



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-2017 Supplementary Questions

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SKILLS, SMALL BUSINESS

Hearing: Friday 2 September 2016

Answers due by: Wednesday 28 September 2016

Budget Estimates Secretariat
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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Jobs for NSW

1. How much is the CEO for Jobs for NSW paid?
2. Do the Directors receive remuneration?
3. How many times have the Board met?
4. How many applications for support have been received?
 - (a) In what regions have the applicants been based?
5. How many applications have been approved?
6. What is the total value of grants?
 - (a) How much of this total value has been granted to applicants based in regional NSW?
7. How many jobs has this Initiative supported?
8. Can the minister confirm how many of these jobs have been in regional NSW?

The Jobs for NSW allocates at least 30% of the funds for Regional NSW, shouldn't it be at least 40% given 41% of the State's population lives in Regional areas?

Departmental

9. In 2014/15 the FTE in Economic and Regional Development was 534 employees and the revised FTE for 2015/16 was 303 is that correct?
 - (a) How has that impacted the performance of the department?
10. How many Aboriginal staff are currently employed in the regional offices of the Department of Industry?
 - (a) What proportion of these staff are senior executive staff?
 - (b) What is the average remuneration for non-Aboriginal staff?
 - (c) What is the average remuneration for Aboriginal staff?
11. How many staff in Total are employed in Regional offices of the Department of industry?

Regional greyhound racing industry

12. How many direct and indirect regional jobs does the government estimate will be lost as a result of the ban on greyhound racing in NSW.
 - (a) Which regions are estimated to be most impacted?
13. How does the Government plan to compensate regional greyhound owners and trainers who will lose their jobs and income as a result of the greyhound racing ban in NSW.
 - (a) When will the government make this clear to the Industry?
14. Has the Government commissioned any research as to the impact of the greyhound racing ban on the economies of regional communities in NSW
15. Does the Government have a plan for how they will help regional communities cope with the loss of jobs and economic activity as a result of the Greyhound racing ban in NSW.

Regional commercial fishing Industry

16. How many commercial fishing businesses exist in Regional NSW?
 - (a) How many are sole traders?
 - (b) How many are partnerships?
17. How many commercial fishing businesses exist in each region across New South Wales?
18. Has the Government commissioned any research as to the impact of It's changes to commercial fishing on regional economies?
19. Will the Minister guarantee that the Government will support regional fishers who want to stay in the industry?
 - (a) How does the minister plan to do so?

Miscellaneous

20. How many jobs have been created in Regional NSW during the past 12 months?
21. How many of these jobs are full time positions?
22. If you take the Illawarra and Newcastle out of the figures, how many fulltime positions have been created in the rest of Regional NSW?
23. How many jobs have been lost in Regional NSW in the past 12 months?

24. Why won't the Government financially support the EVOCity initiative given that there has been demonstrated growth in the seven regional cities the initiative encompassed?

Flexible Workplaces

25. 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?

Impact of restructuring and relocation of jobs in Department of Mineral Resources on small business

26. How many positions have been lost due to restructuring of the Department of Mineral Resources in 2015, and 2016?
27. Please disaggregate the data by state electorate.
28. What has the impact of these job losses been on the local small business sector on those communities?

Domestic Violence Leave and Awareness

29. 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

30. 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?

Office Administration

- 31. 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?
- 32. 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?
- 33. 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?
- 34. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
 - (a) What is the cost of this?
- 35. 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?
- 36. 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?
- 37. 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?
- 38. 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?
- 39. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
 - (a) What is the monthly cost of this?
- 40. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
 - (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
- 41. 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
- 42. 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

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

Labour Hire Firms

- 45. 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

- 46. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
- 47. 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?
- 48. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?
- 49. 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

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

Overseas Trips

- 52. 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?
- 53. 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

54. 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

55. 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?
56. 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

57. 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?

58. 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?

59. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

60. 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

61. 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?

62. 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

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

64. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?

Merchant fees

65. 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.

66. 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.
67. 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

68. 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?

SKILLS

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

Impact of Changes to TAFE on Small Business

69. Has the Minister received any representations from small businesses concerned about the impact of changes to TAFE?
70. What has the Minister done to address such concerns?
71. Is the Minister aware of small businesses requiring staff training due to changes in regulation having to ask their staff to travel further to receive such training because campuses nearby have closed and there is no public transport to the new campuses (eg: Kurri Kurri & Food Safety Certificate).
72. How has this kind of issue impacted on child care providers?
73. How does the Minister expect small businesses to continue to pay additional monies for training of apprentices when the costs have increased significantly and rapidly in recent years. Does the Minister expect small businesses to give the Government a blank cheque for education and training?
74. How can small businesses in hairdressing and painting which employ apprentices, who have had significant changes to regulation that have impacted on their ability to make revenue, continue to pay escalating TAFE fees?
75. What impact does the Minister think this is having on the number of apprenticeships in the state of NSW?

