



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-2017 Supplementary Questions

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE

Hearing: Friday 2 September 2016

Answers due by: Wednesday 28 September 2016

Budget Estimates Secretariat

Phone 9230 3081

budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Questions from the Hon Mark Pearson MLC

Brumbies

The very first *Key Finding* of the Independent Technical Reference Group Final report into the management of wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park states:

“Independent Technical Reference Group (ITRG) has not been able to reach a conclusion on trends over time in horse numbers or densities in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) because of problems of comparability between successive horse surveys”

In addition, the Independent Technical Reference Group acknowledges, and I quote, *“rigorous scientific conclusions about how numbers and population trends are changing over time, or how they may differ in different parts of the park”* cannot currently be made.

1. How can the government support a plan to slaughter over 6000 wild horses when its own technical advice can't even say that there are 6000 horses to kill?
2. How can such a long term strategic plan to drastically reduce wild horse numbers be justified or necessary, when the truth is no one body, including the Independent Technical Reference Group knows the real numbers of animals exist at any point in time, both past and future?
3. Given the fact that you, as Minister will be authorising the killing of up to 6000 individual animals, are you confident in the methodology and resultant data of the population surveying and that this data would stand up to a rigorous, independent scientific review?
4. Will the Minister authorise an independent scientific study to be conducted into the accuracy and methodology utilised to estimate alleged environmental impacts, taking into account other variables that can impact research outcomes, such as other anthropogenic environmental changes, previous livestock impacts and climate change?
5. Is the Minister confident that the consequences of a rapid and mass eradication of brumbies would not cause more harm than good to the surviving ecosystems and indeed a potential ecological catastrophe?

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Delay in Minister making recommendations

6. What is the average time taken by the Minister to make a decision on recommendations from the Heritage Council?

7. What is the statutory timeframe to make a decision on recommendations from the Heritage Council?
8. How many instances has the Minister met this timeframe?
9. How many claims are currently outstanding?
10. When will the currently outstanding claims be resolved?

Aboriginal artefacts at the light rail site

11. What liaison has the Minister had with the Department of Transport regarding the 20,000 Aboriginal artefacts that were discovered at the South East Light Rail project site, near Alison Road and Doncaster Avenue, Randwick?
12. What steps has the Minister taken to protect these artefacts?

Aboriginal cultural heritage reform

13. What stage is the Aboriginal cultural heritage reform process up to?
14. When will a report be released?
15. What consideration has been given to transferring the responsibility of determining Aboriginal heritage claims from the Office of Environment and Heritage to Local Aboriginal Land Councils?

AHIPS

16. How many Aboriginal heritage impact permits (**AHIPs**) that have been issued in the last financial year?
17. How many Aboriginal heritage impact permits (**AHIPs**) that have been issued since the commencement of *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010*?
18. Has the number of Aboriginal heritage impact permits (**AHIPs**) issued by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage increased or decreased since the Aboriginal heritage amendments to the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* commenced in October 2010?
19. Can the OEHL provide reasons for any increases or decreases?

Investigations and prosecutions

20. How many breaches related to Aboriginal heritage were reported to the OEHL in 2015/16?

21. How many of these were investigated?
22. If suspected harm to Aboriginal heritage was not investigated, why not?
23. What is the OEH's budget for specifically enforcing the laws relating to Aboriginal 'objects' and 'places'?

Forestry

24. How many incidents/reports related to harming Aboriginal heritage has the Office of Environment and Heritage received in the 2015/16 financial year in relation to the forestry sector?
25. What examples of unauthorised destruction of Aboriginal heritage by the forestry industry is the Minister or the Department aware of?
26. How many alleged breaches have OEH, and its predecessor investigated in relation to Forests NSW in 2015 and 2016 in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage?

Windsor Bridge

27. What stage is the Windsor bridge project at?
28. What funding is allocated to this project (given that they re-allocated those funds to the bridge to nowhere overpass Moore Park)?

Heritage Minister

29. Why did the Office of Environment and Heritage not issue a submission on the draft plans for the Sydenham to Bankstown urban renewal corridor when a large number of local and State heritage items, including a former convent in Canterbury purchased by Australian Saint Mary MacKillop, were placed under threat by being included high-rise zones in the plans?
30. Is your Department currently liaising with the Department of Planning and Environment as it prepares revised plans for the corridor on heritage issues?
31. Why has the Office of Environment and Heritage not issue a submission on the draft plans for the Sydenham to Bankstown urban renewal corridor when it has been the potential to harm one of Sydney's remaining two colonies of endangered long-nosed bandicoots? The other colony is in the Premier's electorate at North Head.

32. Is your Department currently liaising with the Department of Planning on bandicoot issues as it prepares revised plans for the corridor?

Aboriginal heritage protected via the State Heritage Register and Aboriginal Places Program

33. What budget is set aside to increase the number of Aboriginal culture and heritage items listed on the State Heritage Register in 2016/17?
- (a) Is this more or less than previous years?
34. How many items listed on the State Heritage Register for their Aboriginal Heritage significance does the OEH expect to be listed in 2016/17?
- (a) Is this more or less than last year?
35. How many staff does the OEH employ to promote the inclusion of Aboriginal heritage items on the State Heritage Register?
- (a) What is the forecast budget for this roles/these roles in the future?

Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System

36. How much money has been allocated in 2016/17 to improve the information contained in AHIMS reports? What specifically is this funding intended to be spent on?
37. What was the actual budget for managing and operating AHIMS in 2015/16?
38. What is the forecast expenditure for operating the AHIMS database in 2016/17?
39. How much revenue did the OEH receive from operating the AHIMS (eg. Conducting searches for external clients) in 2015/16?
40. What is the forecast revenue for operating AHIMS in 2016/17?
41. How much money is allocated in the 2016/17 budget for delivering AHIMS services and related Aboriginal heritage information to Aboriginal communities?

Heritage protection

42. What processes are undertaken to ensure that local councils follow their Conservation Management Plans for heritage listed buildings?
43. Do the provisions of the Burra Charter apply to all heritage work in NSW?

44. What assessment has the Office of Environment and Heritage taken to ensure that the current proposal for the upgrade of the Bondi Pavilion meets the provisions of the Bura Charter?
45. Can the Minister and Office of Environment and Heritage provide details of all formal and informal meetings held with Waverley Council representatives regarding the heritage protection of the Bondi Pavilion?
46. What steps are being taken to preserve the Aboriginal heritage associated with the Bondi Pavilion?

