

3 September 2003

(General Purpose Standing Committee No.5)

Portfolio

Regional Development, Illawarra, Small Business

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING THE HEARING

- 1. Ms Pavey asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—**

Which of the forty-eight Business Enterprise Centres (BEC's) located across the State have the Department of State and Regional Development officers co-located with the BEC, as is the case in Goulburn BEC? (*Hansard, p5*)

Answer:

Bathurst Business Enterprise Centre and the Goulburn Business Enterprise Centre have DSRD officers co-located with the Centres.

- 2. Ms Pavey asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—**

- (a) How many businesses made inquiries for assistance to the Goulburn office in 2002-03?
- (b) How many businesses received assistance following on from those inquiries? (*Hansard, p6*)

Answer:

- (a) The Department of State and Regional Development estimates that its Goulburn office received nearly 1,600 inquiries from clients in 2002-03.

In addition, over 4,500 enquiries were reported by the Goulburn Business Enterprise Centre.

- (b) Most businesses contacting the Department's Goulburn office receive some form of assistance through advice, referral, provision of information and, where relevant, inclusion in a business program.

- 3. Ms Pavey asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—**

- (a) What was the selection process for the appointment of the Economic Development Coordinator, Mr Gino Mandarino?
- (b) Who was on the selection panel?
- (c) What were the key performance indicators for Mr Mandarino?
- (d) What evaluation accountability procedures were undertaken? (*Hansard, p11*)

Answer:

- (a) The Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce and Industry advertised for the position and convened a selection panel.
- (b) Ms Jennie Briscoe, Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce
Mr Neville Despotovski, Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce

Ms Rosemary Gillespie, Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce

Mr Peter Pederson, Department of State and Regional Development

Ms Donna Porcello, Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce

- (c) The request by the Hon. Melinda Pavey for information on this matter was conveyed to Mr Mandarino's employer, the Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 4 September 2003.
- (d) As per Main Street funding guidelines a performance review of the program was undertaken at the halfway point in 2002. A full audit is required upon the completion of the Program.

4. Ms Pavey asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

What are the annual costs of maintaining the offices and the premises of the Port Kembla Main Street Small Towns Program? (*Hansard, p12*)

Answer:

The Budget provided to the Department of State and Regional Development by the Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 1 December 2000 estimates expenditure on office accommodation of \$4500.

Next February, when the Main Street program for Port Kembla finishes, the Chamber is required to provide an audited financial statement of how the Government's support for the program has been spent.

5. Ms Pavey asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

Please provide the Committee with the telephone bills, the taxi costs, the postage costs, the motor vehicle costs, the electricity costs and catering costs, if any, expended with the work of the Port Kembla Main Street Program? (*Hansard, p12*)

Answer:

Next February, when the Main Street program for Port Kembla finishes, the Chamber is required to provide an audited financial statement of how the Government's support for the program has been spent. I have also conveyed the request by the Hon. Melinda Pavey for information on this matter to the Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 4 September 2003.

6. Ms Pavey asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

- (a) Are there any other staff engaged by the Port Kembla Main Street Program?
- (b) If so, who are they?
- (c) What are their positions and remuneration? (*Hansard, p13*)

Answer:

- (a) Decisions on the employment of staff by the Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce Incorporated are a matter for that corporation.
- (b) Refer to answer (a)
- (c) Refer to answer (a)

7. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

Please provide the Committee with an itemised breakdown of capital works expenditure in the Illawarra for 2003-04? (*Hansard, p14*)

Answer:

I refer the Committee to pages 38-122 of Budget Paper No 4, “State Asset Acquisition Program”.

8. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

- (a) How much funding, per capita does the Illawarra receive?
- (b) How does this funding compare with that of the Hunter region? (*Hansard, p14*)

Answer:

I refer Mr Ian Cohen to the answer I gave in the Estimates Committee hearing.

9. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

- (a) Could you explain the capital works expenditure for rail, which comes to more than \$200 million in the Hunter and less than \$2 million for the Illawarra?
- (b) Is that part of the building of the rail infrastructure in the Hunter that explains that differentiation? (*Hansard, p14*)

Answer:

(a-b) This question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport Services.

10. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

Did the State pay in any way for development application or rezoning fees as part of the development of the SAE College in Byron Bay? (*Hansard, p22*)

Answer:

An establishment grant was provided to offset the initial costs incurred by the SAE College with assistance tied to specific milestones, including approval of the development and employment targets.

11. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

- (a) How many regional groups, other than business groups, for example, the Chambers of Commerce, does your department support?
- (b) If specific targeted funding is provided to the Chambers of Commerce, please provide any information concerning that funding? (*Hansard, p23*)

Answer:

- (a) A detailed list of grants to non-government community organisations appears in each annual report for the Department of State and Regional Development.
- (b) Chambers of Commerce are active participants in the NSW Government's Main Street/Small Towns Program. This program assists regional communities in taking a strategic approach to their future, enabling communities to better utilise their resources to enhance their unique strengths.

12. Ms Pavey asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

Will your Ministry conduct a full audit of the taxpayer funded operations of the Main Street Program, run by Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce and Industry? If so, please provide details (*Hansard, p24*)

Answer:

The Department of State and Regional Development undertakes a formal monitoring process for all projects funded under the Main Street Program.

The Department has advised me that they are satisfied with the way the Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce is running their Main Street Program.

Next February, when the Main Street program for Port Kembla finishes, the Chamber is required to provide an audited financial statement of how the Government's support for the program has been spent.

13. Ms Pavey asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

Please provide the names of the companies that are able and willing to disclose details of their participation in trade missions and market visits, the type of business each company was involved in and the dedications of each of the companies involved in the visit program? (*Hansard, pp25-26*)

Answer:

As foreshadowed at the Estimates hearing on 3 September 2003, I have sent samples of printed material, prepared for trade missions and market visits, with company details to the Chair of the Committee, Mr Ian Cohen.

14. Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Illawarra, and Minister for Small Business, the Hon David Campbell MP—

- (a) Has your department made available stand-alone power generation and alternative waste disposal systems?
- (b) Do you consider these areas as quite a significant export earner, particularly in terms of small-scale engineering to South East Asia? (*Hansard, p27*)

Answer:

- (a) The Department has not made available stand-alone power generation and alternative waste disposal systems.
- (b) There is significant opportunity in countries such as the Philippines for technologies to convert waste to energy.