

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016

PREMIER, MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – 1 September 2016

QUESTION - Ellerton Drive extension

1. When did the Premier's Office first discuss with Administrator Tim Overall, or staff of the former Queanbeyan City Council or staff of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, arrangements for the Administrator to approve the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE)?
2. Who initiated the discussions? Why?
3. Did the Premier's Office propose the establishment of a determination panel? If so, why?
4. Did the Premier's Office propose the membership of the determination panel?
5. Why did a staff member of the Premier's Office attend the panel determination meeting on 30 June 2016?
6. Was the Premier's Office aware that:
 - (a) The Administrator of Queanbeyan Council had publicly expressed support for the Ellerton Drive Extension?
 - (b) At least half of the former Queanbeyan City Councillors opposed the Ellerton Drive Extension?
 - (c) At the time that the NSW Government dismissed Queanbeyan City councillors, there was no certainty that the council would approve the proposed Ellerton Drive Extension?
7. Which of these facts did the Premier's Office have regard to when deciding to become involved in the process for determining the proposed Ellerton Drive Extension?
8. Has anyone in the Premier's Office had any discussions with any person representing the interests of Googong Township P/L or Canberra Investment Corporation Australia in relation to this matter? If so, please provide details.

ANSWER:

The Premier's Office has not discussed this issue with the Administrator of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.

QUESTION - Amalgamation reform

9. How many full time equivalent staff are employed within the Department of Premier and Cabinet to oversee the Government's Fit for the Future Local Government reform?

ANSWER:

DPC staff numbers are included in the Annual Report.

QUESTION – Greyhounds

10. Please outline the process that the Government will undertake in converting crown land currently used for greyhound racing for community use? How will the community have a say during this process?

ANSWER:

All greyhound tracks on Crown land will be converted for community use. The Government will undertake a detailed planning process to determine how each site will be used. This will include public consultation on each site to understand the needs of each local community.

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QUESTION – Ellerton Drive Extension

11. When did the Premier's Office first discuss with Administrator Tim Overall, or staff of the former Queanbeyan City Council or staff of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, arrangements for the Administrator to approve the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE)?

(a) Who initiated the discussions? Why?

12. Did the Premier's Office propose the establishment of a determination panel? If so, why?

13. Did the Premier's Office propose the membership of the determination panel?

14. Did a staff member from the Premier's Office attend the panel determination meeting on 30 June 2016?

(a) If yes, why?

15. Was the Premier's Office aware that:

(a) The Administrator had publicly expressed support for the Ellerton Drive Extension?

(b) At least half of the former Queanbeyan City Councillors opposed the Ellerton Drive Extension?

(c) At the time that the NSW Government dismissed Queanbeyan City councillors, there was no certainty that the council would approve the proposed Ellerton Drive Extension?

16. Has anyone in the Premier's Office had any discussions with any person representing the interests of Googong Township P/L or Canberra Investment Corporation Australia in relation to this matter? If so, please provide details.

ANSWER:

See response to Questions 1-8.

QUESTION – Western Sydney Heat Island

17. Western Sydney is particularly vulnerable to heat increases from climate change and heat island effects. Will you commit that the proposed State Environmental Planning Policy (Protection of Trees in Urban Areas) 2016 will not lead to an increasing loss of trees across Sydney including in Western Sydney?

ANSWER:

The proposed regulatory framework for biodiversity reforms will include a new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) that will change the way councils manage biodiversity in urban areas. The new SEPP will not relax existing clearing controls.

QUESTION – Western Sydney Parklands

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

18. Are there any plans to increase funding to the Western Sydney Parklands Trust?

(a) If yes, when will the budget be increased and by how much?

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(b) If No, why not?

ANSWER:

The Western Sydney Parklands Trust is not budget dependant. The Trust is self-funded through revenue generated by leasing, business hubs, shelter hire and events at the Western Sydney Parklands. The revenue generated by the Western Sydney Parklands is increasing.

The Western Sydney Parklands is also not yet fully developed for long term public use, so costs are lower than established parks like Centennial Park and Moore Park. The Parklands will continue to be developed.

QUESTION – Western Sydney Transport

19. There are plans to convert the Bankstown Line to a metro line to be then run by a private operator. Will you rule out privatising other Western Sydney train lines?

20. Average loads on the Sydney Trains Western Line – the city's busiest – surged by 21 percentage points to 134 per cent between September 2014 and September 2015. Are there plans to increase the frequency of trains on this line?

