

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 001 – 005 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

1. What plans are there to change the current definition of ecologically sustainable development?
2. What consideration has been given to implementing climate impact statements as a core part of major project assessment?
3. What plans are there to use the planning act to ensure assessment of coal mining in NSW is consistent with the 2 degree undertaking from the Paris Climate Commitment?
4. What has been the change in average size house footprint over the last 50 years? What is the current trend predicted here?
5. What are the greenhouse emissions per head of Edmondson Park compared to Rozelle?

ANSWERS

I am advised as follows:

1. There is no plan to change the definition of ecologically sustainable development as part of amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
2. It is currently a standard requirement that all mining proposals outline in their Environmental Impact Statement and economic assessment the predicted greenhouse gas emissions of the proposed development. This includes scope 1 (direct emissions), scope 2 (indirect emissions) and scope 3 emissions (upstream and downstream emissions, including offshore).

This requirement is identified in the Department's Indicative Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for State significant mining projects, which are available on the Department's website.

3. The Department considers greenhouse gas emissions when assessing a development application for a coal mine.
4. This data published by the ABS is available at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/8752.0Feature%20Article1Jun%202013>

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/8731.0Feature%20Article1Feb%202010?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=8731.0&issue=Feb%202010&num=&view=>

5. The Department does not collect data on emissions per head.

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QUESTION 006 – 008 PLANNING APPROVALS

The following supplementary question asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTION

6. What has been the average time taken to assess state significant development in:
 - a. 2013/14?
 - b. 2014/15?
 - c. 2015/16?
7. Based on the priority to “halve the time taken on planning applications for state significant development” what is the projected timeframe expected to be taken to assess state significant development in 2016/17?
8. Can the Minister outline the process that will be undertaken to halve the time taken to assess state significant development?

ANSWER

6 – 8 I am advised as follows:

The Department did not calculate the average time taken to assess applications for all State significant projects before November 2014.

As at November 2014:

- State significant projects that were reviewed and determined by the Planning Assessment Commission were assessed or considered by Government agencies for an average of 644 days; and
- Other State significant projects were assessed or considered by Government agencies for an average of 298 days.

As at June 2016:

- State significant projects that were reviewed and determined by the Planning Assessment Commission were assessed or considered by Government agencies for an average of 373 days; and
- Other State significant projects were assessed or considered by Government agencies for an average of 186 days.

The data used to calculate these averages is still being checked, and public reporting on assessment times will commence shortly.

Further reductions to average assessment times are expected in 2016-17 due to:

- allocating additional staff to the Department’s assessment teams, and improving the capability of these staff;

- appointing Department of Premier and Cabinet Case Managers to bring a whole of government focus to assessments, and assist in resolving issues between agencies;
- working with senior officers from other agencies to resolve issues earlier in the assessment process; and
- introducing a number of policies and guidelines, including initiatives released under the Integrated Mining Policy.

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QUESTION 009 PLANNING APPROVALS

The following supplementary question were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTION

9. What was the average time taken to assess housing development applications in:
- a. 2013/14?
 - b. 2014/15?
 - c. 2015/16?

ANSWER

9. The Local Development Performance Monitoring (LDPM) Report provides an annual overview of the performance of the NSW planning system and information on local and regional development determined by councils, private certifiers and regional planning panels.

The LDPM Data can be accessed at: <http://www.datareporting.planning.nsw.gov.au/ldpm-executive-summary>

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QUESTION 010 – 011 PLANNING APPROVALS

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

10. What are the proportion of complying DA's approved by private certifiers in:
 - a. 2013/14
 - b. 2014/15
 - c. 2015/16
11. What proportion of DA approvals have been subject to modifications in the last year and how does this compare to 2010.

ANSWERS

10. The Local Development Performance Monitoring (LDPM) provides an annual overview of the performance of the NSW planning system and information on local and regional development determined by councils, private certifiers and regional planning panels.

LDPM data, can be accessed at the following address:

<http://www.datareporting.planning.nsw.gov.au/ldpm-executive-summary>

11. LDPM data is limited to only details about the total numbers of development consents and section 96 modifications that have been determined in each financial year.

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QUESTION 012 – 013 PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT COMMISSION

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

12. How many determinations did the Planning and Assessment Commission make in 2015/16?
 - a. Of these determinations, how many recommended approval?
 - b. How many did not recommend approval?
13. How many determinations is the Planning and Assessment Commission projected make in 2016/17?

ANSWERS

12. 57 determinations were made by the independent Planning Assessment Commission in 2015/2016, all of which are available on the Planning Assessment Commission website at www.pac.nsw.gov.au
13. The number of determinations made by the independent Planning Assessment Commission in 2016/2017 will be in part dependent upon the number of projects that meet the relevant delegation thresholds.