Questions from the Hon Robert Brown MLC
--

Supplementary Pest Control Program

47. What is the total cost of the Supplementary Pest Control Program:
 - (a) For 2016 to date?
 - i. Budgeted for 2016 to 2017?
 - (b) For 2015?
48. What is the number of pest animals killed, by species and by location, by supervised ground-based shooters:
 - (a) In 2016 to date?
 - (b) In 2015?
49. What is the number of pest animals killed, by species and by location, by unsupervised ground-based shooters:
 - (a) In 2016 to date?
 - (b) In 2015?
50. What is the number of pest animals killed, by species and by location, by helicopter shooters:
 - (a) In 2016 to date?
 - (b) In 2015?
51. What is the number of pest animals killed (by species and by location) by way of poisoning (by poison type):
 - (a) In 2016 to date?
 - (b) In 2015?

52. How many ground-based shooters are currently accredited?
- (a) How many supervised ground-based shooters were there in:
 - i. 2016 to date?
 - ii. 2015?
 - (b) How many new individual ground-based shooters were accredited in:
 - i. 2016 to date?
 - ii. 2015?
 - (c) How many unsupervised ground-based shooters were there in:
 - i. 2016 to date?
 - ii. 2015?
 - (d) How many accredited ground-based shooters were there in:
 - i. 2016 to date?
 - ii. 2015?

NSW National Parks Visitors

53. How many annual visitors were there to NSW National Parks in:
- (a) 2016 to date?
 - (b) 2015
54. How many annual visitors were there to individual NSW National Parks, by location, in:
- (a) 2016 to date?
 - (b) 2015

Permits to Destroy Kangaroos

55. What are the requirements that need to be met for an individual to be issued with permits to destroy kangaroos on their land?
56. What are the steps involved with having an application to destroy kangaroos approved?
57. What is the usual turnaround time in processing a permit to destroy kangaroos with respect to:
- (a) Placement of wildlife recording cameras?

- (b) Assessment of evidence from wildlife recording cameras by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service staff?
 - (c) Final approval or rejection of the application, from the date the initial application was submitted?
58. Does the Minister have any plans to reduce or standardise waiting times for applications to destroy kangaroos on an individual's land?
- (a) Are any such plans currently in operation?
 - (b) If so, what are they?
59. Will the Department or the NSW Government compensate landowners for damage to their business, assets, crops or ability to generate an income from their land, due to delays associated with assessing permits to destroy kangaroos on their land?
- (a) If so, how will this be calculated and assessed?
 - (b) If not, why not?
60. Does the Minister have any plans to amend the 'shoot and let lie' policy for destroying kangaroos on an individual's land to enable the use of the fur and meat of shot kangaroos?
- (a) If so, what are they?
 - i. How will this operate and when?
 - (b) If not, why not?
61. How many permits were issued, by region, to destroy kangaroos in:
- (a) 2016 to date?
 - (b) 2015?
62. How many kangaroos were destroyed by permit holders, by region, in:
- (a) 2016 to date?
 - (b) 2015?
63. How many kangaroos were destroyed by permit holders, by region, as part of the 'shoot and let lie' program in:
- (a) 2016 to date?
 - (b) 2015?

Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

Wolli Creek bushland

Regarding the preservation of bushland around Bexley North currently owned by NSW Roads and Maritime Services, located near Wolli Creek Regional Park:

64. Given that the EIS for WestConnex does not mention the need for the lands at Lots 10, 13, 14 and 16 and Part Lots 11 and 12 of DP 1070237, will you request or facilitate the transfer and incorporation of those parts of the land into Wolli Creek Regional Park?

Load-based licensing scheme review

65. Has the Issues Paper for the Environment Protection Authority's current review of the load-based licensing scheme been completed?
- (a) If so, when will it be released for public comment?

Draft Industrial Noise Guideline

66. When will the Minister make the submissions received on the Draft Industrial Noise Guideline available to the public?
67. When will the final Industrial Noise Guideline be published?
68. Why is the Environment Protection Authority proposing to allow an increase of noise impacts of large mining operations near remote and rural communities through the relaxation of the current rules, as proposed in the Draft Industrial Noise Guideline?

Reducing NSW Greenhouse Gas Emissions

69. What is the Government's target for reducing NSW greenhouse gas emissions, in particular carbon dioxide, but also methane, by 2020?
70. What is the Government's target for reducing NSW greenhouse gas emissions, in particular carbon dioxide, but also methane, beyond 2020, in line with the commitment made at the Paris climate talks last December to limit global warming to 2°C or below?
71. Does a framework exist for tracking emissions and progress towards these targets and goals?
72. Where are the emissions reductions coming from and how are they being monitored, recorded and verified?

Paper roads adjoining the Royal National Park at Spring Gully, Bundeena

73. Can the Minister confirm that Sutherland Shire Council has determined that the paper roads are owned by the Estate of Edith Lucy Wolstenholme?
- (a) If so, when did the Minister or his Department first become aware of this?
74. Has the National Parks and Wildlife Service made contact with the Estate or the beneficial owners of the Estate?
- (a) If not, why not?
75. Given that former Minister for the Environment, The Hon. Rob Stokes MP wrote to Sutherland Shire Council in March 2015 stating, “I recognise these issues have been ongoing for some time and share your enthusiasm for a prompt resolution”, can the Minister advise what actions the National Parks and Wildlife Service have taken since March 2015 to resolve this issue, including details of who has liaised with Sutherland Shire Council and when any communications with Council have taken place?
76. Regarding the Minister’s answer to Question 1070, published in the Legislative Council Questions and Answers Paper No. 66 – Tuesday 9 August 2016, that “Incorporation of all paper roads within the boundaries of the park is supported” but that “The paper roads adjacent to the park boundary are subject to the outcomes of ownership determination and the legal rights of the neighbouring landowner”:
- (a) Is it the case that the core issue regarding these paper roads is that all approximately six hectares (3km) of unformed road adjoins the Royal National Park, is under private ownership and outside of the legal boundaries of the Royal National Park?
- (b) Can the Minister confirm that the Mayor of Sutherland Shire Council wrote to former Minister for the Environment, The Hon. Rob Stokes MP on 17 February 2015 advising that Council had resolved “That the unmade sections of paper road which adjoin NPWS owned land being Sussex Street, Bournemouth Street, Brighton Street, Liverpool Street and Grosvenor Street, Bundeena be included with the transfer of 10-40 Sussex Street, Bundeena to NPWS for inclusion in the Royal National Park”?
- (c) Is the Minister aware that the Office of Environment and Heritage wrote to Sutherland Shire Council on 4 April 2016 stating “The area of Royal National Park in the vicinity of Spring Gully includes an unusually rich mosaic of Endangered Ecological Communities listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995”?

