



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-2018 Supplementary Questions**

**Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance**

**THE LEGISLATURE**

Hearing: Monday 4 September 2017

**Answers due by: Thursday 28 September 2017**

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## THE LEGISLATURE

### Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

#### Energy efficiency

1. What steps are being taken to make NSW Parliament more energy efficient?
2. Does the NSW Parliament have an environmental and/or sustainability policy in place?
  - (a) If so, please provide details?
  - (b) If not, why not?
3. Has Parliament considered having solar panels installed?

#### Animal welfare

4. What steps is the NSW Parliament taking to develop a higher animal welfare procurement policy to aid in the purchase of more humane and sustainable foods?
5. Are the eggs used in the Parliament House cafeteria, public café, dining room and catering services free range?
6. How many vegan options does the Parliament House cafeteria, public café, dining room make available every day?
7. What steps is the NSW Parliament taking to ensure products are sourced from local suppliers?
8. What steps is the NSW Parliament taking to ensure it only uses sustainably sourced seafood?

#### Renovations in Parliament

9. How much over budget has the current set of renovations gone?

#### Reflex paper

10. The Reflex paper brand has been linked to unsustainable native forestry practices, particularly in Victoria.
  - (a) Has the parliament given consideration to the sustainability practice of their current paper suppliers and best practice in this field?
  - (b) Will the Parliament consider removing Reflex products from their inventory?
    - i. If not, why not?
11. Will Parliament consider using Planet Ark 100% recycled paper as their primary source of paper?

### **Palm oil**

12. Has the parliament taken any steps to avoid the purchasing of products containing unsustainable palm oil?
  - (a) If so, please outline these measures.
  - (b) If not, why not?

### **Demonstrations policy**

13. Parliament's Demonstrations Policy states that "banners, signs, t-shirts or any item bearing demonstration related branding" are not permitted inside the Parliament precinct, what discretion is used by Special Constables to define demonstration related branding?
14. How many formal complaints have been lodged regarding the use of this discretion in:
  - (a) 2014/15?
  - (b) 2015/16?
  - (c) 2016/17?
15. When was this policy last reviewed?
16. What substantive changes were implemented from the last review of this policy?
  - (a) 2016-17?

### **Use of artificial intelligence**

17. What current uses of artificial intelligence does the department undertake?

Note: Please include all uses of AI including uses for resource allocation and administrative support, big data analysis, replacement and assistance of experts and researchers, procedural matters, or summarising diverse data – for reference this might include:

- Chatbots for customer service or advice
- Customer management systems
- Scanning legal documents to find relevant case law
- Categorising and searching documents
- Directing petitions efficiently
- Translation
- Document drafting

18. When did the department implement AI technologies and which technologies were these?

19. What planned uses does the department have for artificial intelligence?
20. What is the anticipated timeline for the expansion of existing AI uses or implementation of new technologies?
21. What policy guidelines, if any, guide the exploration and use of artificial intelligence by the department?
22. What research, if any, has the department undertaken regarding the use of AI in Government services?

<b>Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)</b>
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**Legislative Council Department Staffing**

23. On page one of the LC Annual report 2016, (*the year at a glance*) shows there has been a reduction of staff in 2010/2011 from 41 fulltime equivalent to 2015/16 to 37 fulltime equivalent.
  - (a) From what sections and why was there a need for reduction in staff?
  - (b) Are there any plans for further reductions of staff?
    - i. If so what department?
  - (c) Can you guarantee there will not be any more reduction in staff in the foreseeable future?
  - (d) What impact has this reduction had on staff and whether the remainder of staff are coping with the reduction?

**Secretary/Research Assistants**

24. The Secretary Research Assistants were cut between 2010/11 from 52 fulltime equivalent to 46 fulltime equivalent in 2015/16.
  - (a) Why was there a cut in Full time Secretary Research Assistants?
  - (b) Are there further plans for reductions of staff?
    - i. If so why?
  - (c) Can you guarantee there will not be any more reduction in staff in Secretary Research Assistants in the foreseeable future?
  - (d) What impact has this reduction had on staff and whether the remainder of research staff are coping with the reduction?