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QUESTION 014 – 016 PRE-GATEWAY REVIEWS

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

- 14. How many LEP amendments were lodged with the Department of Planning for a Pre-Gateway review in 2015/16?
- 15. How many Pre-Gateway review determinations were made in 2015/16?
 - a. Of these determinations, how many recommended approval?
 - b. How many did not recommend approval?
- 16. How many Pre-Gateway reviews are projected to be lodged in 2016/17?

ANSWERS

- 14. 41.
- 15. 25.
 - a. 12.
 - b. 13.
- 16. The Department of Planning and Environment does not hold this information.

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QUESTION 017 GREATER SYDNEY COMMISSION CONSULTATION

The following supplementary question asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTION

17. Can the Minister advise why the legislated timeframe for finalising the Greater Sydney Commission's District Plans is January 2017 when at least 5 of the forcibly amalgamated Sydney councils will not have elected councillors representing their community until September 2017?

ANSWER

To ensure there is an opportunity for all Council's to be involved with this process, District Plans will not be finalised until the end of 2017.

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QUESTION 018 – 022 GREATER SYDNEY COMMISSION

The following supplementary question asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTION

18. Will planning proposals, including rezonings, assessed by the Greater Sydney Commission be able to be overridden by the Minister?
19. What resources and budget does the Greater Sydney Commission have and what access does the GSC have to other agencies who can supply data?
20. What power does the GSC have to ensure that utility suppliers, such as Sydney Water, are able to provide the infrastructure required to catch up with new housing?
21. The GSC has had discussions with councils in relation to the development of District Plans. Some of these councils are threatened with merger proposals. If any of these councils are in fact merged, what is the status of the discussions with those councils in relation to the plans?
22. How will the planning assessment panels be formed and how will they operate compared with the current JRPPs? To what extent will they include the concerns of local communities?

ANSWER

18. The Greater Sydney Commission exercises local environmental plan-making functions in the Greater Sydney Region, rather than the Minister for Planning: see *sections 24, 53 and 53A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. That means that the Minister for Planning has no power to make a local environmental plan in respect of the Greater Sydney Region that would have the effect of overriding one made by the Greater Sydney Commission.
19. The Commission's budget is contained in Budget Paper 3. It can access data from other agencies by agreement.
20. Nil.
21. The Commission has been and will continue to work with all councils to understand their priorities for the District Plans. The Greater Sydney Commission has publicly confirmed it will not make the plans until December 2017, further to Council elections in September 2017.
22. Please refer to:
http://www.greatersydneycommission.nsw.gov.au/~media/Files/GSC/Media-releases/Sydney_Planning_Panels_FAQs_GSC.ashx

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QUESTION 023 – 025 HOLISTIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

- 23. Are there plans to revise the planning act in NSW? How are the public going to be notified about this?
- 24. How, if at all, has the time taken to assess development applications changed in the last 3 years?
- 25. How, if at all, have the rates of community submissions for development applications changed in the last 3 years?

ANSWERS

I am advised that:

- 23. As announced in May 2016 (<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/News/2016/Legislative-changes-to-simplify-the-planning-system/>), the NSW Government will release draft amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in the second half of 2016 to increase community confidence in planning decisions and help build a simpler, more modern planning system.

A series of forums with council, environmental, industry, and community stakeholders have been held during the year to discuss potential areas for amendments. Further consultation will occur during the exhibition of amendments.
- 24. This data can be accessed on the Local Development Performance Monitoring website at: <http://www.datareporting.planning.nsw.gov.au/ldpm-executive-summary>
- 25. This data should be sought from councils.

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QUESTION 026 HOLISTIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The following supplementary question was asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTION

26. How has the amount of open space per head changed over the last decade in the following Sydney subregions: the Central subregion, the West Central subregion, the South subregion, the North subregion.

ANSWER

26. I am advised:

The Department of Planning & Environment does not have an open space per head calculation. However, the latest audit of open space undertaken in 2014 indicates that in Sydney the total amount of open space has increased from 550,784ha in 2003 to 589,494ha in 2014.

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QUESTION 027 – 032 SYDENHAM TO BANKSTOWN CORRIDOR

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

27. Why wasn't an affordable housing levy or scheme included in the structure plan for proposed redevelopment areas in Sydney, such as the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor?
28. What is the net loss of open space per capita predicted after the corridor is completed?
29. What commitment will you make to reserving other potential open space in the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor, including the former Canterbury bowling club?
30. What pressure has the Department been under to provide a guaranteed new number of residents in the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor for a private operator for the Metro?
31. What consideration was given to the perceived conflict of interest in hiring Elton Consulting to undertake community consultation on the corridor strategy in May this year, given that Elton Consulting lodged a submission to redevelop a site in the corridor for 1,000 units?
32. What guidelines does your Department have to ensure that consultants it hires for community consultation do not have conflict of interest?

ANSWERS

- 27 – 29. The Department is in the process of finalising the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy.
30. None.
31. Elton Consulting Group was appointed to facilitate community engagement activities in the form of community workshops that occurred across the corridor. The outcomes of this community engagement are summarised in a publicly available report.
32. Consulting Service Providers are engaged using the terms and conditions of the appropriate NSW Procurement Scheme.