- i. What is the Minister's response to this statement?
77. Regarding the reference to "the legal rights of the neighbouring land owner" within the abovementioned answer to Question 1070, can the Minister advise:
 - (a) Which specific neighbouring land owner was the Minister referring to?
 - (b) What correspondence and consultation has the National Parks and Wildlife Service engaged in with the other land owners adjoining the unmade paper roads?
 - (c) Which community groups and organisations has the Minister or the National Parks and Wildlife Service received correspondence or representations from concerning the paper roads or other proposed access routes through the Royal National Park in the Spring Gully area?

Vapour recovery program

78. What compliance actions have been taken by the EPA in respect of the vapour recovery program for petrol stations?
79. How many petrol stations complied with the requirement to install VR1 by 1 January 2015?
80. How many petrol stations did not comply with the requirement to install VR1 by 1 January 2015?
81. How many petrol stations have still not complied to date with the requirement to install VR1 by 1 January 2015?
82. What action has been taken against those that are non-compliant?
83. Have any prosecutions been taken or fines imposed upon non-compliant petrol stations?
84. Is compliance with this VR1 regulation optional?
85. Do non-compliant operators have a commercial competitive advantage over compliant operators?
86. How many of the required petrol stations in the Central Coast, Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong metropolitan areas, supplying more than 12 million litres of petrol a year, were VR2 compliant by 1 January 2014?
 - (a) How many were non-compliant?
 - (b) How many are still non-compliant?
 - (c) Have any prosecutions been taken or fines imposed?

87. Given that the EPA's website says that only 36% of the petrol service stations required to install VR2 by 1 January 2017 have done so:
- (a) What enforcement action will be taken against stations that are non-compliant?
 - (b) Does the Government intend to extend the deadline from 1 January 2017?
 - (c) Do non-compliant operators have a commercial advantage over compliant operators?

Diesel emissions at coal mines

88. Is the Minister aware in detail of the EPA's proposal to reduce particulate emissions from non-road diesel equipment operating at NSW coal mines, such as haul trucks and bulldozers?
89. Is the Minister also aware there have been serious questions raised by industry regarding the way in which the EPA has sought to justify this proposal?
90. Is the Minister aware the EPA's justification for the proposal may overstate the health benefits of the proposal, may understate the costs that would be incurred by industry and by the EPA's own modelling, would have an immeasurable impact on ambient air quality?
91. In this case will the Minister consider reviewing the EPA's justifications for the proposal and ensure it is subject to the same level of scrutiny as we expect of the industry to ensure it is achieving the best possible outcomes?

Native vegetation reporting

92. Why has the release of Government data on native vegetation and clearing been delayed, with figures from 2013-14 being made public only in August 2016?
- (a) When will the data on native vegetation and clearing for 2014-15 and 2015-16 be made public?
93. How does the Government explain the significant amount of 'unexplained' clearing in the 2013-14 native vegetation report?
- (a) What percentage of this 'unexplained' clearing does the Government estimate is due to illegal clearing?
 - (b) How does the Government calculate this estimate? Please provide a detailed breakdown of the data and calculations or modelling used.

94. How does the Government intend to monitor and report on clearing under its proposed new land management and biodiversity conservation laws?
 - (a) What will be the timeframe for the publication of data in reports on the clearing of native vegetation under the proposed new laws?

The Government's proposed changes to land clearing and biodiversity conservation laws

95. What modelling has the Government done to determine the expected rates of land clearing under the proposed new land management regime?
 - (a) What did the modelling show?
96. What modelling has been done on the impact the proposed changes would have on the net level of healthy vegetation in NSW?
97. Has the Government conducted a review of the scientific literature around the effectiveness of biodiversity offsets in improving biodiversity outcomes?
 - (a) If so, what were the findings of this review?
98. How does the Minister intend to ensure biodiversity is enhanced when clearing of a minimum of 100ha and a maximum of 500ha of land can occur without any on-ground assessment via the proposed equity code?
99. Does the Minister accept that clearing under the equity code is broadscale land clearing, and if not what amount of land clearing does the Minister deem must occur before it meets the definition of broadscale?
100. Will the Minister guarantee that there will be no amnesties for illegal clearing conducted under the *Native Vegetation Act*?
101. Given that even proposed Schedule 2 (regulated) land can be cleared under self-assessable codes and is therefore not subject to on-ground assessment, is the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map simply a tool to monitor clearing rates?
102. How many incidences of clearing does the Minister anticipate will fall under the *EP&A Act* and therefore be subject to the BAM, compared to those conducted under codes?
103. How often will OEHL be checking clearing rates and how will these data be made available to the public?

104. Given the Minister recently asserted the objective for sustainable development equates to a 'maintain or improve' principle, will the Minister commit to explicitly including 'maintain or improve' as an object, as recommended by the review panel?
105. Does the Minister accept that habitat loss is the primary threat to many species?
 - (a) If so, can the Minister explain explain how increasing land clearing the \$100 million SOS funding is proposed to halt or reverse this threat?
106. Given the Minister has recently stated his view that biodiversity conservation is like a sinking ship and one must choose which species to save, can the Minister advise which species he has decided to allow to become extinct, how he came to that decision and why no community consultation was undertaken?
107. Given the Minister has recently stated that ecologists do not believe in a red flag system, how does the Minister square this assertion with the recent letter from the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists who identified the lack of Category 3 land on the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map, or red flag areas, as recommended by the review panel as a key failure of the new bills?
108. Does the Minister accept that there can be perverse outcomes from the mechanism used to calculate set-asides and offsets, such as degraded land being given a higher value than well maintained land because of the potential management credits generated, for example?
 - (a) Does this Minister accept that this would be rewarding those who have neglected biodiversity in the past and penalising those who have made an effort to conserve biodiversity?
109. Can the Minister advise how many wombats would be needed to offset the loss of 20 koalas via the BAM, and whether he has been advised that permitting species in the same order to be interchangeable results in little ecological relevance?