(a) If yes, what are these plans?

(b) If no, why not?

ANSWER:

19. Aside from conversion of the Bankstown Line to Metro operation, there is currently no plan to change the operator of train lines in Western Sydney.

20. The Government is implementing network enhancements to increase the frequency of train services across the rail network, including on the Western Line. These enhancements will help to ease congestion for Western Sydney commuters by introducing additional AM peak express services from Parramatta to the City and improving the reliability of the 20 trains per hour (a train every 3 minutes) that travel on the Western Line.

WestConnex

21. When did the Premier become aware of the May 2013 Report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General, chaired by Liberal MP Matt Kean?

22. When did the Premier first see the Review from David Russell SC commissioned by the NSW Government?

23. Why did the government refuse to implement the recommendations of this review knowing that the compulsory acquisition process was deeply flawed?

24. The Premier expressed concern in June this year that "There are personal individual cases where people's homes have been acquired and I think the way we've gone about it hasn't been as careful as it should have been". Did you ever consider implementing the Russell review might avoid these issues?

ANSWER:

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21. The Government responded to the Joint Standing Committee's report in November 2013.

22. The Russell Review into the compulsory acquisition of land process was delivered to Government in February 2014.

23 – 24. Since receiving the report, the Government has implemented recommendations to improve the process, including:

- A plain English guide to land acquisition
- Requiring a face-to-face meeting with land owners

The Government has committed to improving the compulsory acquisition process from a resident's perspective. The Government has requested the Customer Service Commissioner, Mike Pratt, examine the existing process and the recommendations of the Russell Review, and make recommendations to improve the way Government compulsorily acquires land.

The Government's response is expected to be released in the coming weeks.

Further to this, I am advised that the Valuer General has also implemented several measures for compulsory acquisition, including:

- Assigning a case coordinator to provide a central point of contact for the land owner
- Sharing all information held by the Valuer General that is relevant to the determination with the land owner.

QUESTION – Western Sydney Light Rail

25. The prospect of light rail around Parramatta has been on the agenda for some time now. In fact it's been three years since Parramatta Council commissioned the feasibility study for light rail in the area. Now, three years later, the Transport website currently states: "Later in 2016, Transport for NSW will consult on a detailed route with the wider community, ahead of formal consultation on an Environmental Impact Statement in 2017." Construction is only scheduled to start in late 2018. Why is this Western Sydney initiative so delayed?

26. Is the government planning on building a metro train line from Maroubra to Parramatta?

27. If yes, will this further delay the delivery of the Western Sydney light rail network?

ANSWER:

25. There is no delay to the Parramatta Light Rail project. During these early stages of planning, the Government has been consulting with stakeholders, considering route options, progressing the project's business case and determining the optimal route. More information is available at the project website: <http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au>

I note Labor failed to include Parramatta Light Rail in their infrastructure plan and, when criticised, found \$1 billion for the project overnight.

26. While there are a number of potential solutions to the rail needs of Western Sydney, the Government has not made a decision on a new metro line from Parramatta. The NSW Government has committed to refreshing its long term transport master plan, which is planned for release in 2017. The NSW Government has also released, jointly with the Commonwealth, a Western Sydney Rail Needs Study which identifies a number of potential options, including a metro-style line from Parramatta.

27. No decision has been taken on a metro line from Parramatta.

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QUESTION – Westconnex

28. Will any additional funding from government be required to complete stage 1, 2 or 3 of the WestConnex?

ANSWER:

The Government's investment in WestConnex is detailed in the Budget papers.

QUESTION – Public Relations

29. Has your Department undertaken or commissioned any opinion surveys, polling or market research?

(a) If so, on what subjects?

(b) If so, how much was spent?

30. Have any departmental or agency funds been used to sponsor posts on your Facebook page?

ANSWER:

29. DPC undertakes limited customer research as and when required to obtain information about the likely impact of policy changes, in accordance with the Procurement Policy Framework and NSW Procurement Board directions. The Department's Annual Report includes all consultancies valued more than \$50,000.

30. No

QUESTION – Parliamentary Secretaries

31. Are additional staff provided to parliamentary secretaries?

(a) If so, how many additional staff are provided to each parliamentary secretary?

(b) If so, what are the costs of this staffing?

