitary Islands Marine Park'*

- (1) What was the average payout to commercial fishermen in the Solitary Islands in 2001-02?
- (2) (a) Has there been a calculation as to how much commercial fishing effort will be taken out of the Marine Park through such buyouts?  
 (b) If so, what is that estimation?

**Answers:**

- (1) *\$117,000.*
- (2) *30 commercial fishing businesses and 183 lobster shares.*

**26. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Aerial surveillance'*

- (1) How much was spent on aerial surveillance of recreational fishers in the past year?
- (2) On what dates did such aerial surveillance occur?
- (3) In which localities did such aerial surveillance occur?

**Answer:**

**(1) to (3) Aerial surveillance is used to direct round-based law enforcement during compliance operations. Aerial surveillance plays an important role in locating and deterring illegal commercial fishing activity. It is not practicable to separately quantify aerial surveillance related to recreational fishing activity.**

**27. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Consultation'*

What was the cost of the community consultation process leading to the designation of Recreational Fishing Areas?

**Answer:**

*Refer to question 6.*

**28. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'NSW Fisheries – Research staff'*

- (1) How many staff are employed in research positions (at 30 June, 2002)?
- (2) How many research staff are located in each of the Fisheries offices listed in question 7 (*In relation to 'Fisheries officers'*)?
- (3) How many research staff are involved in each of the following areas:
  - (a) Aquaculture,
  - (b) Commercial,
  - (c) Recreational,
  - (d) Conservation?
- (4) How many NSW Fisheries officers have been allocated to work associated with the NSW Government's water reforms?
- (5) How many staff were:
  - (a) allocated to projects/work relating to threatened species in 2001-02, and
  - (b) estimated to be allocated to such projects/work in 2002/03?
- (6) What is the current estimation of the number of recreational fishers in NSW?
- (7) When will the National recreational fishing survey be released?

- (8) Please provide details of estimates of actual effort that has been taken out of the commercial fisheries as a result recent buy-outs of commercial fishers following the introduction of:
- (a) Recreational Fishing Areas which came into effect on 1 May 2002, and
  - (b) The Clarence Recreational Fishing Area which comes into effect on 1 September 2002?
- (9) Has NSW Fisheries implemented an Aboriginal Employment Strategy?
- (10) How many NSW Fisheries staff identify as being from Aboriginal descent?
- (11) How many of those who do so identify are employed in each of:
- (a) field and client services,
  - (b) Fisheries management,
  - (c) Research,
  - (d) Policy,
  - (e) Conservation?

**Answers:**

- (1) to (3) 93 staff are engaged in research related activity. 49 in the Fisheries Services Division, 25 in the aquaculture division and 19 in the Office of Conservation.*
- (4) Refer to question 3(a).*
- (5) (a) 8.5 staff in the threatened species unit of NSW Fisheries. However a larger number of staff are included in threatened species projects and work.*
- (b) 9.5 are projected to work in the threatened species unit, but again a larger number are included in threatened species work.*
- (6) 1 million.*
- (7) This question is best directed to the Commonwealth Government.*
- (8) (a) 223 commercial fishing businesses were bought out.*
- (b) The buy-out process is not complete in the Clarence River.*
- (9) Aboriginal employment strategies are part of the Department's EEO Management Plan.*
- (10) and (11) Refer to question 13.*

**29. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to the 'Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust'*

Please list projects to which funds have been allocated from the trust upon the recommendation of Indigenous representative/s on the Trust.

**Answer:**

***Traditional and/or cultural Indigenous fishers do not contribute to the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust. The NSW Government has allocated \$1.6 million from consolidated funds to implement the Indigenous Fisheries Strategy over its first two years.***

**30. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to the 'Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust'*

Please list projects to which funds have been allocated from the trust upon the recommendation of Indigenous representative/s on the Trust.

**Answer:**

***Traditional and/or cultural Indigenous fishers do not contribute to the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust. The NSW Government has allocated \$1.6 million from consolidated funds to implement the Indigenous Fisheries Strategy over its first two years.***

**31. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Indigenous fishing'*

- (1) How many certificates of fee exemption were issued to Indigenous fishers from the commencement of the General Recreational Fishing Licence to:
  - (a) 31 December 2001, and
  - (b) to 30 June 2002?
- (2) Please provide a list of localised cultural awareness programs which include references to fishing in place in NSW which were developed in cooperation with Aboriginal communities.
- (3) Please list any activities of the NSW Fisheries reconciliation network involving Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal fishers.

**Answers:**

- (1) ***Certificates are not issued to individual fishers.***
- (2) and (3) ***These questions are unclear.***

**32. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Indigenous fishing – aquaculture'*

- (1) List each project and the location of each project for which the Government facilitated investment and partnerships "to ensure that Aboriginal groups receive appropriate levels of involvement, training and support" (from NSW Fisheries Indigenous Fishing Strategy working Paper) in 2001-02.
- (2) List also, a short description of the technical support allocated by NSW Fisheries for such projects.

**Answer:**

- (1) and (2) ***The Hon Jennifer Gardiner is quoting from a working paper. The draft Indigenous Fisheries Strategy was released for community consultation on 3 July 2002. The Government has allocated \$1.6 million to implement it over the first two years.***



**33. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Overseas visits'*

- (1) Please provide a list of each overseas visits undertaken by Minister Obeid in 2001-02.
- (2) Please provide a list of those people who undertook travel to Canada in 2001 as part of the NSW Fisheries study of indigenous fisheries or other matters.
- (3)
  - (a) Please provide a copy of the itinerary from the visit.
  - (b) Please provide the cost of this visit.
- (4) Please provide a list of the indigenous people and communities who participated in meetings and inspections as part of this visit to Canada.