Warragamba Dam wall

110. What estimates have been made of the additional area of land which will need to be added to the Warragamba Special Area if the dam wall is lifted?
111. Given the raising of the dam will flood World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains national parks and destroy large areas of wild rivers and native vegetation, will the dam wall project's environmental assessment consider these environmental impacts?

112. Will any additional land need to be acquired for the extension of the inundation zone or Special Areas?
 - (a) What is the cost of the land to be acquired?
113. Has the Minister consulted the EPA about the environmental impacts of the proposed upgrade of the dam?
114. Will the government revoke any of the declaration of Blue Mountains national parks (for example, Blue Mountains, Kanagra Boyd and Nattai NPs and Yerranderie and Burragorang State Conservation Areas) if the Warragamba Dam wall is lifted?

Sewage overflow outfalls

115. What is the environmental impact from the discharge from the 25 new sewage outfalls proposed by Sydney Water?
116. What consultation occurred between Sydney Water and the EPA regarding the proposal?
 - (a) When did this occur?
117. What alternatives were suggested by the EPA?
118. Does Sydney Water's proposal meet the EPA's water quality standards?
119. How will the EPA monitor the impact of the new sewage outfalls?

Centennial Park Wild Play Garden development

120. What options are there for moving the main entrance of the Wild Play Garden to the location identified by the Report to areas of the proposed playground which face either Loch Avenue or Dickens Drive? Are there any other options?
121. Under which legislative authority or regulation was the Ian Potter Children's Wild Play Garden design and construction approved and which instruments under the Infrastructure SEP were used to classify this development as exempt or non-exempt?
 - (a) Will the Minister make copies of development approval documents available to the public?

Ginninderra Falls

122. What examination, consideration or investigation has been made to consider establishing the Murrumbidgee Ginninderra Gorges National Park?

123. Given the Parkwood (West Belconnen) Planning Proposal will create approximately 11,500 new dwellings in close proximity to Ginninderra Falls, what action is being taken by OEH to protect the environmental values of the area and the preservation of the Falls?
124. What cross border arrangements are in place for OEH in relation to Ginninderra Falls?
125. What arrangements are being put in place to protect threatened species at Ginninderra Falls including the pink tailed worm lizard, Gang Gang cockatoo, Booroolong frog, superb parrot, painted honeyeater, little eagle, varied sittella, Rosenberg monitor and the white winged triller?
126. Is OEH satisfied that the proposed conservation corridor of 371 ha on the ACT side and 206 ha on the NSW side is adequate to protect the Falls and the flora and fauna in this area?
127. What action has OEH taken to liaise with traditional owners (the Brungle/Tumut and Onerwal people) regarding the protection and preservation of Aboriginal heritage in and surrounding Ginninderra Falls?
128. Is there consideration of biodiversity offsets for this land, if so what is the current status of these considerations?

Callan Park

129. Is the Government planning to repeal the *Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002*?
 - (a) If so:
 - i. When?
 - ii. Why?
130. If the Government repeals the *Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002*, will the Minister guarantee the Government will:
 - (a) ensure that the whole of Callan Park remains in public ownership and subject to public control;
 - (b) ensure the preservation of the areas of open space at Callan Park that were in existence immediately before the commencement of the Act, and that extend to and include the foreshore of Iron Cove on the Parramatta River;
 - (c) allow public access to that open space, including that foreshore, for public recreational purposes of both an active and a passive nature;

- (d) preserve the heritage significance of Callan Park, including its historic buildings, gardens and other landscape features; and
- (e) impose appropriate controls on the future development of Callan Park.

Native Vegetation Mapping

131. How many FTE staff positions were directly engaged with native vegetation mapping responsibilities, and what were the position titles for such staff, for each of the years:
 - (a) 2011-12?
 - (b) 2012-13?
 - (c) 2013-14?
 - (d) 2014-15?
 - (e) 2015-16?
132. Has the division directly engaged with native vegetation mapping responsibilities been moved from one division to another within OEHL since 2011?
 - (a) If so, please provide details.
 - (b) What was the reason for this change?
133. What reviews have been undertaken or commissioned regarding the Government's native vegetation mapping capacity, methodology, results and accuracy, or organisational structure, since 2011?
 - (a) Will these reviews be made public?
134. Did OEHL undertake an independent and comprehensive review of the proposed technology for the preparation of the state-wide (SPOT5) native vegetation map to provide certainty as to the appropriateness of this technology for the purpose of: ensuring legislative compliance (i.e.: acceptability as evidence in court proceedings); usefulness to local government planning authorities in the preparation of Regional Land Use Plans; Local Environment Plans and consideration of consent conditions for proposed major developments, as recommended in the Final Observations Report: Bio-Focus Review in 2012?
135. Regarding the Government's mapping of native vegetation, such as the State Vegetation Type Map and others, what is the Typical Model Accuracy for each Vegetation Unit, including a

breakdown of typical model accuracy for all available Plant Community Types (PCTs) currently mapped?

136. What type of mapping of vegetation communities does the Government plan to use to support the proposed new biodiversity conservation legislation?
137. Does the Government currently use “segmentation mapping” as is described under the ‘The State Vegetation Type Map: your questions’ on the Department’s website?
138. What was the estimated accuracy of the mapping data used to compile the information made available in the ‘NSW Report on Native Vegetation 2013–14’? Please provide a breakdown for different plant types, if necessary.
139. Has the Government reviewed the results of the report, ‘Validation of the Greater Hunter Native Vegetation Mapping as it pertains to the Upper Hunter region of New South Wales’ by John T. Hunter, 2016?
 - (a) What were the results of the review?
 - (b) What is the Government’s response to the assertions of the report, such as that a majority of plant community types were mapped with an accuracy of less than 30%?
140. What is the highest level of accuracy for plant community types from all native vegetation mapping tools and methods currently in use by the Government? Please provide details of each mapping tool and methodology.
141. Does the Government use Digital Aerial Photographic Interpretation for native vegetation mapping?
 - (a) Please provide a list of mapping tools and methods employed by the Government and the specific purpose of each.
142. Has the Government investigated the use of alternative mapping tools and methods not listed above?
 - (a) If so, what tools were investigated and what were the results of the investigations?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Commercial Fishing Business Adjustment Program

143. Has the Minister made an assessment of the environmental impact of the Commercial Fishing Business Adjustment Program on fishing habitats including estuaries?