ANSWER:

The NSW Ministers' Office Handbook provides that Parliamentary Secretaries may be provided with a full-time Secretary/Stenographer, Research Officer or Project Officer at the discretion of the Minister(s) they are assisting and that such staff assistance will be provided from the Minister's office budget. No staff have been provided in 2015-16.

QUESTION – Lock Out Laws

32. Why were The Star and Barrangaroo exempted from the lock-out laws?

ANSWER:

The lock-out restrictions sit under the *Liquor Act 2007*. Liquor licensing of casinos is administered under the *Casino Control Act 1992* and *Casino Control Regulation 2009*.

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QUESTION – State Crisis Committee

33. What are the roles and responsibilities of the State Crisis Committee?
34. What is the composition of the Committee?
35. Who is responsible for keeping records of its decisions?
36. Does it meet on a regular schedule?
37. When did it last meet?

ANSWER:

33 – 37. In the event of a significant threat to NSW, such as a terrorist incident or a major natural disaster, the Crisis Policy Committee may be convened by the Premier on the advice of the NSW Commissioner of Police. Membership of Ministers and Executives is dependent on the nature of the incident.

QUESTION – Severance Payments

38. Last financial year, were any severance payments made to the staff of your personal office?
- (a) If so, how many staff received a severance payment?
- (b) If so, how much was paid in severance payments in total?
- (c) If so, how much was paid to each staff member?
- (d) If so, what were the three highest amounts paid?
39. So far this financial year, have any severance payments been made to the staff of your personal office?
- (a) If so, how many staff received a severance payment?
- (b) If so, how much was paid in severance payments in total?
- (c) If so, how much was paid to each staff member?
- (d) If so, what were the three highest amounts paid?

ANSWER:

38 – 39: In 2015-16 severance payments to Ministers' staff (less refunds received) totalled \$102,541. This compares with \$6.2 million paid to staff of the former government in 2010/11.

QUESTION – Western Sydney Offices

40. Has the office of Multicultural NSW moved from the Sydney CBD to Liverpool?
41. Have the State Headquarters of the Ambulance Service moved from Rozelle to North Parramatta?
42. Is the Head Office of Service NSW located in the Sydney CBD or Parramatta?

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43. Is the Head Office of the Environment Protection Agency in the Sydney CBD or Parramatta?
44. Is the main administration office of the Office of Environment and Heritage at Parramatta?

ANSWER:

40. Consistent with the Government's public commitment, Multicultural NSW will be moving to Parramatta in December 2016.
41. Consistent with the Government's public commitment, the State Headquarters of the Ambulance Service will be relocated to Western Sydney.
42. Sydney CBD.
- 43 - 44. Property NSW has commenced a leasing market search to secure new premises in Western Sydney for Planning and Environment which includes EPA, to relocate to Western Sydney by mid-2019.

QUESTION – Ports

45. What is the Government's response to concerns expressed by Rod Sims of the ACCC about the privatisation of the ports of Botany, Kembla and Newcastle and his comments that "the higher price received for the sale of an unregulated asset can effectively be a tax on users or consumers, now and into the future. And it can be a poorly targeted tax on consumers."
46. What is the Government's response to the comments by Rod Sims of the ACCC who said of the privatisation of the port of Newcastle: "The owners factored in very large price rises because there's no regulation on how they set the price of a monopoly. How dopey is that?"
47. Does NSW support recommendation 24 of the Harper Review to apply competition law to further activities of the states?

ANSWER:

45 – 46. Port Botany, Port Kembla and the Port of Newcastle are bound by the *Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995* which enables port operators to apply statutory charges in order to earn an appropriate return on capital, with oversight by the State designed to provide transparency and reasonableness of pricing outcomes.

Under the NSW Government's oversight, all port operators must give advance notice of any proposed changes to service charges and must provide details of the charge to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Additionally, port operators must report annually on prices, and if these are unsatisfactory, the Premier has the power to refer them to IPART for review.

47. Recommendation 24 of the Harper Review aims to ensure that governments do not harm competition when they participate in markets. NSW is open to considering the best way to achieve this objective.

It should be noted that the Harper recommendations to strengthen competitive neutrality principles (recommendations 15-17) and review policies governing government commercial arrangements with the private and non-government sectors (Recommendation 18) would also support this objective.

The Commonwealth has indicated that it will consult further with the states and territories on the implications of recommendation 24 and we look forward to engaging in this process.