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QUESTION 033 – 034 PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

- 33. What steps is the Minister taking to implement greenhouse gas emissions targets in NSW planning laws?
- 34. What liaison does the Minister have with local councils regarding the implementation of effective coastal planning guidelines and sea level rise planning benchmarks?

ANSWERS

I am advised that:

- 33. The Department considers scope 1 (direct emissions), scope 2 (indirect emissions) and scope 3 emissions (upstream and downstream emissions, including offshore) in its assessment of relevant development applications.

This requirement is identified in the Department's Indicative Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for State significant mining projects, which are available on the Department's website.

Energy use and emissions are also important issues in such state environmental planning policies (SEPPs) as the BASIX SEPP and the Mining SEPP.

- 34. The Minister for Planning is responsible for certification of local councils' coastal zone management plans under Part 4A of the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*. These plans must make provision for the management of risks from coastal hazards and the impacts from climate change.

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QUESTION 035 - 036 DENSITIES

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

35. Did the former Hurstville Council achieve the required densities in the Hurstville LGA?
36. Has Georges River Council already achieved the required densities for the Georges River LGA?

ANSWERS

35. Housing targets were set out in the draft South Subregional Plan, released in 2007. Councils across the subregion utilised the Plan to inform their planning for future housing needs. For the former Hurstville Council area, the 2004–2031 target was 4,100 additional dwellings. During 2004–2015, an additional 2,518 dwellings were completed within the area.
36. Housing targets were set out in the draft South Subregional Plan, released in 2007. Councils across the subregion utilised the Plan to inform their planning for future housing needs. For the area covered by the new Georges River Council, the 2004–2031 target was for 6,650 additional dwellings. During 2004–2015, an additional 4,122 dwellings were completed within the area.

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QUESTION 037 – 038 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

- 37. How many staff at the Department of Planning and Environment have expertise in Aboriginal heritage issues?
- 38. How much has the Department of Planning and Environment allocated in 2016-17 specifically to conserve and celebrate Aboriginal heritage?

ANSWERS

- 37. Aboriginal culture and heritage expertise is provided across the Planning and Environment cluster, including in areas responsible for planning, development assessment, assessment of proposed Aboriginal places and nominations for state heritage listing, regulation and compliance, policy, community engagement and reserve management.
- 38. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), within the Planning and Environment cluster, is the agency responsible for policies specifically focused on conserving and celebrating Aboriginal heritage.

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QUESTION 039 - 040 INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

39. How many staff does the Department of Planning and Environment employ to investigate alleged breaches to project approval conditions? How many of these related to Aboriginal heritage?
40. What is the Department of Planning and Environment's budget for specifically enforcing the conditions?

ANSWERS

I am advised that:

39. In the past two years, the NSW Government has doubled the number of planning compliance officers that investigate alleged breaches of consent conditions.
40. Costs are managed within the Department's recurrent budget.

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QUESTION 041 – 043 SITE OF FORMER OATLEY BOWLING CLUB

The following supplementary questions were asked by Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

QUESTIONS

41. What consultation has the Minister had with the then Hurstville Council and/or newly created Georges River Council about the proposed redevelopment of the former Oatley Bowling club site?
42. Are there any height limits/restrictions to infrastructure such as seniors housing in SP2 infrastructure zoning?
43. What steps does the Minister take to ensure that local councils properly consult with their local residents during the development application process?

ANSWERS

41. Neither the former Hurstville Council and/or newly created Georges River Council have requested to meet with me regarding the Oatley Bowling club site.
42. Height limits and restrictions may apply to infrastructure development (such as seniors housing) in SP2 Infrastructure zones.
43. Public consultation is undertaken by councils in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*, and council plans and policies.

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QUESTION 044 – 047 SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDERS

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Paul Green MLC.

QUESTION

Minister I understand that under the SEPP (Housing for Seniors or People with Disability) 2004 developers are allowed to currently classify themselves as “social housing providers” using various definitions contained in the document.

It has been brought to my attention that current developers are classifying themselves as a “social housing provider” yet not all their developments are providing social and affordable housing, in fact under the act; they are not actually obliged to supply any social or affordable housing in their developments.

44. Can the Minister respond how this is possible?
45. Further to this can the Minister comment regarding the requirements expected from “social housing providers”?
46. What evidence / assurance does the Government receive from developers that they are in fact providing social and affordable housing when they claim the “social housing provider” status under the SEPP?
47. How does the Government confirm that such housing is actually provided? What checks and balances are in place to scrutinise the claims?