144. Is the Minister aware that the CFBAP will introduce an effort quota which will limit the number of days a fishing business may fish?
- (a) Has the Minister assessed the environmental impacts of more intensive fishing being conducted per day?
145. Is the Minister aware that the CFBAP will also create a catch quota on certain fish species?
146. Has the Minister assessed the environmental consequences of possible dumping of poor quality catch?

Ourimbah Creek Catchment

147. Has the Minister assessed the cumulative environmental impact of a number of large projects currently proposed for areas within the Ourimbah Creek catchment area?
- (a) What is the environmental impact of the proposed Kangy Angy Rail Maintenance Facility upon the Ourimbah Creek Catchment area?
- (b) What is the environmental impact of the Pacific highway Stage 4 widening at Ourimbah to Lisarow upon the Ourimbah Creek Catchment area?
- (c) What is the environmental impact of the rezoning of land on Oscar Drive, Chittaway Point upon the Ourimbah Creek Catchment area?
- (d) What is the environmental impact of the 263 residential lot submission at Berkeley Vale (DA/1438/2015) upon the Ourimbah Creek Catchment area?

Flexible Workplaces

148. Minister, the Premier announced on International Women's Day that the public service would all have access to flexible working arrangements by 2019.
- (a) Do you centrally register staff who have flexible work arrangements?
- (b) What numbers of staff within your Department currently have flexible working arrangements?
- (c) Are you aware of any measures that are currently underway to implement this?

EPA Action on the Rutherford Stink

149. How many complaints did the EPA receive about the so-called "Rutherford Stink" in the following time periods:

- (a) September 2013 - August 2014
 - (b) September 2014 - August 2015
 - (c) September 2015 - August 2016
150. When was the last recorded complaint about the smell received?
151. What regulatory action has been taken by the EPA in the Rutherford Industrial Estate from March 2015 - August 2016?

Domestic Violence Leave and Awareness

152. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's Portfolio please report:
- (a) Date of introduction of domestic violence leave into enterprise agreements/contracts of employment, awards as applicable;
 - (b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors are eligible for domestic violence leave;
 - (c) Number of days of domestic violence leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of such leave;
 - (d) Number of days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
 - (e) Number of other personal days of leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of domestic violence leave;
 - (f) Number of sick days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
 - (g) Whether or not all staff and/or contractors have access to Employee Assistance Programs?
 - (h) What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as?
 - i. Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
 - ii. Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required
 - (i) Who has provided training on domestic violence in the workplace?
 - (j) What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken domestic violence training?

- (k) What efforts have been made to ensure that perpetrators (or their accomplices) within the staffing profile are not able to access personal information of victims in order to identify their location, or other information which may assist in committing domestic violence against them, including changing or accessing records in such a way as to disadvantage them financially or legally?

Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs

153. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's Portfolio please report:

- (a) Date of introduction of sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs
- (b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
- (c) Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
- (d) How long for each session, how many sessions?
- (e) Who delivers it?
- (f) Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
- (g) How?
- (h) What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?

Maintenance Costs for Maitland Gaol

- 154. The Maitland Council had to approve expenditure of \$38,300 to cover the cost of a study to establish the maintenance costs for Maitland Gaol. Why did the Council have to pay for the report when it is a state owned facility?
- 155. Has the Minister read this study?
- 156. What plans are in place for paying the ongoing maintenance works for Maitland Gaol?
- 157. Will the Government or Maitland City Council Rate Payers cover the cost of maintaining the site?

Office Administration

158. How many staff are in your ministerial office?
- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2015-16?
 - (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2016-17 based on current appointments?
159. How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2015-16?
 - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
160. How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- (a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 2015-16?
 - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2015-16?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
161. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- (a) What is the cost of this?
162. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
163. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
164. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2015-16?
- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
 - i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?
165. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2015-16?
- (a) What were the gifts purchased?

- i. Who were they gifted to?
166. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
 - (a) What is the monthly cost of this?
167. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
 - (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
168. What was the total bill for your office in 2015-16 for:
 - (a) Taxi hire
 - (b) Limousine hire
 - (c) Private hire care
 - (d) Hire car rental
 - (e) Ridesharing services
169. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2015-16?
 - (a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

Hospitality

170. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2015-16?
171. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2015-16?

Labour Hire Firms

172. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2015-16:
 - (a) The names of the firms utilised
 - (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged
 - (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
 - (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company

- (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
- (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company
- (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

Media and Public Relations

- 173. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
- 174. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
- 175. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?
- 176. Have you had media training or speech training?
 - (a) If yes, who paid for it?
 - (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2015-16?

Facebook

- 177. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2015-16?
- 178. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2015-16?

Overseas Trips

- 179. Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?
 - (a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
- 180. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?
 - (a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?
 - (b) Who paid for these trips?

Department/Agency Travel

- 181. What was the total expenditure in 2015-16 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine/private car hire
- (c) Hire car rental
- (d) Ridesharing services

Consulting

182. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2015-16?
- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?
183. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2015-16:
- (a) Social media
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - (b) Photography
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - (c) Acting training
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - (d) Ergonomics
 - i. And the cost of these services

Department/Agency Staffing

184. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2015-16?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary
 - ii. Forced
 - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

185. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?
- (a) What was the nature of these works/services?
 - (b) What was the total cost of these works or services?
186. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
187. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2015-16?
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

Smart Phone Accounts

188. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2015-16 on iTunes?
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?
189. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2015-16 on Android?
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

Websites Visited

190. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?
191. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?

Merchant fees

192. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency.
193. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions in your Department/agency.

194. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2015-16?

Probity Auditor

195. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, in the past five years? If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format?

Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Ironbark Forest

196. Regarding the below extract from the transcript on page 2:

Mr Mark Speakman: ...I am informed that Roads and Maritime Services [RMS] intends to offset that clearing with ironbark forest located in the Sydney region

- (a) Please provide details of this offset including location, size, species type and any other relevant details
- (b) Is the offset 'like for like'?
- (c) Has the offset been secured?
 - i. If yes, when was the offset secured?
 - ii. If no, why not and when will it be secured?

Quarantine Station at Manly

197. Regarding the below extract from the transcript on page 4:

Mr BAILEY: Yes. I am just pointing out that our special investigators, who are experts in conducting those investigations, have conducted full and thorough investigations into the matter and concluded the investigation.