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QUESTION – KPMG

48. What is the total value of all the engagements that the NSW Government has provided to KPMG since 2011?

ANSWER:

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

QUESTION – GST

49. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has ruled out a GST because it; ‘...does not give you the economic dividend, the growth dividend, that would justify doing it.’ Do you still support raising the GST to 15%?

50. Did you commission any consultants reports, external modelling or such on the impacts of increasing the GST?

(a) (a) If so, how many?

(b) (b) If so, how much was spent on which consultants?

ANSWER:

49. I have previously talked about the medium-term fiscal challenge facing all governments, driven primarily by increases in the costs of providing healthcare.

Of course, we will always strive to deliver these critical services more efficiently. However efficiencies alone will not fix this problem, and on current projections by 2029 the national shortfall is estimated to be over \$45 billion annually.

This significant challenge remains unresolved, and all governments have a duty to continue to investigate options for revenue reform.

On this basis, I support considering all feasible options to address this challenge. In considering options to address this challenge it is important to ensure that any changes to the tax system are fair, widely consulted and allow for sustainable long term growth.

50. No consultant reports or external modelling on the impacts of increasing the GST were commissioned by DPC or Treasury during this term of Government.

QUESTION - Political Disclosures

51. Will you name the secret political donor who paid \$2,000 to have dinner with you on 10 February 2015 and whose identity is still redacted on the Liberal Party's disclosure?

52. Why, more than 18 months later, has the identity of this secret political donor still not been disclosed?

53. When will the identity of the secret donor be disclosed as required by law?

ANSWER:

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51 – 53. I refer the Honourable Member to responses provided on this issue during the course of the Estimates hearing.

QUESTION - Electoral Commission

54. Which parliamentarians or former Liberal Party parliamentarians have been issued a demand from the Electoral Commission to repay the illegal donations they received?

(a) How much has each of these parliamentarians or former Liberal Party parliamentarians been asked to repay?

(b) How long do they have to repay the illegal Liberal Party donations?

(c) What action will be taken against those who fail to repay the illegal donations that were made to the Liberal Party?

(d) To date, have any of these Liberal MPs paid the Electoral Commission for these illegal donations?

(e) If so, how much has been repaid and by whom?

ANSWER:

The NSW Electoral Commission advises that:

- a) it has completed its investigation and formed the view that sufficient evidence is available to justify recovery action against some of the persons who have received or benefited from unlawful donations, loans or indirect campaign contributions,
- b) those persons have been issued with demands for payment,
- c) it reserves its right to pursue recovery action in the event of non-payment; and
- d) it will release further information when it is in a position to do so.

QUESTION - Community Building Partnerships Grants

55. Can you explain how your department processed five separate applications for the on organisation, Lu'a Samoa, and paid them \$51,600 for \$22,600 worth of equipment?

56. Have the grants to Lu'a Samoa been audited grants?

57. Have the grants to Lu'a Samoa been acquitted?

58. Has the \$10,000 grant you approved to the AMCS (Australian Multicultural Christian Society), an organisation headed by Carl Trad, a convicted money launderer and person involved in stealing \$340,000, now been acquitted?

59. Did you approve the change of purpose for the \$10,000 grant to Carl Trad's AMCS from buying a van to feed the homeless, to buying a bus to provide free transport for Christian charities?

60. Which Christian charities have used the bus purchased by the \$10,000 grant you gave to Carl Trad's AMCS?

61. Has the East Hills Public School received the \$18,000 for a covered learning area that was awarded to the Australian Multicultural Christian Society through the 2014 Community Building Partnership program?

62. Has the St Christopher's Primary School received the \$20,000 for a shade cloth that was

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awarded to the La'u Samoa Council through the 2015 Community Building Partnership?

63. What is your response to the statement by Father Maurice Thompson of St Christopher's Parish in Panania, who said:

"It is beyond me how a group that is not even catholic could apply for a grant on behalf of our Parish and School Community, our Catholic Samoan Community, without any of us having any knowledge of it or receiving any of the funds."

ANSWER:

55 – 63. The Community Building Partnership (CBP) program began in 2009 and provides funding to support local community infrastructure projects that benefit local communities.

In early 2016, the CBP program probity advisors Hill Rogers Assurance Partners undertook an independent review of the program's payment and acquittal processes. The report is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

The review found the controls within the CBP program administration 'were suitably designed to achieve the control objectives identified; and the controls were implemented as designed'. The review report included 14 recommendations to improve the payment and acquittal processes in the future. The Department of Premier and Cabinet has committed to implementing all 14 recommendations.