ANSWER

44. The status of social housing providers is a matter for the relevant consent authority to consider when assessing development applications under the SEPP.
45. The types of organisations that have the necessary attributes that enable them to be capable of acting as a social housing provider are identified in the SEPP.
46. The status of social housing providers is a matter for the relevant consent authority to consider when assessing development applications under the SEPP.
47. Compliance with approved development plans and conditions, including the delivery of housing by social housing providers, is a matter for the relevant consent authority.

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QUESTION 048 – 049 PLANNING

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

48. What projects is the Government looking into in relation to the Housing Acceleration Fund (HAF)?
- Can the Minister confirm the Treasurer's announcement on 18 June this year that \$140m in funds from the HAF will be spent on the Hills Road M4 ramp at Lidcombe?
 - Can the Minister confirm whether any funds from the HAF will be spent on any project in relation to WestConnex?
49. What are the Government's projections of population growth in Sydney for the next 20 years?
- How many homes does the Government project will be needed over the next 20 years to meet demand?
 - Does the Government have a master document or master plan that shows the number of dwellings by suburb or Local Government Area that will be required to accommodate the population increases in various parts of Sydney?

ANSWERS

48. The Housing Acceleration Fund (round 4) has shortlisted 23 road projects across Sydney. Four of these have been announced. The remaining nineteen will be subject to planning and design work.
- Yes
 - No HAF funds will be spent on WestConnex projects. The Hill Road off ramp from the M4 motorway is funded through HAF to support the delivery of new homes in Carter Street and Sydney Olympic Park.
- 49.
- It is estimated that Sydney will require 726,000 more dwellings over the next 20 years (2016 to 2036).
 - The Department publishes population and household projections on its website at <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Research-and-Demography/Demography/Population-Projections/>. The latest release includes population and dwelling projections by LGA to 2036.

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QUESTION 050 PLANNING

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

50. When was the Newcastle LEP last amended?
- a. What are the height limits for the 1.66 hectare site fronting Hunter Street Mall, jointly owned by Urban Growth and GPT Group, for which the Minister recently called for expressions of interest?
 - b. What guidelines has the Minister set for companies submitting expressions of interest on the site?
 - c. What protections are in place to prevent any successful buyer of the site redeveloping above a 12-storey height limit?

ANSWERS

50. 8 July 2016
- a. The heights vary across the site, and some heights are expressed as Reduced Levels (RLs).
Corner King and Perkins Streets: RL 58.9m
Wolfe Street: RL 54.5m
Corner King and Newcomen Street: RL 58.9m
Block between Wolfe, Hunter, King and Newcomen Streets: 24m and 27m
Block between Perkins, Hunter King and Wolfe Streets: 27m and 35m
 - b. The East End site is an open market sale and all Expressions of Interest (EOI) will be carefully evaluated.
- Respondents are required to register their interests in order to gain access to the due diligence materials contained in an electronic due diligence (DD) room. Access to the is controlled for legal and audit purposes.
- As a part of the due diligence materials, the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) approval is contained in the Due Diligence room and Respondents are required to confirm that they will comply with the DA approved masterplan, which references the JRPP Determination and Statement of Reasons dated 28 April 2016. Compliance with the DA approved masterplan is an evaluation criteria which Respondents must satisfy.

The EOI process closes on 20 September 2016. Following this, the EOIs will be evaluated and shortlisted Respondents may be invited to participate in the second phase of this sales process where they will submit a detailed tender.

The successful buyer or buyers will then be determined following evaluation of these tenders.

- c. UrbanGrowth NSW and The GPT Group have been clear in all public statements and in the EOI documentation (which includes the Expressions of Interest conditions, returnable schedules and the Information Memorandum), that the vendors will not support any increase in height to what was approved by the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP).

One of the key sales terms in the EOI states that, "The Purchaser is restricted from increasing the height of the proposed buildings in accordance with the DA approved masterplan".

Respondents will also be evaluated on their response to compliance with the height restrictions as set out in the DA approved masterplan and their understanding of the Newcastle LEP and DCP and the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy and how the Respondent's vision complies with the objectives of these documents.

Newcastle City Council is the consent authority for future DAs, and the masterplan approved by council allows for heights of up to ~ RL40. Further to this, the vendors believe that Respondents will not try to amend heights as it removes planning certainty, which is a key asset of the site.

Newcastle City Council submitted a Planning Proposal to the Department seeking a Gateway determination. The proposal seeks to amend the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012 to reduce the maximum height limits of the proposed towers by up to five storeys. This will ensure that future development is kept in line with the Urban Growth NSW and The GPT Group concept plan approved by the JRPP.

The Department issued the Gateway determination in September this year subject to conditions including community consultation.

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QUESTION 051 – 052 PLANNING

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

51. What was the cost to the taxpayer of the May 2015 summit on the redevelopment of the White Bay power station site?
52. What are the Government's plans for the Glebe Island Terminal?