- (a) When did that investigation conclude?
 - (b) Please provide a copy of that investigation.
198. The optimum visitor capacity of Q Station is limited to 315 people (including staff) as highlighted in the Visitor Access Strategy. Has the current leasee ever breached this strategy?
- (a) If yes, how many times and what was the nature of these breaches

- i. Does NPWS approve each instance above the visitor limitation?
- (b) Why have they been allowed to do this?
- (c) Does NPWS fine the leasee for breaching the visitor access strategy?
 - i. If yes, what is the fine?
 - ii. If no, why not and are other penalties applied?
- 199. What financial returns to the NPWS have resulted from the past five years of the lease operation?
- 200. What assessment has been made of the likely implications of the proposed Modifications to Conditions of Approval for financial returns from the Mawland operations at North Head?
 - (a) Does NPWS anticipate renegotiating the contract if the Development Application is approved?

Biodiversity Reforms

- 201. Do the proposed land management laws allow the clearing of woodland after self-assessment even though the woodland could contain birds listed as threatened under NSW legislation?
- 202. If the proposed changes to laws controlling land clearing in NSW go ahead, what is the government's estimates for the loss of tree cover, and the loss of carbon sequestration that will occur over various time frames, for example over 5 or ten years?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- 203. How does the Government calculate the value of trees, for example for ecosystem services, reducing salinity, carbon storage and so forth? Please provide the methodology used?
- 204. Will the new Native Vegetation Regulatory Maps which determine where native vegetation clearing is able to occur "without approval" be open for full public viewing and submissions for proposed mapping amendments that may relate to possible data and spatial deficiencies including endangered ecological communities on private lands not yet formally recognised?

Native Vegetation Act

- 205. The 2013 paddock tree regulation has seen the loss of more than 22,000 trees in just 18 months.
 - (a) Has any of these paddock tree removals been monitored for compliance with the regulation?
- 206. What is the projected total cost of administering the Native Vegetation Act for 2016/17 and how does this compare with the previous five years?

- (a) What is the total budget dedicated to enforcement of provisions in the Native Vegetation Act on land clearing for 2016/17, and how does that compare to the previous five financial years? Please also provide a detailed breakdown by staff and classification.
 - (b) What is the total number of staff FTEs working on enforcement of Native Vegetation Act provisions for 2016/17 and how does that compare with the previous five financial years?
207. What is the projected cost for satellite imagery to assist in land clearing data gathering for 2016/17, and how does that compare with the previous five financial years? Please breakdown by funding source.
208. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Central Tablelands Local Land Services Region between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016 in the Central Tablelands Local Land Services Region?
209. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Western Local Land Services Region between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016 in the Western Local Land Services Region?
210. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Murray Local Land Services Region between 20 November 2014 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 20 November 2014 and 1 September 2016 in the Murray Local Land Services Region?
211. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Riverina Local Land Services Region between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?

- (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016 in the Riverina Local Land Services Region?
212. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the South East Local Land Services Region between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016 the South East Local Land Services Region?
213. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Region between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016 in the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Region?
214. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Central West Local Land Services Region between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016 in the Central West Local Land Services Region?
215. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the North West Local Land Services Region between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016 in the North West Local Land Services Region?
216. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Region between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?

- (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016 in the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Region?
217. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the North Coast Local Land Services Region between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016 in the North Coast Local Land Services Region?
218. How many notices of intention to clear in accordance with the 'Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area' self-assessable code were lodged in the Hunter Local Land Services Region between 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016?
- (a) How many of these were monitored to ensure compliance with the self-assessment tool?
 - (b) How many paddock trees have been removed under this process 2 April 2016 and 1 September 2016 in the Hunter Local Land Services Region?

OEH Inspections

219. Regarding the below extract from the transcript on page 17:

Mr BAILEY: No, we continue to conduct our compliance programs. However, I should be clear and say that there were periods during which I asked the staff not to be in the field doing compliance checks. That was particularly during the murder trial.

- (a) For what period/s and in what areas were staff advised not to conduct compliance checks?

220. Regarding the below extract from the transcript on page 17:

Mr BAILEY: Yes, there have been. In conjunction with the Environment Protection Authority, we had an independent person review all of our compliance practices. My recollection is that that review produced more than 20 recommendations

- (a) Please provide a copy of the review

221. Regarding the below extract from the transcript on page 17:

Mr BAILEY: I can answer that question because I manage the compliance. We do a risk assessment of every property before we enter a property or contemplate going to a property. That risk assessment includes, through our guidance, talking with the police. If there are areas

of concern that arise for us in any of our compliance activities, whether it is native vegetation or other activities, we would and have sought the support of the police and the police have certainly given that support as well.

- (a) When did OEH start conducting risk assessments of properties?
- (b) Was a risk assessment undertaken for the property of Mr Ian Turnbull at any time?
 - i. If yes, please provide a copy of that risk assessment.
 - ii. If no, why not?
- (c) How many times have police provided escorts to OEH compliance officers in the last financial year (2015/2016)?

OEH

222. “The 2016/2017 Budget Statement Appendix A5 on page A5-4 states that OEH spent \$20 million more than budget because of “Ongoing organisational restructures across the Office associated with efficiency measures resulting in higher temporary employee costs”,
- (a) Please provide a list of these efficiency measures.

GIPA

223. How many staff does the Office of Environment and Heritage have working on freedom of information under the GIPA Act?
224. Given the very high workloads alluded to by OEH officers in responses to GIPA applications, are there any plans to improve resourcing of this area?

National Parks

At just 9%, NSW has the second lowest percentage of land protected in the National Reserve System after Queensland (7.5%).

225. How does the Government intend to meet the Aichi target under the Convention of Biological Diversity that “by 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes”?

226. In April 2015, the National Parks and Wildlife Service undertook public consultation on a Direction Statement for National Parks establishment, which was intended to replace the existing New South Wales National Parks Establishment Plan 2008.
- (a) What has happened to the draft Direction Statement for National Parks establishment?
- i. When does the Government intend to finalise the Direction?
227. Please provide a list of all National Parks acquisitions for the 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 (to date) financial years?
228. What is the budget for National Parks acquisitions for the 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 (to date) financial years?