### **Portfolio Committees**

25. As you are aware Mr President, the LC Portfolio Committees do a great job. At Committee meetings a question is often asked whether or not the committee is sufficiently funded to enable committee members to travel places or simply to assist in meeting the costs of witnesses.
- (a) Has there been any discussions with the view to increase funding to committees for additional committee work?
  - (b) Has there been any consideration for any additional expenses to charter flights for committee members?
  - (c) In order to assist committees do their work, will you consider their needs by reviewing and funding Committee needs?

### **The family response to the murders in Bowraville**

26. Recommendation 6 of the Bowraville Inquiry called on the Government to provide funding to NSW Parliament to develop a training module for Members and Parliamentary staff on Aboriginal awareness.
- (a) As the report was tabled three years ago, why has this not been implemented?
  - (b) What plans are there to implement this in 2017-18?

### **Mail**

27. Every now and then Members receive mail that is scanned, cleared, opened and then sealed by a security sticker. Some of the letters have no metal or any substance other than a piece of paper in it.
- (a) Why in such a situation is there a need to open up the envelope and potentially have access to confidential information?
  - (b) What is the necessity for opening up an envelope that a scanner shows is empty of dangerous material?
  - (c) Is the opening of mail not a Commonwealth offence?
  - (d) Who authorises the opening of the mail?
  - (e) Are there particular officers who are authorised to open mail?
  - (f) Who is responsible for monitoring the opening of private mail?

## **Printing space L6**

28. I understand that the Printing space at L6 has been turned into an Education centre. When will the centre be opened?
29. Do members have to book the Education centre?
  - (a) If so how? What is the procedure?

## **Parking**

30. What is the annual budget for the provision of Parking within the Parliamentary Precinct?
31. Apart from overhead, maintenance and administration costs, what is the nature of input costs borne by Parliament in the provision of parking for Members and staff within the Parliamentary Precinct?
32. What is the cost per annum of overhead, maintenance and administration for providing parking in the Parliamentary Precinct?
33. Does the Parliament pay the NSW Parking Space Levy?
34. How much is raised per annum by all fees levied on parking spaces – whether ‘dedicated’ or general ‘Annual Parking’ – in the Parliamentary Precinct?
35. Does DPS monitor the rate at which dedicated parking spaces are occupied by those who reserve them?
  - (a) If yes, what is the average occupancy rate of dedicated parking spaces over the course of the year
    - i. By DPS staff?
    - ii. By MPs?
    - iii. By MoPS Act 2013 staff?
36. Does the Parliament pay Fringe Benefit Tax in respect of parking spaces reserved by DPS staff employed within the Parliamentary Precinct?
  - (a) What is the daily Fringe Benefit Tax liability borne by Parliament on each ‘dedicated’ parking space reserved by and occupied by DPS staff?
37. Does the Parliament pay Fringe Benefit Tax in respect of parking spaces reserved and occupied by Members of the LA or the LC?

(a) If yes, why? Parliamentarians are not employees of the legislature they sit as a Member of, per ATO Ruling 1999/10 Para 36.

38. Does the Parliament pay Fringe Benefit Tax in respect of parking spaces reserved and occupied by MoPS Act 2013 staff?

(a) If yes, why? MoPS Act 2013 staff are employees of Members, not The Legislature.

39. Is there a difference in costs borne by the Parliament when a dedicated parking space reserved by one class of occupant is instead occupied by another class of occupant? For example, if a Member allows a MoPS Act 2013 staffer to use their space, or vice versa?

### **Neville Wran Bust**

40. When was the bust of former Premier Neville Wran relocated to the Parkes Room?

41. Whose decision was it to move the bust from its prominent position in Parliament?

42. Was there any consultation undertaken with the Italian community who donated the bust?

43. When will the bust of former Premier Wran be returned to its formerly prominent position within the main public areas of Parliament?

<b>Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC</b>
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### **Legislative Council Chamber Bust**

44. Could you please update the committee on the progress of commissioning a new bust for the Legislative Council Chamber?

(a) How much will it cost?

(b) When will a decision be made?