ANSWER

51. In recognition of the importance of community involvement in the transformation of The Bays Precinct, in May 2015, UrbanGrowth NSW hosted a successful Sydneysiders Summit. The Summit was an example of best practice community engagement. Around 1,300 people attended the Summit and a number of associated Leadership Forums held in mid-May. UrbanGrowth NSW received very positive feedback about the event. From the onsite evaluation 91 percent of participants rated the Summit as *good or very good* and 93 percent felt that they had the opportunity to have their say. The cost was contained within the agency's consultation budget for this project.
52. The NSW Government is canvassing opportunities to create an innovation district at Glebe Island, and Government agencies are working together to investigate how this could occur. The Bays Precinct has long been in need of an overhaul. We have the best harbour in the world and we need to capitalise on it. Planning for The Bays Precinct is being informed by industry and stakeholder engagement. We will continue to talk to port tenants and users to help shape the future of the area, and keep them up to date on The Bays Precinct Urban Transformation Program.

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QUESTION 053 - 059 PLANNING

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

53. How many executives at a Director level and above have resigned or been retrenched in the past financial year 2015-16?
54. How many executives at a Director level and above have resigned or been retrenched in the past six months?
55. What was the total cost of redundancies for all executives at a Director level and above in the last financial year?
56. What was the total recruitment cost for executives and directors in the past financial year 2015-16?
57. What was the total figure in years of planning experience lost through redundancies, resignations and retrenchments in the financial year 2015-16?
58. How many of the current directors or Executive directors have planning qualifications including the cabinet secretary?
59. Is it true that neither the Executive Director of Planning Services or the Secretary of the Department have planning qualifications?

ANSWERS

I am advised as follows:

53. 25.
54. 10.
55. Approximately \$3.3M
56. Approximately \$1.7M
57. Years of planning experience is not measured for current or previous staff as there is no definition of this term.
- 58-59. All staff in the Department possess the relevant qualifications and experience for their respective roles.

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QUESTION 060 – 061 PLANNING

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

60. Following advice from the Minister for Roads that a significant portion of the site of the Leo McCarthy Memorial Park, Smithfield, zoned 'infrastructure classified road' is under the control of the Minister for Planning, will the Minister agree:
- a. That war memorials should not be demolished for roads;
 - b. That adequate compensation should be paid to RSL sub-branches in the event that memorial sites are compulsorily acquired;
 - c. To protect the Leo McCarthy Memorial Park partial demolition from future widening of the Cumberland Highway?
61. Will the Minister agree to safeguard the Leo McCarthy Memorial Park by changing the zoning classification of the Memorial Park to RE1 'public recreation'?

ANSWERS

- 60.
- a. All heritage items should be carefully evaluated and protected wherever possible.
 - b. The compulsory acquisition of land is undertaken in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.
 - c. If the Cumberland Highway is widened in this area, the Roads and Maritime Services will manage all aspects of the project, including investigation of alternatives, community consultation, mitigation measures and consultation with Fairfield City Council, which owns the land.
61. This section of Cumberland Highway has been identified for road widening since the Fairfield Planning Scheme in 1974. Planning instruments, including the Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013, must identify any land potentially required by State Government authorities for infrastructure delivery. The majority of Leo McCarthy Memorial Park is located within the RE1 zone. The memorial itself is not in the SP2 zone. The SP2 zone only applies to a small portion of land behind the front fence line.

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QUESTION 062 – 065 PLANNING REFORM

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

62. Can the Minister please confirm for the Committee that the Government intends to make significant amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979) early next year?
63. Can the Minister please explain to the Committee the options currently being considered by himself or the Department of Planning and Environment?
64. Significant industries rely on a predictable planning system to generate economic growth. Has the Department of Planning and Environment undertaken any studies or assessments [including the removal of section 75W of the Act] on how any changes may impact key industries?
- a. If yes:
 - i. Which industries do these assessments relate to?
 - ii. Will the Minister table these assessments for the Committee?
 - b. If no, did you advise industry participants that this was not the case?
65. Can the Minister outline for the Committee the consultation he or the Department have undertaken regarding amendments to the Act? Are there plans for further consultation before a draft Bill comes to the Parliament?

ANSWERS

62 – 65.

As announced in May (<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/News/2016/Legislative-changes-to-simplify-the-planning-system/>), the NSW Government will release draft amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in the second half of 2016 to increase community confidence in planning decisions and help build a simpler, more modern planning system.

A series of forums with councils, environmental, industry, and community stakeholders have been held during the year to discuss potential areas for amendments. Further consultation will occur during the exhibition of amendments.

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QUESTION 066 – 070 PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

66. Has the Minister considered that the dysfunction in the planning system arises from his delegation of all his decision making to the PAC, a body never set up to have a determination role?
67. Would the Minister agree the PAC continually fails to complete its assessments within reasonable timeframes?
68. What would the Minister define as a reasonable time frame for a PAC to hold its public hearing and deliver a report to the Department?
69. Can the Minister advise if he is considering significant changes to the PAC as part of the amendments?
70. Given that when outlining decisions, various PACs have alluded to community sentiment as being impactful on their determinations:
- a. How do PACs make assessments around community sentiment?
 - b. What metrics are used?
 - c. Do they monitor media clippings?
 - d. Do they base their assessments on the public hearings?

