

1 September 2003

(General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1)

Portfolio

Premier, Arts and Citizenship

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING HEARING

1. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

- (a) How much was spent by the Premier's Department on media monitoring from Reham Australia Monitoring Services in 2002-03, as outlined in the Premier's Department Circular 2002/22
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure for 2003-04?
- (c) How much was spent by agencies within the Premier's portfolio on media monitoring from Reham Australia Monitoring Services in 2002-03, as outlined in the Premier's Department Circular 2002/22
- (d) What is the estimated expenditure for 2003-04? (Hansard pages 1-2)

ANSWER

Expenditure on media monitoring on services provided by Reham Australia Monitoring Services in 2002/03 was undertaken in accordance with identified needs and priorities. All expenditure in 2003/03 was in accordance with those needs and priorities.

It is too early in the financial year to adequately predict what increases might occur in 2003/04.

2. Mr Harwin asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

- (a) How much was spent by agencies within the Premier's Department on media monitoring services from companies other than Reham Australia Monitoring Services in 2002-03, as outlined in Premier's Department Circular 2002-03?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure for 2003-04?
- (c) How much was spent by the Premier's Ministerial Office on media monitoring from Reham Australia Monitoring Services in 2002-03, as outlined in the Premier's Department Circular 2002/22
- (d) What is the estimated expenditure for 2003-04?
- (e) How much was spent by the Premier's Ministerial Office on media monitoring services from companies other than Reham Australia Monitoring Services in 2002-03, as outlined in Premier's Department Circular 2002-03? (Hansard page 2)

ANSWER

Expenditure on media monitoring on services provided by companies other than Reham Australia Monitoring Services in 2002/03 was undertaken in accordance with identified needs and priorities. All expenditure in 2002/03 was in accordance with those needs and priorities.

3. **Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—**

Prior to 22 March 2003 did you ever discuss any issue relating to the Menangle bridge with Minister Scully? (Hansard page 3)

ANSWER

This issue is one for the Minister for Transport and I stand by the answer given at the Budget Estimates Committee.

4. **Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—**

The Godfrey Report identifies that 71.8 kilometres of ballast need to be cleaned every year but only 22 kilometres of ballast were budgeted to be cleaned in 2002-03. Did you ever discuss this issue with Minister Scully? (Hansard page 3)

ANSWER

This issue is one for the Minister for Transport and I stand by the answer given of the Budget Estimates Committee.

5. **Mr Harwin asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—**

- (a) Were you aware of a payment of \$110 million to EDI for the Millennium train before it was made?
- (b) Was it discussed in the Cabinet budget subcommittee?
- (c) If not, why would you not have been aware of it? (Hansard page 3)

ANSWER

As the Budget Estimates Committee would be aware the deliberations of Cabinet and Cabinet Sub Committees are always treated as confidential matters to ensure the effective operation of government.

Even the Freedom of Information Act acknowledges that the deliberations of Cabinet are protected from disclosure.

6. **Mr Harwin asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—**

Did you approve the decision not to seek damages from EDI for the late delivery of the Millennium trains? (Hansard page 4)

ANSWER

As the Budget Estimates Committee would be aware the deliberations of Cabinet and Cabinet Sub Committees are always treated as confidential matters to ensure the effective operation of government.

Even the Freedom of Information Act acknowledges that the deliberations of Cabinet are protected from disclosure.

7. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

Did the \$110 million Millennium train project go before the Cabinet budget subcommittee? (Hansard page 4)

ANSWER

As the Budget Estimates Committee would be aware the deliberations of Cabinet and Cabinet Sub Committees are always treated as confidential matters to ensure the effective operation of government.

Even the Freedom of Information Act acknowledges that the deliberations of Cabinet are protected from disclosure.

8. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

- (a) How many senior executives or chief executive officers (CEOs) are on the unattached list at present?
- (b) What is the total value of their salaries per annum?
- (c) What are the salaries of Dr Niland, Ms Sue Holliday and Mr Dick Persson? (Hansard pages 4-5)

ANSWER

At the time of answering this question there is only one unattached Chief Executive Service Officer in the public sector. Mr Richard Persson the former Director General of the former Department of Public Works and Services is an unattached officer of the Chief Executive Service. Mr Persson has been appointed as the Administrator of Warringah Council..

9. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

- (a) In 2002-03 how many media advisors or public relations advisors were employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
- (b) What was the total cost?
- (c) What is the forecast for 2003-04 for the number of media advisers or public relations advisers to be employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
- (e) What is their estimated total cost? (Hansard page 6)

ANSWER

Media staff are employed by the Director General Premier's Department in accordance with the provisions of the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002.

10. Ms Rhiannon asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

How much has been allocated to restore items that have been stolen and gone missing from the Australian Museum and to rectify the overall problem of them being stolen or going missing? (Hansard page 6)

ANSWER

Any expenditure on replacement of items that might have been stolen or gone missing from the Australian Museum will be dependent on the particular item, its potential replacement, insurance cover or related issues.