Licensing of Hairdressers

76. Did the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation consult with the Minister for Skills and Small Business prior to his public announcement of the proposal to reduce hairdresser minimum qualifications for licencing in July 2016?
77. Did the Minister for Small Business make contact with the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation after the Minister for Skill's office was made aware of the announcement in July 2016?
78. Did the Minister for Skills request that the decision be reversed, and if so, what was the basis for such a request?

79. Is the Minister concerned about the impact on worker and client safety with the use of sharp tools and chemicals in this industry if businesses who do not meet Certificate 3 qualifications are allowed to trade?
80. What impact do quick and disruptive regulation changes have on hairdressers' revenue?

Licensing of Painters

81. In January 2015, by regulation the then Minister for Fair trading increased the quote cost thresholds for licensing of painters who undertake painting for internal and external works. This opened the door to an expansion of unlicensed and untrained painters into the industry, risking safety, particularly in properties which included asbestos and/or lead based paints.
82. Did the Minister for Small Business make contact with the Minister for Fair Trading after the Minister for Skill's office was made aware of the announcement?
83. Did the Minister for Skills request that the decision be reversed, and if so, what was the basis for such a request?
84. What was the onerous paperwork which justified the new regulations?
85. Is the Minister concerned about the impact on worker and client safety, particularly in the context of asbestos and lead based paints where unqualified and unlicensed painters are allowed to trade?
86. What impact do quick and disruptive regulation changes have on painters' revenue?

Domestic Violence Leave and Awareness

87. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's Portfolio please report:
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(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

115. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2015-16:

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i. And the cost of these services

(b) Photography

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- i. And the cost of these services
- (d) Ergonomics
 - i. And the cost of these services

Department/Agency Staffing

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- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
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- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

Smart Phone Accounts

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Probity Auditor

127. 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 Mr David Shoebridge MLC

TAFE

128. What assets have been sold from TAFE campuses in the last 12 months?
129. On how many campuses has equipment been sold, leaving buildings vacant?
130. What obstacles are there to the sale of such buildings?
131. How much money does the government forecast will be made from these asset sales?
 - (a) What is the government's plan for that money?
132. Minister Barilaro stated that "it is expected that some jobs will go" following the TAFE overhaul. Is the Minister able to share any figures or projections on how many jobs will be lost?
133. How has the rate of participation in TAFE varied, if at all, in the last five years
 - (a) What were the variations, if any, in indigenous and disabled student participation?

134. How have the fees for TAFE changed, if at all, in the last 5 years?

Boston Consulting report

135. How much was the Boston Consulting Group paid to produce its report/s into TAFE?

136. When was the Boston Consulting Group engaged to produce its report/s into TAFE?

137. When will the report/s produced by the Boston Consulting Group into TAFE be released?

Contestability

138. How many private training organisations currently receive more than \$1 million in public funding?

139. What are the names of these organisations?

140. What changes are planned in the coming years that will improve this?

141. Has the Minister made up his mind of the appropriate level of contestability and if so, what is that level and how will he implement this policy position?

Operational Base Funding for TAFE

142. Are there any plans to change the amount of operational base funding allocated to TAFE in 2015/16?

143. Are there any plans to gradually reduce TAFE's operational base funding to zero in the next 10 years?

144. Can the Minister guarantee no reductions to TAFE's operational base funding for the next 10 years?

TAFE staff losses

145. What is the location and position description of the 679 full time equivalent jobs lost from TAFE NSW from 2014/15 to 2015/16 as contained in the 2016/17 budget papers?

146. What is the location and position description of the 499 full time equivalent jobs expected to be lost from TAFE NSW from 2015/16 to 2016/17 as contained in the 2016/17 budget papers?

Internet access

147. What is the impact of poor internet connections on the delivery of education, especially in rural and regional areas?
148. What steps is the Government taking to ensure that poor IT infrastructure does not impact on access to education, particularly skills training?