ANSWERS

I am advised as follows:

66. Not all determination powers afforded to the Minister for Planning under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* are delegated to the independent Planning Assessment Commission. However, the original Ministerial delegation to undertake determinations was granted on 18 November 2008 by the then Minister for Planning, the Hon. Kristina Keneally. The number of determinations made by the Commission are outlined in its annual reports.
67. No.
68. The nominated time frame will vary for each project given that each project varies in complexity and issues. It is important that all relevant considerations for projects are considered in a robust and timely manner.

69. It is assumed that the question refers to amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Proposed amendments to the Act will be subject to consultation.
70. The Commission's determination reports outline the reasons for Commission determinations. The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* provides the overarching framework for how planning decisions are made in New South Wales. The objects of the Act include to provide increased opportunity for public involvement and participation in environmental planning and assessment. Actions such as exhibition, consultation and public hearings or meetings are important in achieving this object.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 071 – 073 COMPLIANCE INITIATIVES

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

71. Given there is significant concern in regional areas regarding coal mines' adherence to their approved operating conditions, what resources does the Department currently have available to ensure mines comply with their conditions of approval?
72. Does the Minister believe these current resources are adequate to ensure positive environmental outcomes?
- a. Are there any plans to bolster the Department's resources in this area?
73. Can the Minister please confirm reports senior Departmental officers are pursuing a number of operating mines over minor issues such as historical reports and paperwork which have no environmental outcomes attached to them?
- a. If so:
- i. Would the Minister advise as to why this is taking place?
- ii. Given the acknowledged scarcity of resources at the Department, would the Minister agree resources would be better used focusing on real issues of environmental outcomes as opposed to issues relating to minor issues such as historical paperwork?

ANSWERS

I am advised that:

71. In the past two years, the NSW Government has:
- a. doubled the number of planning compliance officers,
- b. increased court-imposed penalties for major breaches of planning controls to \$5 million, up from the previous maximum of \$1.1 million, and
- c. increased planning penalty notices five-fold, from \$3,000 to \$15,000. These are the highest on-the-spot fines in the nation.
72. The Department's compliance resources are focussed on ensuring positive environmental outcomes.
- a. Resources are allocated by the Secretary.
73. I am not aware of such reports. However, the Government expects that mine operators comply with all conditions of development consents.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 074 – 075 LEO MCCARTHY MEMORIAL PARK, SMITHFIELD

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

74. Following advice from the Minister for Roads that a significant portion of the site of the Leo McCarthy Memorial Park, Smithfield, zoned 'infrastructure classified road' is under the control of the Minister for Planning, will the Minister agree:
- a. That war memorials should not be demolished for roads
 - b. That adequate compensation should be paid to RSL sub-branches in the event that memorial sites are compulsorily acquired
 - c. To protect the Leo McCarthy Memorial Park partial demolition from future widening of the Cumberland Highway?
75. Will the Minister agree to safeguard the Leo McCarthy Memorial Park by changing the zoning classification of the Memorial Park to RE1 'public recreation'?

ANSWERS

- 74.
- a. All heritage items should be carefully evaluated and protected wherever possible.
 - b. The compulsory acquisition of land is undertaken in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.
 - c. If the Cumberland Highway is widened in this area, the Roads and Maritime Services will manage all aspects of the project, including investigation of alternatives, community consultation, mitigation measures and consultation with Fairfield City Council, which owns the land.
75. This section of Cumberland Highway has been identified for road widening since the Fairfield Planning Scheme in 1974. Planning instruments, including the Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013, must identify any land potentially required by State Government authorities for infrastructure delivery. The majority of Leo McCarthy Memorial Park is located within the RE1 zone. The memorial itself is not in the SP2 zone. The SP2 zone only applies to a small portion of land behind the front fence line.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 076 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE AND AWARENESS

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

76. 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. i. Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
 - ii. 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?

ANSWER

76. Each agency is responsible for implementing NSW Government policy. The information sought is not collected centrally.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 077 SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ANTI-BULLYING TRAINING AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

77. 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?

ANSWER

Each agency is responsible for implementing NSW Government policy. The information sought is not collected centrally.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 078 FLEXIBLE WORKPLACES

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

78. 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??

ANSWER

78. NSW Government agencies are developing initiatives to implement the NSW Government's policy that 100 per cent of public service jobs will be flexible by 2019 on the basis of 'if not, why not'.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 079 – 080 HEIGHT LIMITS IN NEWCASTLE EAST

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

79. Will the Minister reverse the height limit spot rezoning in Newcastle East?
- a. If so, when do you expect this to take place?
80. Has Newcastle City Council made an application to change the height limits in Newcastle East?
- a. If so, when does the Minister expect a decision on this application?