Asbestos

229. When was the EPA first made aware that there may be asbestos in the road base originating from the Moits facility?
230. Why did the EPA not act on the complaints of Daniel McIntyre?
231. Will the EPA conduct a full audit of all road base that has originated from that facility, including where it has been used?
232. Did any of the material from the Moits facility end up in any National Park in NSW?
- (a) If yes, please provide a list of affected national parks
233. Is the Minister satisfied that asbestos contaminated materials have not been used as road fill on the M4 Widening, M4 East and New M5 WestConnex work sites.
234. Will the Minister release the results of the M4 Widening asbestos dust monitoring conducted by the WestConnex contractors Rizzani de Eccher and CIMIC (Leighton Holdings) over the last 12 months to allay community and workers fears about asbestos contamination on the work site.
235. Is the Minister aware of EPA concerns regarding the initial WestConnex work at the Alexandria Landfill site in 2015, in relation to the excavation and removal of asbestos contaminated materials from that site before the EIS for the New M5 was released and prior to the issuing of a Clean Up Notice to the SMC.
236. Can the Minister confirm that the stockpiles of asbestos contaminated soil and materials that were stockpiled along the route of the M4 for months from Oct 2015 into 2016, was not used as fill anywhere for the WestConnex project.

- (a) Please indicate which certified waste facilities it was subsequently taken to for disposal.

NSW Scientific Committee

237. Minister, are there any membership changes underway or planned at the NSW Scientific Committee?

- (a) What are these changes?
- (b) Why are these changes being made?

238. Is any committee member being removed against their will or are they leaving voluntarily?

Western Sydney Parklands

239. The Western Sydney Parklands Trust manages land almost fifteen times the size of the land managed by Centennial Parklands and Moore Park Trust but has a budget almost four times less.

- (a) Are there any plans to increase funding to the Western Sydney Parklands Trust?
 - i. If yes, when will the budget be increased and by how much?
 - ii. If No, why not?
- (b) How does the Government explain such a disparity?

Gardens of Stone

240. Is the NSW Government currently examining the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 reserve proposal?

- (a) If yes, when is a decision expected to be made?
- (b) If no, why not?

Kangaroos

241. The ACT has invested in fertility control research for over ten years to reduce population growth rates of kangaroos. Would the NSW Government be willing to invest in this, or other non-lethal strategies to manage kangaroo populations?

- (a) Will the NSW Government consider funding an independent review of the science underpinning kangaroo management (including the effectiveness of killing kangaroos for population control, and the accuracy of current survey methodologies)?

Invasive Species Control

242. Minister, how much was spent in 2015/2016 and is planned for 2016/2017 on invasive animal species control? Please provide a list of how much is spent on the following measures:

- (a) Shooting
- (b) Baiting
- (c) Non-lethal measures

Supplementary Pest Control Program

243. How much was spent in 2015/2016 on the Supplementary Pest Control Program? Please provide a list of each species and number of animals that were removed under the program?

244. Was there any government funding going to the Sporting Shooters Association in 2015/2016?

245. Is there any government funding going to the Sporting Shooters Association in 2016/2017?

Saving Our Species

246. Please provide an update of the activities of the Extinct Animal Reintroduction Program in the 2015/2016 financial year.

247. What have been the conservation benefits to the Threatened Ecological Communities listed under the TSC Act delivered through the Government's Saving our Species program?

Koalas

248. The NSW koala conservation strategy has expired. Can the Government confirm when the conservation plan will be completed and taking affect?

Flying Fox

249. How much has been spent to date, and what is the future projected spend (if any) to disperse the camp of grey headed flying foxes from Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and the ongoing efforts to keep the flying-foxes from returning to the camp?

250. How much has been spent to date, and what is the future projected spend (if any) to disperse the camp of grey headed flying foxes from at Batemans Bay and the ongoing efforts to keep the flying-foxes from returning to the camp?

251. How much has been spent to date, and what is the future projected spend (if any) to disperse the camp of grey headed flying foxes from Avalon, Sydney and the ongoing efforts to keep the flying-foxes from returning to the camp?

White Bay

252. Does the EPA have any plans to require Sydney Water to improve water quality of White Bay through the naturalisation of Johnston and White's tidal Creeks (Annandale)?

Urban Biodiversity

253. What information does the NSW Government have or make public about the state of urban biodiversity?
254. Does the NSW Government have any funding available focussed on the protection of urban trees in NSW?
- (a) If yes, how much and through what programs?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Air Quality

255. Is air quality data available publically, including the location of and data from air quality monitors?
- (a) If yes, where?

Rail Noise

256. What is the EPA doing about rail noise on the North Shore Line, particularly between Wollstonecraft and Waverton?
257. Was an environmental assessment conducted on the impact of the Sydney Metro NorthWest on the North Shore Line?
- (a) If yes, please provide a copy.
 - (b) If not, why not?

Train Washing Facility at Cudgegong Road Station

258. Regarding an incident of muddy and silt laden water overflowing from the detention basin within the boundary of the proposed Train Washing Facility at Cudgegong Road Station into a watercourse which flows through a private property at 26 Oak Street Schofields under conservation management through a Voluntary Conservation Agreement on the Land Title:
- (a) What steps is the Environment Protection Authority taking to prevent a recurrence of such an event?
 - (b) What steps will the Environment Protection Authority take to prevent chemicals emanating from the Washing Facility at Cudgegong Road Station into nearby watercourses?
 - (c) What chemicals has the Environment Protection Authority determined are permissible to be used in the Washing Facility at Cudgegong Road Station?
 - (d) Will the Environment Protection Authority consider requiring Transport for NSW to provide for regular monitoring of water quality in watercourses flowing near to the Washing Facility at Cudgegong Road Station, particularly within the property at 26 Oak Street Schofields?
 - (e) What measures are being employed by the Environment Protection Authority to prevent the Washing Facility disposing of polluted water and chemicals into the local watercourses?
259. What policies and practices are being employed by the Environment Protection Authority to ensure that Local Government undertakes its role in monitoring and preventing natural watercourses being turned into drains for polluted water and chemicals?

Wood Heaters

NSW Chief Medical Officer Kerry Chant said wood heaters are so detrimental to health she supports banning and phasing them out in built-up urban areas. PM2.5 pollution are considered the most health-hazardous air pollutant which causes more premature deaths than any other air pollutant .

260. What is the NSW Government doing to educate and inform the public about current research into the health effects of woodsmoke pollution and the advice of the NSW Chief Medical Officer?

Climate Change

Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) are responsible for about half of current warming, but stay in the atmosphere for much shorter periods of time than CO₂. Tackling SLCP is a fast way to slow the global temperature increase and give us a fighting chance of meeting the target set at Paris.