TAFE Senior Executives

149. 1. How many TAFE NSW senior executives have been appointed since November 2015?
150. 2. What are their roles?
151. 3. What is the total value of each individual's remuneration or compensation package?
152. 4. Have they been given common law employment contracts?
153. 5. Is the Public Service Commission in NSW aware of all these arrangements?
154. 6. Will their salaries be reported in the TAFE Annual Report?

SMALL BUSINESS

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

Role of the Minister for Small Business

155. What is the role of the Minister for Small Business?
156. Is there a sub-committee of Cabinet which deals with issues that impact on small businesses?

Red Tape Reduction

157. Given that the Auditor General has shown that the estimated burden on small business from regulation has increased since the government took office, why hasn't the Minister acted to advocate on behalf of small businesses to ensure that red tape is really reduced?
158. Does the Minister agree that the number of regulations is less important to the smooth running of businesses than the complexity of the legislation in terms of compliance costs?

Payment of Disability Service Providers

159. Is the Minister aware that there have been significant delays in payment to providers of services under the NDIS, in some cases in the order of over \$1,000,000 per month?
- (a) What Is the Minister doing to assist private and not-for-profit providers impacted by these payment delays?
- (b) What Is the Minister doing to ensure that providers are able to pay employees, contractors and suppliers?

Commercial Fishing Industry

160. Why is the Minister not advocating on behalf of the fishing industry during the reform process which has left them swamped in reports and proposals but no certainty and most importantly the need to purchase their own businesses again in order to continue operating?
161. Does the Minister think it is fair that commercial fishers should have to purchase their businesses again?

162. By reducing licences to 90 days from a full year of fishing days, does the minister agree that the government will be increasing red tape for fishers as they will have to report on and monitor the number of days of fishing as well as catch volume?
163. What is the benefit to counting the number of days someone is fishing for? Isn't a sustainable industry one which looks at how much fish they are taking from seas and rivers, rather than one which counts how many days it takes them to do it?
164. Doesn't the Minister agree that the reduction in the number of days will ensure that commercial fishers end up working longer hours on fishing days to try and catch up, which means more fish taken from a smaller catchment area?
165. Will the Minister agree to advocate on behalf of small businesses in the Commercial Fishing Industry and call for a halt to the reform process?
166. What industry stakeholders has the Minister met with in relation to the commercial fishing industry reform process? If so, please advise which stakeholders, the dates and issues discussed.

Impact on Small Businesses of the closure of railway stations at Newcastle

167. Is the Minister aware of any negative impact of closure of railway stations at Civic, Wickham and Newcastle on small businesses in these locations? If so, how many, and what were they?
168. Is the Minister aware of any safety incidents on the Hamilton Station precinct relating to crime or anti-social behaviour that have impacted on small businesses at this location? If so, how many, and what were they?

Impact of Infrastructure Developments and Constructions on Small Businesses

169. What is the Minister doing to assist businesses who are impacted by infrastructure developments where small businesses are relocated or have their businesses interrupted during construction?
170. What is the Small Business Commission doing to assist small businesses impacted by these changes?

Early Childhood

171. What action the Minister has taken in lobbying the Minister for Early Childhood Education to release funding for more pre-school places to assist these small business not-for-profit and for profit operators to improve access for their clients to this funding?

Licensing of Hairdressers

172. Did the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation consult with the Minister for Skills and Small Business prior to his public announcement of the proposal to reduce hairdresser minimum qualifications for licencing in July 2016?
173. Did the Minister for Small Business make contact with the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation after the Minister for Skill's office was made aware of the announcement in July 2016
174. Did the Minister for Skills request that the decision be reversed, and if so, what was the basis for such a request?
175. Is the Minister concerned about the impact on worker and client safety with the use of sharp tools and chemicals in this industry if businesses who do not meet Certificate 3 qualifications are allowed to trade?
176. What impact do quick and disruptive regulation changes have on hairdressers' revenue?

Licensing of Painters

177. In January 2015, by regulation the then Minister for Fair trading increased the quote cost thresholds for licensing of painters who undertake painting for internal and external works. This opened the door to an expansion of unlicensed and untrained painters into the industry, risking safety, particularly in properties which included asbestos and/or lead based paints.
178. Did the Minister for Small Business make contact with the Minister for Fair Trading after the Minister for Skill's office was made aware of the announcement?
179. Did the Minister for Skills request that the decision be reversed, and if so, what was the basis for such a request?
180. What was the onerous paperwork which justified the new regulations?
181. Is the Minister concerned about the impact on worker and client safety, particularly in the context of asbestos and lead based paints where unqualified and unlicensed painters are allowed to trade?
182. What impact do quick and disruptive regulation changes have on painters' revenue?