ANSWERS

79. Newcastle City Council has prepared a planning proposal to amend the maximum building height for the Newcastle East End. This proposal will be assessed and determined by the Department of Planning and Environment as the delegate of the Minister.
- a. The Department has requested clarification about the mapping of the building heights from Council, and final detail was only received on 12 September 2016.
80. A planning proposal, dated August 2016, to amend the maximum building height for the Newcastle East End has been prepared by Newcastle City Council and submitted to the Department for a Gateway determination. The intent of the proposal is to reduce the building heights to align with the development application approved by the Joint Regional Planning Panel for the UrbanGrowth NSW / GPT site.
- a. Refer to Answer to Question 79a.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 081 – 097

SYDENHAM TO BANKSTOWN URBAN RENEWAL CORRIDOR

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

81. What correspondence has the Minister had with developers who own properties along the Sydenham to Bankstown Line?
 - a. Has the Minister or representatives of his department met with Property developers?
 - b. If there was a meeting, what was the agenda?
82. When will the district plan for West Central be made publically available?
83. Will any of the newly developed properties along the Sydenham to Bankstown Line be required to have affordable housing quotas?
 - a. If not, why not?
84. Is the Minister aware of any plan to close down Hurlstone Park Station?
85. If the Greater Sydney Commission recommended the closure of Hurlstone Park Station would you close the Station?
86. Will you be taking into account the Heritage of locations when undertaking planning and zoning decisions in and around Hurlstone Park?
87. What type of re-zoning will be designated around Canterbury Train Station?
88. What type of re-zoning will be designated around Belmore Train Station?
89. What type of re-zoning will be designated around Hurlstone Park Train Station?
90. What type of re-zoning will be designated around Campsie Train Station?
91. Are you going to redevelop Belmore Station to install more parking and Bus stops?
92. What is the maximum time the Minister will allow the Sydenham to Bankstown line to be closed for the development of the Sydney Metro City & Southwest project?
93. What plans have been developed in response to the closure of the line?
94. What advice has the Minister provided to the Minister for Health regarding a need to increase funding at Canterbury Hospital?
95. Is the Minister taking the necessary steps to match the increase in population with appropriate services, such as access to education / schools and Canterbury Hospital?
96. Is the Minister or his department aware of issues overflow of sewerage as a result of increased development in Campsie?
97. Has the Department met with the council administrator?
 - a. If so has the Council Administrator raised any serious concerns about the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor?

ANSWERS

81. None.
- a) Department staff have met with property developers on the draft Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy. The purpose of these meetings was for the Department to better understand their submissions to the exhibition of the draft Strategy and site specific proposals.
 - b) During these meetings, the Department advised on time frames, process and implementation of the Strategy, as well as the Special Infrastructure Contribution framework to be proposed.
82. A draft West Central District Plan will be released for public comment by the end of 2016.
83. The Department is finalising the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy and this will include consideration of developing an affordable housing policy requirement.
- a) See answer to Question 83.
84. – 85. Any decisions regarding stations along the rail corridor are a matter for Transport for NSW and the Minister for Transport.
86. Yes
87. – 90. Draft rezoning plans for the these precincts have not yet been considered or finalised.
91. – 93. This is a matter for the Minister for Transport.
94. Advice regarding funding for hospitals is a matter for the Minister for Health.
95. The Department is still finalising the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy to identify appropriate infrastructure to include in the plan.
96. Sewage overflows are a matter for Sydney Water and are regulated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).
97. The Department has met with the Administrator of the Canterbury Bankstown Council who noted the resolution of Council and its desire to complete the corridor strategy as soon as possible.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 098 SYDENHAM TO BANKSTOWN URBAN RENEWAL CORRIDOR

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

98. Has the Greater Sydney commission begun community consultation on the development of Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor?

- (a) If so who have they consulted?
- (b) If not why?
- (c) Have they undertaken ethnically and linguistically diverse consultation?
- (d) Has the Greater Sydney Commission met with the Council Administrator?

ANSWER

This project is an Urban Priority Precinct being managed by the Department of Planning and Environment.

The South District Commissioner, the Hon Morris Iemma has met with the General Manager of the City of Canterbury-Bankstown, Mr. Matthew Stewart. The Central District Commissioner, Maria Atkinson has a meeting scheduled with Inner West Council Administrator, Mr Richard Pearson.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTIONS 99-110

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

99. How many staff are in your ministerial office?
- What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2015-16?:
 - What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2016-17 based on current appointments?
100. How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- For each phone, how much was each bill in 2015-16?
 - How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - What is the cost of replacing those phones?
101. How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 2015-16?
 - How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2015-16?
 - What was the cost of replacing these devices?
102. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- What is the cost of this?
103. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- If so, what was the cost of these items?
104. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?
- If so, what was the cost of these items?
105. 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?
- What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
 - Who is the subscriber for each of these?
106. 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?
- 107. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
 - a. What is the monthly cost of this?
- 108. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
 - a. What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
- 109. What was the total bill for your office in 2015-16 for:
 - a. Taxi hire
 - b. Limousine hire
 - c. Private car hire
 - d. Hire car rental
 - e. Ridesharing services
- 110. 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?