In respect of having landholder consent, all organisations are responsible for obtaining approval for the proposed project from the appropriate land or property owner/s. Organisations are required to indicate whether they have secured approval from the land or property owner as part of their application.

If a project is successful, the release of grant funds will depend on evidence of the land or property owner's consent if applicable for the approved project.

In respect of specific projects:

- Approval was recently granted for transfer of the 2014 CBP funding of \$18,000 for a covered outdoor learning area at East Hills Public School into the School's Parents and Citizens Association (from the Australian Multicultural Christian Society). Discussions are continuing with the P&C to ensure the project can proceed at the School as originally intended.
- Approval was recently granted for transfer of the 2015 CBP funding of \$20,000 for a shade cloth at St Christopher's Primary School, Panania into the School's Parents and Friends Committee (from the La'u Samoa Council) to allow for the fit out of a covered outdoor learning area at the School. Discussions are continuing with the P&C to deliver the project.
- Funding of \$10,000 was paid to the Australian Multicultural Christian Society for the purchase and fitout of a multipurpose food van. To date, the project has not been acquitted. The findings of an audit process are under consideration by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- In the 2015 CBP round the La'u Samoa Council were awarded four (4) separate grants for mobile barbecues and cool rooms in the electorates of East Hills (\$15,000), Campbelltown (\$22,000), Cabramatta (\$10,000) and Lakemba (\$4,600). These were confirmed as separate projects for four individual barbecues, to be based at different church locations. La'u Samoa also made a fifth application for funding for a barbeque and cool room in the electorate of Bankstown but it was not awarded funding.

Funding for all four of the 2015 mobile barbecue projects (and one other 2015 La'u Samoa project for renovations to a community Hall in the Lakemba electorate) has not been paid. Funding is being withheld until the La'u Samoa Council properly acquits a project from the

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2014 CBP round. To date, the project has not been acquitted.

QUESTION - Waste Service NSW

64. In 2009 did you have any discussions or communications with Paul Nicolau of the Millenium Foundation concerning Global Renewables' legal dispute with Waste Service NSW?

65. Are you aware that Global Renewables' Roderic David made a request of Paul Nicolau in October 2009 that you ask a parliamentary question about the legal dispute between Global Renewables and Waste Services NSW?

66. In November 2009 you asked the Minister representing the Treasurer about details of the contingent liabilities that could accrue because of Waste Services NSW's outstanding legal cases. Did you ask this question after a discussion with Paul Nicolau and/or a representative of Global Renewables?

ANSWER:

In my role as Shadow Treasurer, I asked many questions of Ministers right across Government about NSW-based industries. In 2009 alone I asked Ministers over 145 Questions on Notice.

NSW Liberal and Nationals Ministers are required to disclose scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals. Under this policy, the Government has disclosed 7,034 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014. The Opposition Leader has disclosed just 155 meetings.

I note the Opposition frontbench is yet to join the Opposition Leader in disclosing any scheduled meetings held.

QUESTION - Operation Prospect

67. What is the total cost to date of the Ombudsman's handling of Operation Prospect?

68. Has the Ombudsman handed any part of Operation Prospect back to Police?

(a) If so, what matters and on what basis has it been provided to Police?

69. Has the Ombudsman handed any part of Operation Prospect to any other agency?

(a) If so, which agency or agencies, and why has the Ombudsman taken this action?

70. What has been the total cost to date of the Ombudsman inquiry Operation Prospect?

71. What is the expected total cost by the end of 2016?

ANSWER:

67, 70 – 71. Expenses incurred by the Office of the Ombudsman in the conduct of Operation Prospect will be included in the Ombudsman's report on Operation Prospect which will be tabled in the NSW Parliament before the end of 2016.

68 – 69. I refer the Honourable Member to the Ombudsman's website:

"It has recently been suggested that the Ombudsman has transferred some or all of Operation Prospect to the NSW Police, or another investigative body. This is incorrect. Professor McMillan has undertaken to complete Operation Prospect and table his report of the investigation in the NSW Parliament before the end of 2016. Once tabled, the

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investigation report will be published on the Ombudsman's website."

QUESTION - Miscellaneous

72. Can you please provide a structure chart or charts showing the position title, level/grading, salary range, status (permanent, temporary, and so on) and occupancy (permanently occupied, temporarily occupied – and for what period, vacant) of all permanent and temporary positions in DPC:

(a) as at 1 September 2016.