Greyhound Racing

183. When will the Greyhound racing compensation package be announced?
184. Will this extend to businesses that relied on the greyhound industry to support their trade, eg pet produce, vets, equipment to transport greyhounds?
185. Will the Government compensate the Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association for the loss of revenue from Maitland Greyhound Breeders Owners and Trainers Association after the closure of the Greyhound industry from 1 July 2017?
186. Does the Minister think it is fair that greyhound owners, breeders and trainers were only notified of the changes via social media?
187. If so, will other regulatory and legislative changes that have negative impacts on small businesses be announced on social media in future?

Easy to Do Business Pilot at Parramatta

188. What evaluation has the Minister or his department undertaken of the Easy To Do Business program?
189. Why does the website request personal and business information before a business can see what is offered by the program?
190. What were the results of any such evaluation?
191. When will the program be rolled out to other areas of the state?
192. When will the program be rolled out to other industry sectors?

Taxis

193. What involvement has the Minister for Small Business had in move to bring Uber into the point to point transport industry?
194. Does the Minister have any concerns over the failure of the Government to regulate disruptive industries which impact on heavily regulated industries?

Impact of Changes to TAFE on Small Business

195. Has the Minister received any representations from small businesses concerned about the impact of changes to TAFE?

196. What has the Minister done to address such concerns?
197. Is the Minister aware of small businesses requiring staff training due to changes in regulation having to ask their staff to travel further to receive such training because campuses nearby have closed and there is no public transport to the new campuses (eg: Kurri Kurri & Food Safety Certificate).
198. How has this kind of issue impacted on child care providers?
199. How does the Minister expect small businesses to continue to pay additional monies for training of apprentices when the costs have increased significantly and rapidly in recent years. Does the Minister expect small businesses to give the Government a blank cheque for education and training?
200. How can small businesses in hairdressing and painting which employ apprentices, who have had significant changes to regulation that have impacted on their ability to make revenue, continue to pay escalating TAFE fees?
201. What impact does the Minister think this is having on the number of apprenticeships in the state of NSW?

Local Government Forced Amalgamations Impact on Contractors

202. The Government has claimed to not be seeking savings in wages through the reform process in small rural and regional areas, by putting a moratorium on reducing staff numbers in these councils (eg: Dungog). However they have not provided a similar guarantee for small businesses that contract to Council. Given that uncertainty and forced amalgamations have put a \$250,000 cap on contracts that can be automatically entered into by councils who are in limbo awaiting determinations, what impact is this having on small councils in rural and community areas such as Dungog?
203. Can Councils make arrangements to enter into contracts over \$250,000, has the Government tracked how many requests have been made? If so, how many have been made?
204. Is the Minister aware of any such issues being experienced by any small business across the state of NSW?
205. Where bulk tendering has not already occurred (eg, Hunter Region of Councils), there is potential for two small businesses who have been separately contracting to two formerly separate but now newly merged councils to be in competition when the merger occurs. What steps is the Minister

for Small Business taking to ensure that such competition is fair and that smaller and micro businesses are not cannibalised by larger businesses?

206. Will these issues provide private sector jobs losses in regional and rural towns with small populations, despite the government's assurances that public sector jobs will not be lost in those areas?
207. Does the Government place more value on public sector jobs or private sector jobs, or is there another reason that the Government has acted to protect public sector jobs but not private sector jobs?
208. Given the government has promised a moratorium on council job losses in regional and rural local government areas with small populations, what guarantees have been made to protect contractors in the same areas?
209. What is the average cost to a small business of an audit of the Government's Payroll Tax rebate?
210. What actions has the Minister undertaken to ensure small businesses who were contracted to undertake work on behalf of merged Councils were compensated for any losses sustained as a result of the mergers?
211. Were affected small businesses notified their contracts would be terminated prior to the announcement of these mergers?
212. If not, why not?
213. Has the Minister met with affected small businesses since the mergers were announced?
214. If so,
 - (a) How many small businesses have been adversely affected by the forced merger process?
 - (b) How many jobs within small businesses have been lost?
 - (c) How many small businesses have gone into liquidation due to the termination of contracts?
215. Has the Minister advocated for the implementation of a financial assistance package to ensure affected small businesses have the opportunity to remain sustainable following the termination of their contracts with merged Councils?