ANSWERS

- 99. Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website. Refer to:
http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers
- 100. There were 280 smart phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2015-16. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$452,830, a 21.7% per cent reduction on the 2008-09 expenditure of \$578,691. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ministerial and Correspondence Services.
- 101. There were 148 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2015-16. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ministerial and Correspondence Services.
- 102. Artwork in the Minister's Office includes art provided by the Department of Planning and Environment cluster at no cost, and artwork on loan from the Art Gallery of NSW for which the Gallery charges a nominal subscription fee.
- 103. No.
- 104. No.
- 105. The Minister's Office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the Office's budget.
- 106. Nil.

107. No.

108. Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2015-16 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.
109. Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services across the Ministry in 2015-16 was \$99,463. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.
110. Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$28,706 in 2015-16. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$282,000.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 111-112 HOSPITALITY

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

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

ANSWER

- 111. Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry - which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries - totalled \$25,059 in 2015-16.
- 112. Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 113 LABOUR HIRE FIRMS

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

113. 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

ANSWER

113. The Planning portfolio agencies use labour hire firms in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 114 – 117 MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The following supplementary questions were asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTIONS

114. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
115. 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?
116. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?
117. 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?

ANSWER

114.

| Agency | Number |
|--|------------------------|
| Department of Planning and Environment | 1 Director; 5 officers |
| Central Coast Development Corporation | 1 |
| Hunter Development Corporation | 1 |
| UrbanGrowth NSW | 1.5 |
| Greater Sydney Commission | 1 |

115. There are no forecast changes to number or cost.
116. The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2015-16 was \$1,900,000 compared to \$2,394,973 in 2009-10. Separately, UrbanGrowth NSW incurred \$45,870.00 on media monitoring.
117. No.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 118-119 FACEBOOK

The following supplementary question was asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

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

ANSWER

- 118. Nil.
- 119. I am advised that Facebook is used as one tool to promote community consultations, including regional plans and plans for the future of local areas across Sydney. Costs are managed within the agency's recurrent budget.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 120-121 OVERSEAS TRIPS

The following supplementary question was asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

120. 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?
121. 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?

ANSWER

120. – 121.

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Planning and Environment's website.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 122 DEPARTMENT/AGENCY TRAVEL

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

122. 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?

ANSWER

122. All Departments' travel in 2015-2016 was in accordance with NSW Treasury and Finance Circular OFS-2014-07. All taxi travel is in line with the Department's Taxi Usage Policy.

DPE Travel Costs for 2015/16 were as follows:

- a. \$40,384 excluding GST.
- b. \$700 excluding GST.
- c. \$53,987 excluding GST.
- d. Nil.

GSC Travel Costs for 2015/16 were as follows:

- a. \$87.47 excluding GST.
- b-d Nil

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 123 – 124 CONSULTING

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

123. 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?
124. 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?

ANSWER

123 – 124: Financial statements, including Legal Services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in relevant annual reports.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 125 – 128 DEPARTMENT/AGENCY STAFFING

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

125. 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?
126. 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?
127. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
128. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2015-16?
- a. What were the reason/s for each dismissal??

ANSWER

125-128. Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2015/16 are anticipated to be in the order of 2,099 – totalling 11,777 Since July 2011. The Labour Expenses Cap introduced in the 2012-13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, policy officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 129 – 130 SMART PHONE ACCOUNTS

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

- 129. 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?
- 130. 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??

ANSWER

- 129 – 130. IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTIONS 131 - 132 WEBSITES VISITED

The following supplementary question was asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

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

ANSWER

131. – 132.

Due to the way the Ministers' IT network infrastructure is configured with third party service providers, DPC does not have a single data source showing domain access and utilisation figures.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 133 – 135 MERCHANT FEES

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labour Opposition).

QUESTION

- 133. 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.
- 134. 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.
- 135. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2015-16?

ANSWERS

133-135. All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13. DPE and UG NSW accept payment for goods and services using Credit / Debit / PCards so we impose merchant fees on our customers.

Staff only use their PCards for the purchase of goods and services for official business purposes. If particular vendors elect to impose a merchant fee on card transactions, that is an unavoidable cost of doing business.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016 PLANNING

QUESTION 136 PROBITY AUDITOR

The following supplementary question asked by the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition).

QUESTION

136. 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?

ANSWER

136. In accordance with the NSW Procurement Board's Direction (PBD-2013-05), DPE has internal mechanisms in place to ensure that probity considerations are routinely taken into account in its procurement decisions, and the use of external probity advisers and auditors is the exception rather than the rule. The Department's Annual Report includes all consultancies valued more than \$50,000.