11. Rev Nile asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

Does the New South Wales Electoral Office see the need for an investigation unit to investigate areas in which the electoral law is not being enforced or carried out by candidates and/or parties? (Hansard page 11)

ANSWER

At this stage the Government would await advice on the need for an investigation unit within the New South Wales Electoral Office to investigate areas in which electoral law is not being carried out by candidates and/or parties. However, it makes much more sense to leave this role to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). The ICAC has powers far in excess of any unit that could be established in the State Electoral Office.

12. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

- (a) How much do you pay Walt Secord?
- (b) How much was paid to Amanda Lampe?
- (c) How much was paid to Graeme Wedderburn? (Hansard page 12)

ANSWER

The salaries for all Ministerial Staff are determined by the Director General of the Premier's Department.

The salaries for Walt Secord, Amanda Lampe and Graeme Wedderburn are determined by the Director General of the Premier's Department in accordance with the provisions of the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002.

13. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

How many times did you charter an aircraft in 2002-03? (Hansard page 14)

ANSWER

Official travel was undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines and in a cost effective manner.

14. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

I refer to the recent Cabinet meeting in Jindabyne.

- (a) Did any of your Ministers travel with you in your jet?
- (b) Was your plane full?
- (c) How many planes were on the airstrip at Cooma airport that day? (Hansard page 15)

ANSWER

Official travel was undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines and in a cost effective manner.

15. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

Please provide details of occasions where a separate plane has been provided for the media. (Hansard page 15)

ANSWER

Official travel was undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidelines and in a cost effective manner.

16. Mr Harwin asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

- (a) For each of your portfolio agencies how much money was spent on advertising in 2002-03?
- (b) Please provide a list of each campaign, the cost of each campaign and which firms were involved.
- (c) Please provide a monthly breakdown of advertising expenditure for each of the agencies in your portfolio.
- (d) Have you approved any advertising not outlined in the six monthly strategy approved by the Cabinet subcommittee on advertising as provided for in Premier's Department memo 2002 no 15? (Hansard pages 15-16)

ANSWER

Premier's Memorandum 2002-14, released 13 September 2002, made changes to the process of advertising tenders, coordinated by the Government Advertising Agency.

Premier's Memorandum 2002-15, released 18 September 2002, advised of a number of changes to advertising policy and procedures relating to recruitment advertising and the role of the Cabinet Sub Committee on Advertising.

Agencies are now required to submit to the Cabinet Sub Committee on Advertising each January and July a campaign advertising plan and budget for the next six months

The Government Advertising Agency is continuing efforts to achieve cost savings in advertising across New South Wales Government agencies and departments.

17. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

- (a) For each of your portfolio agencies, how much was spent on legal expenses in 2002-03?
- (b) Please provide a breakdown of these expenses including who provided the legal services. (Hansard page 16)

ANSWER

Legal expenses are incurred when it is necessary to engage a solicitor or counsel to provide advice or represent the Government in a matter.

In order to protect the interests of the people of New South Wales legal advice or assistance is obtained when this assistance is necessary.

18. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

Please provide the details for Ministers' legal expenses paid for by the Government. (Hansard page 17)

ANSWER

Legal expenses are incurred when it is necessary to engage a solicitor or counsel to provide advice or represent the Government in a matter.

In order to protect the interests of the people of New South Wales legal advice or assistance is obtained when this assistance is necessary.

19. Mr Harwin asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

- (a) For each of your portfolio agencies how much was spent on the salary packages for senior executive service staff members in 2002-03?
- (b) What is the estimated cost of salary packages of senior executive service staff members in each of your portfolio agencies for 2003-04?
- (c) How much was spent on taxi fares, including Cabcharge, in your private or ministerial office in 2002-03?
- (d) What is the estimated cost of taxi fares, including Cabcharge, in your private or ministerial office for 2003-04?
- (e) For each of your portfolio agencies, how much was spent on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in 2002-03?
- (f) What is the estimated cost of taxi fares, including Cabcharge in each of your portfolio agencies for 2003-04? (Hansard page 17)

ANSWER

(a) and (b)

The remuneration arrangements for SES officers at Level 5 SES and above are included in agency Annual Reports.

(c), (d), (e) and (f)

Expenditure on taxi fares, by way of cab charge or reimbursement under petty cash, is always on official business.

The use of taxis may be required to ensure staff can travel to meetings, return home after late or shift work, or other official travel.

Travel by taxi must be related to official business and receipts are audited by internal auditors and the Auditor General.

20. Mr Gay asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

Please provide address details of all premises owned or leased by all agencies under the Premier's administration (Hansard page 19)

ANSWER

The arrangements for accommodation leased by Premier's Department are in accordance with the provisions and guidelines determined by the Government Asset Management Committee.

21. Ms Rhiannon asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

- (a) How much of the \$30.7million allocated to the Redfern, Everleigh, Darlington Strategy has been spent on consultancies?
- (b) What type of consultancies were undertaken? (Hansard page 23)
- (c) How much will be spent on local community engagement? (Hansard page 24)

ANSWER

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

22. Ms Rhiannon asked the Premier, Minister for Arts and Minister for Citizenship, the Hon Bob Carr MP—

- (a) What projects did Brian Elton Consulting undertake during 2002-03?
- (b) What was the total value paid to Brian Elton Consulting during 2002-03? (Hansard page 23)

ANSWER

The costs of consultancies will be reported in the Annual Report for Premier's Department.