Impact of restructuring and relocation of jobs in Department of Mineral Resources on small business

216. How many positions have been lost due to restructuring of the Department of Mineral Resources in 2015, and 2016?
217. Please disaggregate the data by state electorate.
218. What has the impact of these job losses been on the local small business sector on those communities?

Impact of the April 2015 Super Storms and January 2016 Storms on Small Businesses in the Hunter

219. How many businesses were impacted adversely by the April 2015 Super Storms and January 2016 Storms, including impacts on:
 - (a) Telecommunications?
 - (b) Internet access?
 - (c) Damage to buildings?
 - (d) Damage to land and fencing?
 - (e) Damage to plant and equipment?
 - (f) Inability to access properties?
220. How many of these businesses were covered by the appropriate (flood, business interruption, storm) insurance?
221. How many claims were refused?
222. Did the Minister advocate with the Insurance industry on behalf of small businesses where claims were refused?
223. What other government assistance were they eligible for?
224. How Many businesses approached the government appointed Small Business Advocate (CEO of the Hunter Business Chamber)?
225. How many were members of a business chamber?
226. How many were not members of a business chamber?
227. How did the Minister ensure that small businesses who were not members of a business chamber were assisted?

228. How many businesses closed as a result of the storms and what were the reasons given?
- (a) Business interruption?
 - (b) Irrecoverable damages?
 - (c) Failure to have landlords repair business premises?
229. Are Farmers Small Businesses?
230. How does Primary Industries communicate with farmers - email, letter?
231. Does the Department have a comprehensive list of all farms in the Maitland Electorate?
232. Is the Minister aware that many farmers had to halve their stocks after the April 2015 super storms at less than half the price they had to pay to restock them later the same year?
233. How many farmers lost stock in the January storms?
234. Why did the Minister not apply for Category C funding after the January 2016 storms?
235. What is the government doing to advocate for small farm owners who work off farm to provide a living wage while they are establishing their properties, or those transitioning to retirement and supplementing their income with superannuation to ensure they are eligible for natural disaster payment from the Federal Government under Category C Funding?
236. What were the stock levels of Maitland cattle farms in 2011, 13, 14, 15, 16, financial years?

Payroll tax

237. What is the completion rate of data entry for customers (that is once they have commenced entering data, how many are able to complete the transaction without time outs) for the Government's Payroll Tax portal?
238. What is the average cost to a small business of an audit of the Government's Payroll Tax rebate?

Coalition's Small Business Tax Cut Commitments

239. On 24 February 2015, you and the then Treasurer Andrew Constance put out a media release which "launched a campaign against Labor's new Business Tax", claiming that Labor had "secretly lumped a \$5.1 billion tax on business" and that as a result "over ten years, each business will be paying the extra tax three times, and lose \$7,500". In relation to that release:
- (a) Did the Government collect these same taxes for the last five years and only introduced legislation to remove the taxes in the 2016 Budget?

- (b) If so, how could the Government claim that they were “new” and not “secret”?
- (c) Given the claim that “each business will be paying the extra tax three times and lose \$7,500”, does the Government have evidence that each business in NSW will enter into a mortgage or transfer shares or business assets three times every year? If so, where is this evidence located?

240. Please advise the number of Mortgage Duty transactions from 2013-2014 and the average payment per transaction?

241. Please advise the number of Non-Real transfer Duty transactions from 2013-2014 and the average payment per transaction?

242. Please advise the number of Share Transfer Duty (Duty in Unlisted Securities) transactions from 2013-2014 and the average payment per transaction?

Newsagencies licences for lotteries

243. Some chemist and service station outlets owned by Woolworths are selling lottery tickets, how is this impacting on newsagents?

244. What is the Government’s plan for the sale of lottery tickets when the moratorium runs out?

245. Has the Minister met with newsagency owners or the industry association?

Domestic Violence Leave and Awareness

246. 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

247. 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?

Flexible Workplaces

248. 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?

Office Administration

249. 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?
250. 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?
251. 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?
252. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- (a) What is the cost of this?
253. 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?
254. 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?
255. 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?
256. 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?
257. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
- (a) What is the monthly cost of this?
258. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
259. 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
260. 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

261. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2015-16?

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

Labour Hire Firms

263. 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

264. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

265. 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?

266. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

267. 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

268. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2015-16?

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

Overseas Trips

270. 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?

271. 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

272. 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

273. 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?

274. 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

275. 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?
276. 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?
277. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
278. 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

279. 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?
280. 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

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

Merchant fees

283. 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.
284. 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.
285. 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

286. 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?