(b) as at 1 July 2015.

73. Can you please provide a schedule of all contractors and consultants employed to date by DPC in relation to any aspect of local government reform, listing name, work performed, total cost and what the engagement process was (competitive tender, and others)?

74. Have you had meetings with major developers, lobbyists or developer groups in the last 12 months at which council amalgamations were discussed? With whom? On what date? What was the nature of those discussions?

75. Will you ensure that caps on spending are legislated and in place prior to the proposed September 2017 Council Elections?

(a) If so, when will the legislation be introduced?

ANSWER:

72-73. Information on structure and human resources is provided in the DPC's Annual Report. Refer to: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/publications_categories_list. Information on contracts and consultants engaged by DPC is also provided in the Department's Annual Report.

74. Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 7,034 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014. The Opposition Leader has disclosed just 155 meetings.

I note the Opposition frontbench is yet to join the Opposition Leader in disclosing any scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals.

75. The Government has committed to introducing expenditure caps for Local Government elections as part of a broader review of the State's election funding legislation.

QUESTION - McHugh Report

76. Can you please provide a breakdown of the costs incurred in the course of the McHugh Commission?

77. You have said you banned the greyhound industry because they have slaughtered thousands of dogs over the last decade. Over the same period, how many of the following have been slaughtered in NSW?

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- (a) domesticated cats
- (b) domesticated dogs
- (c) poultry
- (d) cattle
- (e) lambs

78. Are you concerned that material from the USA, quoting 'Ernie', dating from about 15 years ago, was presented in the McHugh Report as being from Australia?

ANSWER:

76. As has been previously stated, the cost of the 14-month Special Commission of Inquiry was \$4.2 million. This includes legal, employment and operating expenses.

77. Data related to domesticated dogs and cats are publicly available via the Office of Local Government and RSPCA. Data on the production of poultry, cattle and lambs are publicly available via the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

78. The Special Commission provided overwhelming and comprehensive evidence on large-scale wastage in the greyhound industry. The quote from 'Ernie' does not change this conclusion.

QUESTION - Financial Assistance

79. How many jobs do you estimate will be lost as a result of your decision?

(a) What modelling have you done? Who did it? At what cost? Will it be made public? *If not, was the figure just plucked out of the air?*

(b) Does your estimate include kennel hands in private businesses?

80. What support will you be providing to all the people who are going to lose their jobs?

(a) Which businesses will be eligible? Owners? Breeders? Trainers?

(b) Will the employees of these businesses be eligible for assistance?

i. Will this be financial or re-training support, or both?

(c) Who specifically will be responsible for assessing and delivering this assistance?

81. I refer to Mr Andy Lord, a trainer and breeder based at Gunning. In media reports he said he will have to sack his five employees.

(a) Mr Lord has said he invested more than \$2 million on training infrastructure – kennels, puppy runs and a straight track. Will the Government be paying him the more than \$2 million he has invested?

(b) Who specifically will be responsible for assessing and delivering this assistance?

82. Farra Pet Foods at Penrith is family owned and has operated for around 40 years. Around 80 per cent of their product is sold to greyhound trainers and breeders. They have advised that: 'This ban on greyhound industry will force us to close as there are no options to enter a domestic pet food market.'

(a) What specific assistance will the Government be providing to Farra Pet Foods at Penrith?

83. Will suppliers be eligible for assistance? For example, pet food suppliers to greyhounds.

(a) Will employees of these businesses that service and supply the greyhound industry receive

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assistance from the NSW Government?

(b) What specific assistance will the Government be providing?

84. Will veterinarians who provide services to the greyhound industry be compensated for their loss of income?

(a) What specific assistance will the Government be providing?

85. Will businesses that operate the food and drink concessions at greyhound racing meetings – will they be compensated for losing their businesses?

(a) What specific assistance will the Government be providing?

86. The staff who work the bar and food outlets at the dog tracks, they are all going to lose their jobs.

(a) What specific assistance do you envisage the NSW Government will provide to these people?

87. There will be other people losing their jobs – people who maintain the tracks, do the event staging, and others. Will these people be compensated?

(a) What specific assistance will the Government be providing?

88. As a result of the closure of the greyhound industry, will the NSW Government need to pay any money to Tabcorp or other betting firms or bookmakers?