261. Is the Government prepared to accept the UNEP/WMO recommendations and put in place strategies to prevent methane leaks, banning the open burning of biomass waste and phasing out wood heaters?

Threatened Species

262. In 2015-2016, in how many developments has the presence of TSC Act listed Threatened Ecological Communities been identified? Please provide a list of the conservation requirements placed on the proponent for each development, broken down by Threatened Ecological Community and the extent they were monitored and complied with?
263. How many referrals made under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 has the NSW Government been required to consider due to presence of either TSC Act Threatened Ecological Communities or those listed federally and occurring in NSW?

Auditor General Report into the EPA Handling of Contaminated Sites

264. The NSW Auditor General in July 2014 that the EPA has no systematic processes for prioritising contaminated sites and there was a backlog of around 800 sites awaiting assessment. What progress has been made in clearing this backlog?
- (a) How many sites have been assessed from this backlog to date?

Illegal Waste Act

265. Please provide a list of how many penalties have been issued to date under the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Act 2013 including date, penalty and the name or organisation to which the penalty was issued, for:
- (a) knowingly supplying false or misleading information about waste
- (b) Repeat waste offenders

266. How many motor vehicles or vessels have been seized by the EPA under provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Act 2013, by year?

Roadside Litter

267. Who has the legal obligation to clean up road side litter?
- (a) Is there any obligation for local councils to clean up roadside litter?

Kosciuzko National Park

268. Why isn't the MOU between the NSW Liberal/National Coalition and a Coalition of NSW Horse Riders, of 2006, mentioned in the draft Wild Horse Management Plan for Kosciuzko National Park (KNP) or in any of the accompanying reports to that draft Plan?
- (a) Is the MOU still the Government's policy document for horse riding and wild horse management in Kosciuzko National Park and all other national parks and public lands in NSW?

Kangaroos

269. Please provide copies of the raw kangaroo survey count data sheets for the NSW western zones for the following years, noting the priority of data requested is in the order listed:
- (a) 1990 and 1991
- (b) 1980 and 1981, or the first two years of survey after these years if there was no survey in those years.
- (c) The most recent 2 years
- (d) The most recent raw kangaroo survey data sheets for the Central Tablelands, Northern Tablelands and SE NSW kangaroo management zones.
270. Please provide the annual numbers of kangaroos shot under landholder licenses in each kangaroo commercial shooting zone, for each of the areas in each zone in the past 10 years. If 10 years data is not available please provide all available data, including
- (a) Number of males and females shot per zone.
- (b) Number of joeys killed per zone.

271. If this full dataset is not available, please detail:
- (a) why not, and
 - (b) where this data can be accessed.
272. Please detail how commercial kangaroo shooting quotas and takes are considered in conjunction with landholder kangaroo shooting quotas and takes.
273. With regard to the report “Red and Grey Kangaroos in Western NSW” by Dr Jim Hone, referred to in the NSW Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes of 14 March 2013 (#20) [Actions 4 & 5, page 6.
- (a) Please provide a copy of this report.
 - (b) In what capacity was this report provided to the KMAP?
 - (c) Was the report commissioned by the KMAP or by the Department, and if so what was the tender process to select the preferred supplier of this report?
 - (d) The most recent Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel Minutes are from the 29 October 2015 meeting. Was this the most recent KMAP meeting?
 - i. If not, please provide the most recent Minutes since that KMAP meeting.

Animal Agriculture

274. Due to the known environmental impacts of animal agriculture, what measures will the NSW Government take to make animal production more environmentally sustainable?

Carbon Sequestration

275. Does the Baird government require the Forestry Corporation to calculate the loss of carbon sequestration resulting from logging native forests? If not, why not?
- a. If yes, what are those calculations?

Western Plains Zoo

276. The budget papers for 2016/2017 show \$8.4 million in 2016-17 for work at the Dubbo Taronga Western Plains Zoo. What will these funds be used for?

Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism fund

Budget Paper #2 refers to a Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism fund to support regional environmental and tourism facilities to support local economies.

277. What environmental projects have been funded to date?

(a) What type of projects will be considered for funding in the future?

Inquiry into East Coast Low

278. Has the Baird government implemented in full the findings of the inquiry into the 2015 East Coast Low in April 2015 that killed three people at Dungog and one at Maitland?

(a) If not, why not?

Ellerton Road Extension

279. Given the vegetation at risk from the Ellerton Drive Extension includes the increasingly rare box-gum woodland, a critically endangered ecological community under national and NSW environmental law, why has OEHL given its concurrence to building the Ellerton Drive Extension?

280. In its concurrence report, OEHL states that the Ellerton Drive Extension project would fail to meet two of five objectives in the national recovery plan for box-gum woodland. Why is this acceptable, particularly given the small extent of remaining box-gum woodland?

281. Is OEHL aware that vegetation communities identified as likely to be impacted by construction of the Ellerton Drive Extension were reclassified by consultants, from a vegetation type that attracts a high standard of protection under NSW environmental law (identified in the Queanbeyan Local Biodiversity Study 2008) to a type that attracts a lower standard of protection?

(a) Has the department/OEHL investigated this matter? If so, what was the outcome?

(b) If not, will the department now investigate the matter?

282. The initial draft Species Impact Assessment on the Ellerton Drive Extension, released by Queanbeyan City Council in May 2013 gave a number of justifications for the road, one of which was to deliver services to Jumping Creek Estate. This justification was not included in the final Species Impact Statement and Review of Environmental Factors. Why was this the case?

(a) Has the department sought clarification from the proponent about this inconsistency in justification for the road?

- i. If so, what was the outcome?
 - ii. If not, why not?
- 283. In its concurrence report, OEH states that the Ellerton Drive Extension is expected to provide benefits including additional public transport. What is the source of this statement by OEH?
- 284. Will the OEH review its concurrence report?

Centennial Park Wild Play Garden

- 285. Did the Centennial Park Trust provide false information on disabled parking locations to safety assessors and the general public in justifying the decision to not locate the entrance of the proposed playground on either Loch Avenue or Dickens Drive?
- 286. Does the AusSafe Safety report not take into account a single additional visitor to Centennial Park after the opening of the Ian Potter Wild Play Garden?
 - (a) If yes, how can this be justified?
- 287. Is the Reliance Risk safety report halve the expected number of visitors in its review of child safety issues?