**Answers:**

**(1) to (4) Refer to question 14.**

**34. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Oysters'*

- (1) If the harvesting of oyster leases is prohibited by the shellfish classification system being introduced by SafeFood NSW, will NSW Fisheries provide compensation to affected oyster farmers?
- (2) Has provision been made in the State Budget 2002-03 for such contingencies?

**Answer:**

**(1) and (2) Questions regarding SafeFood should be directed to the Hon Richard Amery who is responsible for SafeFood.**

**35. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Aquaculture permits'*

- (1) Please provide the number of aquaculture permits issued for the following financial years:
  - (a) 2000 – 01,
  - (b) 2001 – 02 (or to 31/12/01 if figure to 30 June, 2002 is not yet available).
- (2) How many aquaculture licences are currently active?
- (3) What is the estimated number of aquaculture licences for 2002-03?
- (4) How many prosecutions have there been for failure to pay aquaculture fees in the following years:
  - (a) 2000-01,
  - (b) 2001-02?

**Answers:**

**(1) (a) 75.**

(b) 62.

(2) and (3) NSW Fisheries does not issue aquaculture licences.

(4) (a) Nil.

(b) Nil.

**36. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Aquaculture'*

- (1) Please list the name of each project, its location and the amount allocated from the Aquaculture Strategy for 2001-02.
- (2) Please table a list of research projects completed by NSW Fisheries 1 July, 2001 to 30 May, 2002.

**Answers:**

- (1) *There are many aquaculture projects in NSW. Assuming the Hon Jennifer Gardiner is referring to the North Coast Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy, the Strategy does not involve the provision of money to aquaculture projects. It creates a framework where approvals are streamlined whilst maintaining strict environmental controls.*
- (2) *NSW Fisheries is involved in a variety of research projects that have benefits for the aquaculture industry and details can be seen in the NSW Fisheries Annual Report. Substantial information is also available on the website at [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au)*

**37. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Carp and Yabby permits'*

- (1) How many carp and yabby permits are now active?
- (2) How many permits were issued allowing the retrieval of native fish in the Menindee Lakes to 30 May, 2002?
- (3) How many native fish were 'saved' (estimated) as a consequence of permitting harvesting of fish in the Menindee Lakes?

**Answers:**

- (1) *Businesses operating under carp and yabby licences may have varying levels of production.  
There are 28 carp and/or yabby licences.*
- (2) *Nil.*
- (3) *The reference to 'saved' in this question is unclear.*

**38. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Indigenous Fishing Strategy'*

- (1) Can you explain the reasons for the five year delay in finalising the Indigenous Fishing Strategy?
- (2) Please provide a list of programs due to be commenced in 2002-03.

**Answer:**

**(1) and (2) The draft Indigenous Fisheries Strategy was released on 3 July 2002 after extensive consultation. The Government has allocated \$1.6 million to implement the strategy in its first two years.**

**39. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Gold Licence Agents'*

- (1) Please list the name and address of each 'gold' agency authorised to sell general recreational fishing licences.
- (2) Please list the number, type and value of each incentive eg. prize draws, implemented with a view to encourage fishers to purchase their licences via gold agencies.

**Answer:**

**(1) and (2) Licence agent details are available on the NSW Fisheries website – [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au).**

**40. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to the 'General Recreational Fishing Licence'*

- (1) Provide the total cost of administering the general recreation fishing licence fee for 2001-02 and the estimated cost for 2002-03.
- (2) What was the total amount of commission paid to standard agents in 2002-03?
- (3) List the name and address of each standard agency authorised to sell general recreational fishing licences.

**Answers:**

- (1) **The Government has a commitment that the costs of administering the licence will not take up more than ten per cent of licence revenue.**
- (2) **The total agents commission paid for the current financial year will not be available until next year.**
- (3) **See question 39 (1) and (2).**

**41. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Research grants'*

Please list the name of the project, the source and the \$ amount relating to each research grant obtained to fund or partly fund a NSW Fisheries research project.

**Answer:**

**NSW Fisheries is currently working on more than 50 externally funded research grants. More than \$8.6 million is projected for grant revenue in 02/03. Information on fisheries research projects appears in each NSW Fisheries Annual Report and the fisheries website – [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au)**

**42. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to 'Fishcare volunteers'*

- (1) How many Fishcare volunteers are now appointed for:
  - (a) coastal areas,
  - (b) inland (freshwater) areas?
- (2) What is the estimated number of such appointees in:
  - (a) coastal areas,
  - (b) inland (freshwater) areas for 2002-03?

**Answers:**

*(1) and (2) Refer to question 11.*

**43. Ms Gardiner asked the Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Eddie Obeid, MLC—**

*In relation to the 'Fisheries Resource Conservation and Assessment Council'*

- (1) Please list the dates on which each meeting of the Fisheries Resource Conservation and Assessment Council was held in 2001-02.
- (2) How many NSW Fisheries personnel are allocated to Fisheries Resource Conservation and Assessment Council:
  - (a) partly, and
  - (b) fully,
 to provide administrative support to FRACAC?
- (3) Provide the cost of administering Fisheries Resource Conservation and Assessment Council in 2001-02.

**Answers:**

- (1) *The council held 10 meetings in 2001/02.*
- (2) *NSW Fisheries is represented on the Council by Steve Dunn, Director, NSW Fisheries. The Council is regularly briefed by a range of NSW Fisheries staff working on environmental impact statements, fisheries management strategies and recreational fishing havens. NSW Fisheries provides an Executive Officer to support the work of the Council.*
- (3) *FRCAC costs in 2001/02 were \$201,138.*