89. Will firms based outside of NSW be eligible for assistance?

ANSWER:

79. The Commission found that NSW greyhound clubs provided 600 individuals with paid work (full-time, part-time or casual); and that there were 4,414 participants in the form of licensed trainers, owner-trainers and attendants, according to Greyhound Racing NSW. Broader impacts are being assessed as part of the work by Dr John Keniry AM as the head of the Greyhounds Transition Taskforce.

80 – 87. Industry assistance arrangements are being developed on the advice of Dr John Keniry AM as head of the Greyhounds Transition Taskforce. Advice and support services for small businesses are being provided through the Small Biz Connect program. Staff at affected businesses also have access to subsidised training through the Smart and Skilled program (Training Services NSW).

88. The Government is considering the implications for Tabcorp and other betting firms as part of the transition plan.

89. No.

QUESTION - Market Research

90. Has the government commissioned or received any market research, public opinion surveys or focus groups, into the greyhound industry?

(a) If so, what has been the cost and will the reports be publicly available?

ANSWER:

The Government undertakes limited customer research as and when required to obtain information about the likely impact of policy changes, in accordance with the Procurement Policy

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Framework and NSW Procurement Board directions.

QUESTION - Community Activities

91. In the small country town of Coonamble the local greyhound carnival injects around \$1.6 million annually into the local economy, and generates about half the annual income for facilities such as the Coonamble Bowling Club.

(a) Mr Joe Bellgart advises that his butcher shop earns around \$4,000 from the annual carnival. Will he be entitled to any compensation? What will it involve? How will it be assessed?

(b) A report from the local council found the ban will result in the loss of seven local jobs. What assistance will these people receive from the government?

(c) What specific assistance will the Government be providing to Coonamble?

92. What other rural communities will also be similarly affected by your ban?

(a) How will they be compensated?

ANSWER:

91 – 92. Industry assistance arrangements are being developed on the advice of Dr John Keniry AM as head of the Greyhounds Transition Taskforce. Advice and support services for small businesses are being provided through the Small Biz Connect program. Staff at affected businesses also have access to subsidised training through the Smart and Skilled program (Training Services NSW).

QUESTION - Crown Land

93. What are the issues you expect the Government will have to deal with associated with tenure arrangements relating to the greyhound industry on Crown Land?

ANSWER:

Most greyhound track sites on Crown land already accommodate a range of community uses. Most of these sites are managed by reserve trust managers, who are generally local councils or community groups. The Government will work with reserve trust managers to develop transitional arrangements following the cessation of greyhound racing. This will include a public consultation process and consideration of how existing infrastructure can best be used for community use on each site.

QUESTION - Cessation of Training

94. In the Minister's second reading speech, he said that the issue of how long trainers can continue their business after the cessation of racing will be decided by regulation. Do you have any information that you can give to these people who are trying to negotiate with financial institutions and sort out their lives now that you have pushed your law through the Parliament?

ANSWER:

Dr John Keniry AM, who is leading the Greyhounds Transition Taskforce, has been consulting

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with industry about the appropriate time when training of greyhounds for racing should be phased out. Dr Keniry will be making recommendations to the Government.

QUESTION - Non-human consumption beef industry:

95. Around 80 per cent of the beef that is processed from ageing or diseased cattle is consumed by the greyhound industry. As it is illegal to bury decomposing carcasses on farmland in any location where it might ultimately enter the natural water table, in the absence of the greyhound industry, what options will you put in place to enable farmers to dispose of dying cattle and calves?

- (a) What will these options include?
- (b) Who will monitor these options?
- (c) What cost is involved over the forward estimates?
- (d) What compensation for farmers is being considered?

ANSWER:

Dr John Keniry AM is leading the Greyhounds Transition Taskforce and is leading work on a detailed industry assistance package. He has been consulting with industry to ensure that a suitable range of assistance and support services are available for industry participants and other supply chain businesses affected by the shutdown. He will be making recommendations to the Government.

QUESTION – Relocation

96. What measures are you putting in place now to avoid the mass euthanasia of greyhounds?

97. Following the recent meetings of various state agencies organised by Greyhounds Australia, how many greyhounds of racing age and those still approaching racing age do you expect will be relocated interstate up to 1 July 2017?

- (a) How many after this date?
- (b) Will the government be providing financial assistance with this relocation?

98. Has the NSW Government had any advice from other jurisdictions that they might seek to restrict the transfer of greyhounds from NSW?

- (a) It has been suggested that this could involve seeking compensation from the NSW Government to help cover the costs of taking on this additional responsibility. Would you be prepared to pay such compensation to other jurisdictions?
- (b) In Dubbo on Tuesday 30th August 2016, Dr Keniry told Channel 2: "We think they should be allowed to be reared and trained and then they can try out for racing interstate." Do you agree?
- (c) It has also been suggested that other jurisdictions could charge an initial fee plus an ongoing fee to fund the greyhound's retirement. Would the NSW government be prepared to fund part of such costs?

ANSWER:

96. The Taskforce is working with RSPCA NSW and other animal welfare organisations to rehome

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as many greyhounds as possible.

97. The removal of greyhounds interstate will be the decision of individual industry participants. Industry assistance arrangements are being developed on the advice of Dr John Keniry AM as head of the Greyhounds Transition Taskforce.

98. The Government is not aware of any advice or proposals from other jurisdictions.

QUESTION - Flexible Workplaces

99. Premier, you 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:

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'.

QUESTION - Office Administration

100. 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?

101. 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?

102. 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?

103. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2015-16?

(a) What is the cost of this?

104. 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?

105. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your

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ministerial office in 2015-16?

(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

106. 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?

107. 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?

108. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?

(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

109. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

110. 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

111. 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?

ANSWER:

100. Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

101. 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.

102. 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.

103. Artwork in the Premier's Office includes art donated at no cost by a local artist and artwork on loan from the Art Gallery of NSW which is a standard arrangement for the NSW Premier.

104 - 105. Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budget.

106. The Premier's Office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the Office's budget.

107. Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.

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108. No.

109. 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.

110. 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.

111. Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$28,706 in 2015-16. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$282,000.

QUESTION - Hospitality

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

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

ANSWER:

112. Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry - which includes catering for courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries - totalled \$25,059 in 2015-16.

113. Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

QUESTION - Labour Hire Firms

114. 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:

The Premier and Cabinet Cluster uses Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required. There are no central records maintained, with operations authorised to make such arrangements, subject to their overall labour expense cap.

QUESTION - Media and Public Relations

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

116. 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?

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

118. 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:

115. DPC staff numbers are included in the Annual Report.

116. There are currently no plans to increase the number of media staff undertaking media or public relations activities.

117. 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.

118. No.

QUESTION - Facebook

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

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

ANSWER:

119. No taxpayer money has been spent on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts.

120. The only Department expenditure has related to StudyNSW investing \$2320 on boosted posts since April 2016, resulting in reach of 3,868,800 people. Content on the StudyNSW Facebook page highlights why Sydney and NSW is a world class study destination, to increase the number of international students studying in NSW.

QUESTION - Overseas Trips

121. 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?

122. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?

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- (a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?
(b) Who paid for these trips?

ANSWER:

121 – 122. Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

QUESTION - Department/Agency Travel

123. 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:

All Departments' travel in 2015-16 was accordance with NSW Treasury and Finance Circular OFS-2014-07. In addition, DPC's travel accords with the Department's Taxi Usage Policy.

DPC travel costs for 2015/16 were as follows:

- a) \$240,543. This compares with \$466,745 in 2009-10
b) \$554. This compares with \$10,000 in 2009-10
c) \$102,180. This compares with \$53,047 in 2009-10
d) \$225. This compares with \$0 in 2009-10

QUESTION - Consulting

124. 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?

125. 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:

Financial statements, including Legal Services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

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QUESTION - Department/Agency Staffing

126. 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?

127. 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?

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

129. 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:

126-129. 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 (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, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

QUESTION - Smart Phone Accounts

130. 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?

131. 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:

130-131. IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

QUESTION - Websites Visited

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

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

ANSWER:

132-133. DPC does not have this information due to the way the Ministers' IT network infrastructure is configured with third party service providers.

QUESTION - Merchant fees

134. 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.

135. 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.

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

ANSWER:

134-136. All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13. DPC does not accept payment for goods and services, so we do not impose merchant fees on our customers.

DPC 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. It would not be possible to determine fees charges to Departmental cards, as these would either be embedded in the individual transaction cost, or if separately disclosed would require each monthly card statement for each user to be reviewed.

QUESTION - Probity Auditor

137. 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:

In accordance with the NSW Procurement Board's Direction (PBD-2013-05), DPC 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.

QUESTION - Domestic Violence Leave and Awareness

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138. 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?

ANSWER:

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

QUESTION - Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs

139. 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?

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(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.